



PEACEWATCH

Center for Domestic Peace Newsletter • Fall 2024

Dear Supporters,

We here at Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP) have had quite a year in 2024. We want to call out and thank the incredible work of the staff and board members for all the transition work done to say farewell to Donna Garske and welcome Tara Peterson as C4DP's new Executive Director. The intentionality and thoughtfulness in this process has led to a smooth and deliberate next phase of C4DP's leadership. Thank you, our beloved community, for welcoming Tara to Marin!

On a more somber note, for the first time in five years, we've experienced a decrease in federal funding revenue. This has led to a significant decrease in support for essential programs, such as those aimed at preventing domestic violence and therapy services for families and children healing from trauma. Our organization understands the importance of being financially responsible and adaptable in the face of potential budget cuts. As such, we have taken a proactive approach to reducing costs where possible and actively seeking alternative sources of funding to ensure the longevity and success of our organization. By doing so, we are able to continue providing valuable services and fulfilling our mission, regardless of any uncertainties in federal funding.

As we look to the future, we will continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of survivors, while also exploring innovative ways to provide support and resources. Our new leadership brings fresh perspective and ideas, allowing us to adapt and improve to better serve those in need. Our nimbleness and resourcefulness will be our greatest assets as we navigate any obstacles that come our way.

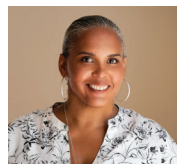
So, thank you for standing with us. As you think about your philanthropy goals for the year, please remember that your financial support is an act of generosity and compassion for the women, children, and men who benefit from our services. We are grateful to each and every one of you who is able to support our work by making a contribution – no amount is too small to make a difference in someone's life.

Onward toward Domestic Peace,

Cynthia Murray and Monica Gray,
Board Co-Chairs



Preventing Homelessness Among Marin County Domestic Violence Survivors – A Message from the Executive Director



To truly address the issue of domestic violence, we must also address the issue of housing insecurity. These two issues are deeply intertwined and cannot be solved without considering the other. Survivors of domestic violence are often forced to stay in abusive relationships due to housing insecurity, and children are constantly exposed to violence when unstable housing or homelessness is a factor. This perpetuates the cycle of violence and can have long-lasting effects on both the survivors and their children. **According to a recent study conducted by the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, 57% of homeless women cited domestic violence as the primary reason for their homelessness. This percentage increases to a staggering 80% if the woman is also caring for a child.**

This means that many women are forced to choose between staying in an abusive relationship or becoming homeless. This is an impossible decision that no one should have to make.

Two main reasons why survivors may be at increased risk of homelessness include the immediate need to escape violence and shield their children from ongoing abuse. However, they may face many additional barriers, including but not limited to poor or no established credit, limited access to resources and affordable housing, job loss due to abuse, and lack of support/alienation by the abuser.

Our Commitment to Making a Difference

C4DP is proud to be one of the 65 grantees in California funded to implement a DV Housing First Program. This innovative model has shown promise in addressing both housing insecurity and domestic violence. As a result, C4DP expanded its housing model beyond emergency shelter and transitional housing. Through this program, survivors are provided with rental and other flexible financial assistance to help them secure and maintain safe and stable permanent housing as quickly as possible. **In the past two years alone, C4DP has distributed more than \$584,000 in rental assistance to 23 survivors and provided more than \$104,000 in childcare stipends to 12 households. This has allowed survivors to rebuild their lives and break the cycle of abuse.**



Additionally, C4DP is the recipient of funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Marin County Continuum of Care, designed to assist survivors and their families grappling with homelessness by facilitating their transition into transitional and permanent housing toward long-term stability. We offer rental assistance and flexible funding to survivors in need, and we are proud to report that in the past year 94% of those receiving this care successfully transitioned to permanent housing.

Extending Our Support

C4DP is steadfast in our commitment to assisting victims seeking refuge from abusive relationships, and we want to ensure that their transition is both smooth and safe.

Our shelter offers a secure, confidential space where individuals and families can access essential resources, find respite, and receive services such as case management, legal advocacy, counseling, support groups, and children's programs.

Second Step is a long-term, transitional housing facility. Affordable housing provides survivors with time to rebuild their lives and obtain resources to achieve economic independence.

Our Rapid Rehousing Program helps residents living in our emergency shelter transition to permanent housing. Our participants shouldn't fear that they won't have a roof for themselves or their families when they leave an abusive situation.

At C4DP, we ensure that no one needs to decide between staying in an abusive household or living on the streets. If you or someone you know needs help, please call our 24-hour hotline to speak with an empathetic and caring advocate to help them navigate resources and validate their experience.

In peace and partnership,

Tara Peterson, Executive Director

Our Community Supporting Us ~ Thank You!

Investing in the work of Center for Domestic Peace benefits all of us. We could not accomplish our goals without the support, involvement, and enthusiasm of our most generous supporters. A special thank you to our donors, listed below, who gave \$5,000 or more from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. A complete list of donors will be published in our annual report.

\$100,000+

Administration for Children and Families
Buck Family Fund of MCF
California Department of Housing and Community Development
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
County of Marin
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office on Violence Against Women
Phyllis E Andelni Trust

\$50,000 – \$99,999

Ginnie and Peter E. Haas Jr. Fund
Justine M. Miner
Joan Wieder Trust

\$20,000 – \$49,999

College of Marin
Dandelion Foundation
Episcopal Impact Fund
Kaiser Permanente
Leestma Family Foundation
Gruber Family Foundation
Catherine and Richard MacDonald
Joy Fund of the Marin Community Foundation
The Paul and Mason Gudelsky Fund for Peace and the Arts

\$10,000 – \$19,999

Bewley-Motluk Charitable Foundation
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
Dominican University of California
Good Karma Foundation/Leslie Van Dyke
Harrison Miller and Clare McCamy Giving Fund
The Alice Shaver Foundation
The Davis/Dauray Family Fund
The Isabel Allende Foundation
The Lincoln and Laura Collins Charitable Fund
The Joan Leidy Foundation

\$5,000 – \$9,999

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Bank of Marin
Bay Area Bluestone
Brayton Purcell
Jane Conway and Ken Smole
Patricia Garbarino
Elsa Garmire and Robert H. Russell
Ghilotti Construction
Michelle Griffin and Thomas B. Parker
Harrington Group
High Tide Foundation
Kate and Nancy Kain
Paula Kamena
Bonnie and Lee Kirkpatrick
Francoise Lepage and Denice Lucy
Margaret E. Haas Fund
MSB Charitable Fund
M.R. and C.A. Miller
Newman's Own Foundation
Nice Guys Delivery
Tracy Richards
Seagate Properties, Inc.
Amanda Stephens
Sunshine Polka-Dot Foundation
Sutter Health, Novato Community Hospital
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
The Outdoor Art Club
The Walter Family
Amanda Topper
Town of San Anselmo
UBS Private Wealth Management
Dennis Whipp
Michael Whipple

Partner Highlight: Jones Day

Since 2016, Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP) and Jones Day partners Kapri Saunders, Caroline Mitchell, and Jeff Rabkin, as well as other lawyers in the San Francisco and Silicon Valley offices of Jones Day, have worked together to support victims of domestic violence. Understanding the unique challenges victims face in obtaining restraining orders, Jones Day has provided limited scope representation and handled hearings on applications for domestic violence restraining orders.

(Pictured Omar Jishi, Eli Rubenstein, Alli Rios, and Stephanie Martinez Montes).



With the C4DP Legal System Advocates by their side every step of the way, a pro bono attorney can offer valuable assistance to survivors in their journey toward healing and justice. They help survivors file necessary documents, obtain important records, and prepare for court proceedings. C4DP also offers language support for non-English speakers, ensuring that every survivor has access to legal representation and support.

"I needed a restraining order to help protect myself and my children from my abuser. My legal advocate was able to connect me with the Jones Day team, who helped me obtain a protective order for me and my children. They have been so amazing; they're responsive, professional, and kind. I like to say that with the Jones Day team and Center for Domestic Peace, I have an army of generals at my side. Additionally, they took my case pro-bono!"

Over a three-year period, Jones Day attorneys and staff devoted more than 3,100 hours to assist domestic violence survivors with cases in the legal system. As a result, for those who decided to move forward with their restraining orders (RO), 100% of the cases have been successful in obtaining RO for their C4DP clients.

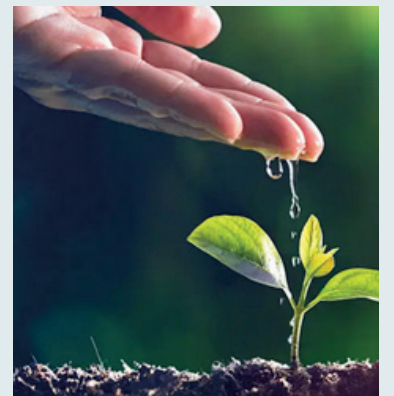
This collaborative effort between Jones Day and C4DP's Legal Systems Advocacy Program (LSAP) has had a positive impact on both victims of domestic violence and the legal community. It has not only helped to protect and empower victims, but it has also allowed new attorneys to gain valuable experience and skills in handling sensitive and complex legal issues, including trial experience presenting in front of judges. This partnership showcases the potential for law firms and organizations to work together for the greater good of society.

We are extremely grateful for our long-standing collaborative partnership with Jones Day.

Donna Garske Social Transformation Legacy Fund

"Leave a Legacy of Joy and Justice"

In recognition of Donna's innumerable contributions to C4DP, Marin County and the country, C4DP's Board of Directors has established the Donna Garske Social Transformation Legacy Fund (Legacy Fund) in honor of her 44 years of service to end domestic violence. At Donna's request, donor designated gifts toward the Legacy Fund will be restricted to help ensure sustainability of programs that help prevent gender-based violence and to support the cultivation of social transformation strategies in all aspects of the organization's work and services. The Legacy Fund is a long-term investment in which the principal balance remains untouched and only the interest and dividends generated are used. Knowing that prevention work is often the first to be cut when state and federal funding is tight, Donna's hope is that the day will come when a percentage of the annual interest earnings will support a full-time staff position to carry out the community change work that is so important to her.



For more details on how you can put your donor giving funds to work toward "catalyzing and contributing to the community effort to end the violence," contact Marla Hedlund, Development Officer, mhedlund@c4dp.org or call 415.526.2543.

The Spirit of Donna Garske

Donna Garske served as Center for Domestic Peace's (C4DP) Executive Director for 44 years from 1979 to 2024. Donna was drawn to the organization, known originally as Marin Abused Women's Services (MAWS), because of its statement of purpose at the time. In Donna's words, "it only took 11 words to change the direction of my life." In addition to the organization's commitment to providing services to those impacted by domestic violence, MAWS had set a bold vision for itself from the very beginning through its commitment to "catalyze and contribute to the community effort to end the violence."

Donna's passion to end violence against women and girls set in motion a direction for her career that she could not have imagined. She was one of the first pioneers in the domestic violence and sexual assault fields to develop a prevention framework and implement ground level community prevention strategies. She was at the forefront of defining theory and practice for gender-based prevention, including her groundbreaking advocacy to define domestic violence through the lens of social movement theory and the public health framework. She was selected by the Gimbel Foundation as a national violence prevention scholar and appointed to President Clinton's Violence Against Women Task Force committee on prevention and social norm change.

Leaving Your Living Legacy through Planned Giving

Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP) is a robust resource in the community, thanks in large part to our donors. Our 47 strong years have been supported by the generosity of community members like you. Monthly donations, in-kind gifts, and other donations make the operation of our staff, buildings, and programs feasible. Yet, there are more ways to help with our longevity and sustainability. Planned giving is a way to continue your legacy of support for C4DP. This type of giving refers to charitable gifts and monetary donations that require planning. One of the benefits of planned giving, and why it is becoming increasingly popular, is the valuable tax benefits available.

There are five different ways to give and many benefits to supporting C4DP for decades to come. With planned giving, you can avoid capital gains tax, increase current income for yourself or others, and pass assets on to your family at reduced tax costs.

- 1. Retirement plans** (IRA, 401(k), 403(b), Keogh, etc.) can make C4DP the beneficiary upon your passing. It can be all or a chosen portion of the unused balance in the account, which will then be transferred in your memory to C4DP as a charitable gift. Retirement plans are among the best assets to use because of the high tax (50-60%) that a family member might incur.
- 2. Life insurance policies** allow you to name an organization as owner/beneficiary of a policy, providing an income tax deduction and possible estate tax benefits.
- 3. Bank accounts** and securities/certificates of deposit can be set up through what are known as P.O.D. (Pay on Death) or T.O.D. (Transfer on Death) instructions. These accounts can be made so the remaining balance becomes a charitable gift.
- 4. Naming C4DP in your will** as a beneficiary ensures your support of our continuing work. You can also make specific bequests in your will of monetary value or other charitable gifts, such as personal property or real estate.
- 5. Charitable trusts** should be discussed with a financial advisor, as there are several types to be explored, based on your financial ability and wishes.

There are many options and levels you can choose to ensure support for C4DP continues even after you have left us. This type of support is incredibly important for C4DP's longevity and success. To learn more, please visit our website, www.c4dp.org/planned-giving, or contact Marla Hedlund, Development and Community Relations Officer, 415.526.2543.



STAFF PROFILE
Linda Que
Legal Systems Advocacy
Program Manager

Fifteen years ago, Linda Que had just graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in collaborative health and human services with a concentration in social work when she learned about Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP). The coursework she studied was a combination of public health, public safety, social work, and nonprofit management. C4DP seemed like the perfect fit, so she took the 40-hour training and started volunteering on the hotline. From there, she was invited to volunteer for C4DP's Legal Services Advocacy Program, where she finds her home today as its Program Manager.

Through her tenure, she has learned a great deal about the legal system, how to provide trauma-informed advocacy, and empower survivors. The uniqueness of each case and how dynamic they are make her work very fulfilling and keep her engaged and growing as she guides and informs survivors of their rights and options and empowers them.

In her role as a manager, sharing all she has learned is by far the most fulfilling. Being able to consult daily with a team of advocates, watch them grow, and assist participants efficiently with professionalism is where she feels most successful.

When asked what she loves about the job, Linda says, "Not a single day is the same. Every case we see is unique, and it allows me to be constantly looking for solutions. The best part is when there is a positive outcome for a survivor, and it brings them closer to being free of domestic violence."

Linda explains her reason for staying as long as she has: "C4DP is where I started my career in the domestic violence field and where I learned to love the legal systems and how to assist survivors navigate them. I can't see myself doing that anywhere else. I stay because of C4DP's culture. It is the best-case scenario when you can work with like-minded individuals who truly care and are invested in our mission."

Outside of C4DP Linda enjoys spending time with her 2 children and husband. They love going on adventures together, exploring new places, and eating good food. She also enjoys a good book or puzzle. And at the end of a long day, she looks forward to going home to have dinner with her family.

Stories of Resilience

When **Carla**, an immigrant with only an elementary school education, made the decision to enter Second Step, she was at a low point in her life financially and was also suffering from depression and anxiety. Second Step staff worked with Carla to help her find new employment and engage in financial planning, which helped her get her confidence back. She was able to find additional employment so that she could provide for her two children and start reducing the debts her abuser had incurred on her behalf.



Carla recently exited the program with permanent housing, a 44% increase in her income to more than \$60K annually, and her debts reduced in half, with plans to pay the balance within the next 18 months. Carla now feels proud of herself for the accomplishments she achieved during her stay at Second Step, especially given the multiple challenges she faced –

including her education level, a language barrier, and previous trauma and abuse.

Layla began receiving services after an incident in which her husband physically assaulted her. Beyond this incident, Layla has experienced a history of emotional, psychological, physical, financial, and reproductive abuse from this batterer.

The police were contacted, and the abuser was arrested. Layla filed for a civil restraining order and a divorce. C4DP's Bilingual Legal Systems Advocate supported Layla in creating a safety plan for the first several months post-separation – a critical period due to the high risk of violence.

Layla and her abuser have a young child together, and C4DP's Bilingual Legal Systems Advocate supported her through multiple custody and visitation issues. The advocate also provided referrals to attorneys for assistance with the civil legal process, as well as information about the criminal process, victim rights, and support navigating systems.



With her divorce finalized, she now has her own housing and transportation. A criminal trial has been set for later this year, and a criminal protective order (CPO) is in place to safeguard Layla from further abuse. The expertise of C4DP's Bilingual Legal Systems Advocacy team supported Layla in successfully negotiating full custody of their child.

Layla is adamant that having C4DP's Bilingual Legal Systems Advocate by her side has been essential on her journey to find justice. She recently reported feeling safe and empowered to live independently. She hopes to one day support the advocacy of C4DP and the movement to end domestic violence.

Building Bridges to Safety and Justice

As a survivor-centered organization with a foundational commitment to equity and inclusion, Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP) made a strategic investment in 2017 to work with Southern Marin, with a primary focus on Marin City in order to strengthen connections with the Black and African American community. This strategic decision evolved from a review of our data and outcomes of previous work in this community. We found that survivors from this demographic were not utilizing our services as much as other communities.



African American survivors of domestic violence.

Upon more research, we discovered a historical mistrust of our organization within this marginalized and underserved community, and there were many unique barriers that needed to be addressed to effectively provide services. Some reasons for this may include fear of not being believed, lack of culturally competent services, and a lack of understanding of the unique challenges faced by

To be successful, C4DP needed to hire the right person who could assist in building bridges and breaking down barriers to increase access to our services – an individual who possesses qualities such as approachability, kindness, and respect, and someone with professional or lived experience working with vulnerable populations. In 2017, we found the perfect fit in Cynthia Williams.

With decades of experience in community-based services and previous work in Marin City, Cynthia brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to C4DP. Initially hired for a four-month contract, Cynthia's dedication



and commitment to our cause have led to her celebrating eight years of service with C4DP. Her special ability to reach people took hold, enrolling faith leaders, community partners, and local businesses. This foundation has helped pave the way for our work as we strive to build and strengthen our connections even further.

Through her efforts, we have been able to establish a strong network of support and collaboration within the community, allowing us to make a greater impact. We have also been able to provide more targeted and culturally responsive support and resources to survivors in the Black and African American community.



Over the past several years C4DP has witnessed an increase in access to our services. We see this as a positive step, but it is only the beginning. We need to continue to actively work towards creating a truly inclusive and supportive environment for Black and African American survivors. This includes addressing systemic barriers, providing culturally sensitive and appropriate resources, and actively promoting diversity and inclusion within our organization. Only then can we truly ensure that all survivors feel welcome and supported in our programs and services.

**24-Hour English/Spanish Hotline:
415-924-6616**

**Other support can be found by calling:
Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm:**

ManKind Program.....415-457-6760
Therapy and Support Groups415-526-2553

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OCTOBER IS

**Domestic Violence
Awareness Month**

One Sip Closer to Ending Domestic Violence

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, C4DP's coffee sleeve campaign connects to our community through Marin's love for coffee and tea. Our goal is to spark hot conversations about domestic violence while also showing support for anyone in an unhealthy relationship to get help. Resources are printed on the sleeves for bystanders, those experiencing domestic violence, and those who are harming others. Help raise awareness about domestic violence in Marin by stopping by one of our participating shops in October. Visit our website for the complete list: www.c4dp.org/dvam

C4DP Open House Information | Connection | Community

**October 2, 4:30-6:30 PM
734 A Street, San Rafael**

Join us for a special open house event. Come celebrate our success and help us recognize the invaluable contributions of our community partners. This is a great opportunity to hear from C4DP's new executive director and learn more about our programs and services that aim to prevent and end domestic violence. RSVP by emailing mavedano@c4dp or calling 415-526-2552.

Nick The Greek Gives Back

**October 5, 11-9:00 PM
128 Vintage Way, Novato**

Bring C4DP flyer when you order instore or online use Force4Good code and we receive 15% back!

J. Crew Shop for a Cause

**October 19, 12-3:00 PM
1612 Redwood Hwy, Corte Madera**

Swing by the J. Crew store and shop for a cause! 10% will be given back to C4DP.

Annual Dia de los Muertos, Day of the Dead

**October 25, 12-1:00 PM
734 A Street, San Rafael**

Hosted by C4DP, the children of C4DP staff, and Voces de Cambio (Voices of Change – a volunteer activist group of former service users) – our annual event will be held in person and online and include a special memorial and reading of the names of those in the Bay Area killed by domestic violence.

**For more information visit
www.c4dp.org/dvam**

**CENTER FOR DOMESTIC
PEACE**

Working Together to End Domestic Violence

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