



# CCS Connection

Center for Community Solutions  
HEALING AND PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE

Volume 3, Issue 2  
January, 2005

## THE HOME THAT HOME DEPOT SUPPLIED

■ "I feel that you understand me and I feel comfortable to share my horrible ordeal with you."

■ "When I spoke to you, I felt that the angels had sent you to me to save my life and my family."

■ "I did not know where to turn because I am a woman and a refugee and I don't speak English. Thank you for being there."

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Thanks to the support of **The Home Depot Supply** this New Year brings hope and opportunity for CCS families during a very important time of need

It all began with a phone call In honor of **The Home Depot's** 25-Year Anniversary, Home Depot and its subsidiary companies had made a pledge to provide 250,000 of hours of community service

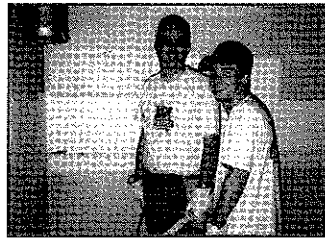
throughout the United States during the month of October. **The Home Depot Supply** had long been a partner of CCS and **Phyllis Dodds, Senior Manager, within Administrative Services**

approached us about organizing a volunteer project Little did we know that this one time "small" volunteer project would result in a life lasting gift for our clients

Our conversation focused on a piece of property that we were in the process of turning into a transitional housing living complex for women and children fleeing violent relationships It was currently uninhabitable due to the extensive amount of renovations the property required We invited Phyllis to come and take a tour of the facility with the hope of enlisting **Home Depot Supply's** support for one of the apartments To our amazement and delight they agreed to help support not just the one apartment but **the entire apartment complex!** Phyllis enlisted the help of a colleague **Michael Clancy, Director of Renovations**, and together they worked with their vendors and internal supplies to secure **all** of the donations needed for the project Ultimately this would result in providing everything from new flooring to kitchen cabinetry and appliances, carpeting, bathroom fixtures, and much much more.

On a bright and sunny Saturday in October **The Home Depot Supply** had a "renovation party" at the facility with over 20 volunteers from their company The volunteers

arrived at 7:30 am and before noon each and every apartment was completely gutted and ready for the next step in the construction phase This involved finding a resource for the construction needs One of CCS's Board Members, **Tom Coan of Roel Construction** had been in discussions with **Paul Cecil** from the **Association of General Contractors (AGC)** about turning the facility into an onsite training



Project Volunteers at the Home Depot Supply Renovation Party



help The members of the **La Jolla Soroptimist Club** wanted to get involved and two of their members, **Carol Tuggy** and **Sharon Andrews** utilized their interior design skills to create a floor plan to help maximize the living space for the families In addition the group has committed to helping provide the basic furnishings needed for the units The members of the **San Diego Soroptimist Club** also

wanted to help and they will be providing custom hand made window treatments for each of the apartments as well as some basic kitchen supplies

CCS also had the support of another

community partner **Cox Communications** As part of their Holiday festivities employees decorated trees with ornaments that represented household items for the apartments Hundreds of items were collected, enough that it required two trips in a Cox Communications truck to make the delivery!

The project is well under way and the facility is expected to open late January 2005 Our next step will be finding volunteers to help undertake a landscaping project at the complex so that come spring, the children will have a grassy play area If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Erin Miserlis at (858) 272-5777 for more information

Here at CCS we take pride in the fact that we promote violence free communities It is our goal to support our survivors on their path to healing and to stop the cycle of violence We recognize that it takes an entire community to make a lasting difference This project is a perfect example of people coming together to support their community and doing their part to help make this dream a reality **We cannot thank our partners enough for their support of this project and most importantly their efforts towards helping others during a time of need.**

ground for the students involved in the AGC Apprenticeship program This would allow the students an opportunity to gain practical experience and CCS would have volunteer labor The timing could not have been better and we set out on making this dream home a reality for our survivors

Paul also enlisted the support from other apprenticeship programs including **Bill Noble** from the **Carpet Layer and Flooring Union** to replace the flooring **Bill** then enlisted the support of **Andy Lughan** from the **Painters Apprenticeship Program** and their students painted each unit Further help was provided by **Jack Girard** from **ABC Plumbing** Jack had his students from the **Plumbers Apprenticeship Program** out to the site to help with a variety of plumbing needs **Rick Collins** and **Tim Phillips** from **Collins Plumbing** also came out to lend a hand and supported the project

Now that the renovations were underway it was time to start thinking about getting these apartments ready for their new families This involved locating furniture household supplies bedding, and linens for six new families Again this project seemed to have a special guardian angel working for it and we received additional offers to

## CCS STAR EMPLOYEE - ROBII DODGE

CCS is pleased to announce that Robii Dodge has been selected as this quarter's Star Employee. Robii first became involved with the agency in 1996 when she began volunteering with our Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). Due to her outstanding work as a volunteer, Robii was subsequently hired as a SART Victim Advocate and she has been a dedicated advocate ever since.



Robii is an outstanding interventionist who has helped *hundreds* of sexual assault survivors over the past 8 years. Despite the high amount of stress involved with responding to sexual assault cases, she comes to work each and every day with passion and compassion for her clients and a renewed sense of dedication to helping others deal with this very emotional issue. Robii has an unmistakable understanding for the concept of empowerment, which is a gift that she gives to her clients. She works with them to regain their power and control, offering options, choices and information.

With her 8 years experience at CCS and her leadership qualities, Robii's peers have looked upon her as a mentor and leader. Her support for advocates entering the movement is outstanding and a true resource for the agency. She spends

time teaching others about the meaning of advocacy, helps to build their knowledge and skill base, educates about the dynamics within the multi-disciplinary team, and about the importance of self care and balance within your personal and professional life.

Robii also effectively works as an advocate for the well-being of the agency and has helped personally recruit agency board members and funding sources. Due to Robii's efforts, CCS was invited to submit a proposal to the William H. Donner Family Foundation which resulted in a \$68,000 gift for the agency.

Not only is Robii recognized for her work within the agency but for her role in the sexual assault prevention movement as well. In 2001 Robii was selected by her peers as the San Diego County SART Victim Advocate of the Year. She was honored at a gala event that recognizes outstanding dedication in the field of sexual assault within all disciplines of the SART team.

Robii truly goes above and beyond her role as a SART team member and all of us at CCS are lucky to have her as a colleague and friend.

## FRIENDS IN THE COMMUNITY

### CCS was extremely fortunate to have the support of the community over the past Holiday Season.

Here is a small sampling of some of the amazing ways our clients were helped....

- Thank you to **Linda Oakley** of **ALLIED** for providing delivery services of HVH's new play equipment
- **Jennifer Stuart** and her co-workers at **Nokia** spent an afternoon helping our survivors by painting our shelter kitchen and office and if that wasn't enough they then installed a brand new play equipment structure, planted some flowers, cleaned out gutters, and assisted with swapping old mattresses for new ones. We are thankful for their hard work!
- Thanks to **Angie Alves** of **SLEEP TRAIN** CCS residents will be sleeping on 27 new mattresses!
- The **Project Safehouse Auxiliary** members were extra busy with providing food for holiday meals at the shelter and a variety of other goodies and treats to make their Holiday's bright!
- Members of the **Mission Beach Women's Club** put together over 50 individualized gift bags for the women and children residing in the emergency shelter programs. Each bag brought a smile during a much needed time.
- **Chris Walsh** of **Western States Awnings** helped create some additional space at our Coastal Office by providing and installing an amazing awning to allow for outdoor client use.
- The members of the **Hidden Valley House Auxiliary** have been extra creative with their community outreach efforts this past month. To allow for additional support from the community the members created a needs list which was posted as a gift registry at Target. Thanks to their efforts we now have brand new household supplies at the shelter.
- This past December members of the **National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)** made the holiday's a bit brighter for our shelter residents. The members organized a holiday party complete with a visit from Santa, toys for the kids, and to make the evening even more special transportation included a Limo ride.
- The children residing at Project Safehouse will have plenty to keep them entertained throughout the New Year. Thanks to **Jennifer Doucet** and the **MOMS Club of Alpine & Mtn. Empire** the kids received over 120 new books to help make their stay at the shelter more like home.
- The students at **La Jolla Country Day School** selected CCS as a community service project and collected over 20 boxes full of household supplies, toiletries, and toys for the children in our emergency shelter programs. The kids and teachers did a great job!
- **Margie Insko** and her coworkers at **NCR Teradata Corporation** generously gave up a Saturday and provided labor and supplies for an office makeover beautifying our North County facility.
- Our children at the Healthy Start Family Resource Center had a better holiday thanks to a toy drive organized by **Douglas Burke** from **Plum Crazy Saloon**. The following local businesses also chipped in: **Bob's Dive Bar, Daddio's, Sam's by the Sea, Sinbad's, Society, and Margarita Rocks**.
- The giving season was very apparent through the efforts of **Christie Fisher** of the **Builders Club Community Service Group** which provided several wonderful food baskets for our families to enjoy. A special thanks you to **Melissa Janek** at PB Middle School for the referral!
- CCS would like to extend a special thank you to all who participated in our **Bridging Hearts Adopt-of-Family program**. The families of this program are grateful for making the wishes of their children become a reality for the holidays. Thank you to **Shonda Denis, Pacific Hope Church, Bath and Body Works North County Fair and Mira Mesa, Jewish Family Services Project Sara, S.D. Union Tribune, Bully's-East, Victoria's Secret, North County Fair, & Nordstrom's UTC** for their support.

## CCS UPDATES AND EVENTS

### **CCS Thanks Outgoing Board President**

CCS has been fortunate to have **Amy Rypins**, an outstanding leader, and a passionate advocate for survivors as our board president for the past two years. With Amy's direction, CCS expanded its services to include North County San Diego which **resulted in a 50% agency size growth**. In addition, Amy helped spearhead the process necessary for reorganizing our agency board and staff operations. Amy's legal and accounting background have been immeasurable assistance to CCS. Amy's skills and dedication to survivors helped gain her recognition as **the most outstanding board president of a Rape Crisis Center for the state of California for 2004**. We are fortunate to have Amy remain a board member and we will never be able to fully show our gratitude for her leadership and guidance for the last two years! **Thank you Amy** for all that you have and will continue to do for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

### **CCS Volunteer Recognized at the Women Who Mean Business Awards**

One of CCS's own volunteers **Sammantha McDonald** was recently recognized at the San Diego Business Journals Annual **"Women Who Mean Business"** Event. Sammantha was selected as one of 25 honorees out of a pool of over 400 to be honored for her outstanding community volunteer work. As a long time advocate for breast cancer awareness, Sammantha has helped raise over \$300,000 for the cause! In her spare time, she helps many other charities including CCS. For the past two years, Sammantha has been a part of our Annual Tea by the Sea Committee and has helped bring many new friends and supporters to CCS. As you can see, Sammantha is a true volunteer and a person who cares deeply about her community. We are lucky to have such an amazing person within our agency.

### **Family Foundation Supports CCS Rape Crisis Center**

Recently CCS was awarded \$68,000 from the **William H. Donner Family Foundation** to help with its efforts in sexual assault awareness and prevention. The funds will be used to help promote sexual assault awareness month, increase staff enrichment activities, and to help fund a specialized teen sexual assault advocate to work directly with youth who have been sexually assaulted. At a time when funding cuts have been abundant, CCS was overwhelmed and thrilled at the gift and the long lasting support it will provide.

### **Cox Communications & Encinitas Ford Create Domestic Violence PSA for CCS**

This past December **Cox Communications** began airing a Public Service Announcement that was created in partnership with **Encinitas Ford** raising awareness about Domestic Violence prevention and intervention. Included in the PSA

was information on how and where to go for help, along with the number for Center for Community Solutions Countywide 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline (1-888-DVLINKS). CCS would like to thank **Mark Wheeler of Encinitas Ford** and **Shelita Weinfield, Lauren Klepper, and Michael Brueggemeyer of Cox Communications** for their help with making this possible.

### **Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity**

The February Crisis Intervention training is a 56-hr program preparing volunteers to work on our crisis line, and our SART and DVRT Teams. Volunteers are trained to respond to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence immediately following an assault. For more information please call Antara Kobayashi; Volunteer Coordinator @ 858-272-5777x128. Deadline: Jan 28<sup>th</sup>. If in the North County area please call Tisha Martz; Volunteer Coordinator @ 760-747-6282x123.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

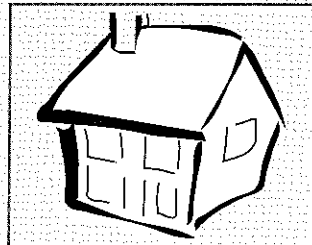
### **The Next Step Transitional Housing Program**

The Next Step Transitional Housing Program is one of CCS's most successful domestic violence residential programs. Next Step provides an affordable housing solution for over 400 women and children fleeing violent relationships throughout San Diego on an annual basis. This is a long-term program designed to assist families toward independent, safe and stable living. The program typically runs for 12 months and clients are provided with housing to give them the time and opportunity necessary to heal and reestablish their lives. Individualized counseling for the children and adults is all a part of the program. This is one way CCS actively participates in breaking the cycle of violence today and for future generations.

Part of this plan involves weekly meetings with a case manager to assist them in their plan for future stabilization and self-sufficiency. This includes obtaining resources for employment or educational training as well as basic parenting classes, job preparedness training, and budgeting classes.

In the initial stages of the program, CCS absorbs the direct housing and day to day living costs. Once employed, each client is required to pay 30% of their income to participate in the program. In addition, each resident sets up a savings

account where they make a minimum monthly contribution based on their current level of income. This process helps to provide experience with budgeting as well as the opportunity to save enough revenue for a down payment on a future rental when the program is completed. Learning to utilize these skills helps to ensure the clients financial and emotional independence once the program ends. The clients also commit to individualized counseling with a licensed therapist to help support them and their children throughout these changes.



One of the goals of the program is to find adequate housing when the resident's year is complete. The residents work with the case manager to locate community referrals to ensure that a new home is found. Despite the high financial investment that is necessary to operate this program, the costs are minimal given the opportunity to break the cycle of violence for years to come.

CCS is dedicated to providing safe and healthy alternatives to families fleeing violent relationships. If you would like to contribute to this program or learn more about it contact Laurine Baxter, Director of Residential Services at (760) 747-6282.



**Coastal Location:**  
4508 Mission Bay Drive  
San Diego, CA 92109  
(858) 272-5777

**East County Location:**  
7339 El Cajon Blvd., Ste. J  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
(619) 697-7477

**North County Location:**  
106 Grape Street  
Escondido, CA 92025  
(760) 747-6282

[www.ccssd.org](http://www.ccssd.org)

**24-Hour Toll Free**

**Crisis Line:**

**1-888-DVLINKS**

**OR 1-888-272-1767**

**Legal Clinic: 858-272-1574**

**Project Safehouse: 619-631-6442**

**Hidden Valley House: 760-480-0055**

**CCS would like to recognize the following individuals and/or businesses who have made a contribution of \$100 or more over the past quarter.**

Keith & Cecilia Babcock  
Rachelle Brown  
California Bank & Trust  
Tom & Sue Coan  
Rod Fiori  
Ellen Furman  
Sue Hetzel  
Junior Seau Foundation  
Jewel & Leon Kelley  
Leslie Kilpatrick  
Marc Kuritz  
Jay La Suer

Lynn Lassen  
Thomas & Lynn Luneau  
Sandra Mayberry  
Sara & George McClenahan  
Mark Mitchell  
Barbara Nigro  
Richard Owen  
Chuck Piro  
Neil & Jana Purdy  
QDRO Pros, Amy Rypins  
Robert & Robin Ross  
Paul & Paula Saksa

Priscilla Schrieber  
Ron & Pam Segni  
Corrine St. Claire  
Randall Stoddard  
James Suter  
SD County Bar Foundation  
Pieter Vandenberg  
Barbara Watkins  
Bruce & Katherine Wayne  
William H. Donner  
Foundation  
Willowbrook Men's Club

**Always wanted to get involved with CCS but not sure how to go about it?**

Come take a tour and learn about the many wonderful programs offered at CCS. Based on your needs, schedule and availability we are sure to find an opportunity that is just right for you. Contact Erin Miserlis at (858) 272-5777 or [emiserlis@ccssd.org](mailto:emiserlis@ccssd.org) to learn more.

**To request this newsletter via e-mail or to make a correction or suggestion, contact Editor Erin Miserlis at [emiserlis@ccssd.org](mailto:emiserlis@ccssd.org) or (858) 272-5777**



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and Relationship Violence*

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