



October 2002  
Domestic Violence  
Awareness Month  
Volume I, Issue 1

- **In 70% of the homes where abuse takes place, children are abused as well.**
- **The majority of sexual assault is committed by someone who knows the victim.**
- **Every 45 seconds a woman is raped.**

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# CCS CONNECTION

Center for Community Solutions

*Healing and Preventing Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence*

## *Letter from the Executive Director*

As the one year anniversary of 9-11 passed, it prompted me to reflect on CCS's vision for all people to live full, free, expressive and empowered lives in a safe, vibrant, healthy and peaceful community. The unthinkable has only deepened our commitment to a violence-free world.

It has also reminded all of us how quickly violence can enter our world and change us forever. We feel for the loss of loved ones victimized by September's tragedy and for those of the families we work with. These individuals and families inspire us with their

courage and dignity as they embrace the healing process. We watch in awe as they transform from victim to teacher and healer. These are the heroes CCS sees every day. They walk amongst us. They have seen some of life's most painful situations. Out of their horror comes such grace.

On behalf of the CCS staff, board and volunteers I dedicate our initial newsletter to the individuals and families that we serve.

Verna Griffin Tabor  
*Executive Director*  
CCS

## CCS Testimonials

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I feel it is good here because they help all the battered women like me to move forward, and help us in every situation if we need it. To me this place is a shelter in which they try to help us forget the past and begin a better future, not just for us, but for our children. So, from now on, up and forward, live a new life and don't return to the past – live in the present.

Paty ~  
Project Safehouse Client

Thank you so very much for all your help. I leave here today with tears, but these tears are not the same ones I came here with. These tears are because I am happy and I know wherever I go, I'll have these wonderful memories of you all! I was falling apart behind a smile and you helped me keep it together. Now I go to my new home of my own but, you are all there, in my heart. Thank you.

Anonymous

# EVENT SPOTLIGHT

On Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at Loews Coronado Bay Resort the Center for Community Solutions held their third annual recognition event, Tea by the Bay **Presented by Nordstrom**. The event was emceed by local news anchor, KGTV's own Kimberly Hunt and honored the many volunteers, businesses and community members that helped make CCS a success over the past year.

**Mavis Leno**, chair of the Feminist Majority Campaign to stop gender apartheid in Afghanistan spoke on the issues concerning violence against women in Afghanistan to a sell out crowd of more than 300 guests.

In attendance were a variety of political representatives including San Diego City Council Member Toni Atkins and Katie Keach from Congresswoman Susan Davis's office, to name a few.

Nine individuals were honored for



**Verna Griffin Tabor, Mavis Leno, Kimberly Hunt & Debra Palmer**

their heroic volunteer efforts at CCS. Honorees included Angie a survivor and CCS volunteer, Ruth also a survivor and CCS volunteer, Anna a survivor and SART program volunteer, local businesswoman, Ingrid Croce, one of CCS's original founders, Laurie Mackenzie, Paula Saksa a CCS supporter, Bob Thomas a local contractor, Linda Wong Kerberg a leader in promoting the vision of CCS, and Dr. Leon and Jewel Kelly, longtime CCS

supporters and advocates.

**Nordstrom** has been a significant supporter since the event began three years ago. This year they renewed their commitment and with the help of Denise Bisdorf, Western Region Marketing Director, came on board as the Presenting Sponsor. In addition, several other local companies pledged their support for the days

event including, Cubic Corporation, Maintenance Warehouse, SDG&E, Tabor Communications, First Commercial Corporation, and the Junior Seau Foundation.

The Tea is an annual event that occurs each year in May. For information on next year's event or to find out how you can be a sponsor, contact Erin Miserlis in the Resource Development Department at (858) 272-5777.

## CCS Star Employee – Laurine Baxter

CCS had cause for celebration with the 10-year anniversary of our Residential Services Director's time with CCS. During her 10 years, Laurine Baxter has seen many changes! Six years ago she was here to experience the change in our name from Center for Women's Studies and Services to CCS.

In 1999, she spearheaded the expansion of our residential program to include transi-



**Laurine Baxter**

tional housing. She has been a tireless champion and outspoken advocate for women and children.

Laurine is strong, patient, committed, and caring. She is a gentle giant who continues to persevere with incredible devotion.

A surprise celebration was thrown by a group of CCS staff and friends to honor Laurine's 10 years of service. It was a small way to acknowledge all that she has given to CCS. Friends included our past ED, Linda Wong-Kerber, Assistant

City Attorney, Gael Strack; and City Attorney Advocate, Kimberly Pearce.

Former CCS staff also came to rally around Laurine: Dr. Elise Curry and Pam Furby. And last but not least, the surprise would not have been possible without the presence (and collusion) of Laurine's biggest fan, Bill Baxter. Bill should have been on CCS's payroll years ago for all of his service to our organization. Laurine, from all of us – thank you for all of your commitment, integrity and heart.

# CCS Programs & Services

Since 1969, the Center for Community Solutions (CCS) has been creating safe and healthy communities with a core emphasis on the treatment and prevention of sexual assault and relationship violence.

CCS offers a variety of services to individuals and families dealing with relationship violence and sexual assault.

These services include a shelter for abused women and their children; transitional housing for women committed to leaving violent relationships; a legal clinic that assists in obtaining domestic violence restraining orders and dissolutions and other family law matters; a 24-Hour bilingual domestic violence and sexual assault helpline; the City of San Diego's only Rape Crisis Center with advocacy services for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors and their families; and



**CCS Staff**

a prevention and education department that interfaces with the community by working with and educating corporations, community groups and educational institutions.

One of our newest programs is the Youth-to-Youth Helpline. The Helpline is a collaborative program run by CCS in conjunction with the San Diego Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce. The taskforce is made up of a variety of local agencies, including the County of San Diego's Office of

Violence Prevention (OVP), California Hospital Improvement Plan (CHIP), and Children's Initiative. The Helpline will provide a safe, reliable, non-judgmental avenue for youth to anonymously express their concerns to a trained youth staff person. The Youth-to-Youth Helpline is the only Helpline in San Diego County dedicated solely to youth. The Helpline opened this past spring, 2002.

If you want to learn more about any of our programs and services, please contact us and we'll be happy to provide you with additional information.

24-Hour CrisisLine: 888-272-1767

Legal Clinic: 858-272-1574

Youth-to-Youth Helpline: 866-222-1886

Project Safehouse: 619-267-8023

Pacific Beach Location: 858-272-5777

La Mesa Location: 619-697-7477

North County Location: 760-747-6282

## Happenings in the Community - Save the Date!

Has a Loved One  
Been Sexually Assaulted?

CCS will be holding a forum for family members, partners, and friends to ask questions, gather information, share concerns and get support. No fee required. For questions and information on future dates contact Kelly Selis or Tracy Johnson at (858) 272-5777.

CCS is pleased to announce the date for the Fourth Annual Oaktree Escrow Dinner. On Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> Bobbie Pearson and Greg Brown will once again be chairing this special event that raises funds for the Center for Community Solutions transitional housing and 24-Hour Emergency shelter program, Project Safehouse, in East County.

The festivities will be held at Viejas



**Dance floor at Oaktree Gala**

Casino in the Dreamcatcher Showroom. The event boasts a fun filled evening with musical entertainment, a silent auction, and great food.

Individual tickets as well as tables are available for purchase. Tickets are \$100 each and tables of ten can be reserved for \$1,000. For more information or to inquire about sponsorship possibilities, contact Erin Miserlis

at 858-272-5777 extension 151.

Golf Under the Stars! 5<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Glowball Tournament!

On Saturday, October 27, 2002 the Willowbrook Men's Club will be holding their **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Carl Geffers Memorial Glow Ball Golf Tournament** to benefit the east county programs of the Center for Community Solutions.

The tournament is held at night with the help of a special ball that becomes illuminated when a glow stick is inserted into the ball.

Registration includes a delicious catered barbecue dinner.

For more information contact Bob Gore at 619-443-5994.

Free Self Defense for Women and Girls! Empower yourself - learn to use the tools you have always possessed. All ages and levels of physical ability are welcome. Santa Clara Recreation Center. October 2 and 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 - 7:45 PM. Call (858)272-5777 for reservations.



Pacific Beach 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) 272-1767

North County Location:  
200 N. Ash Street, Suite 110  
Escondido, CA 92027  
(760) 747-6282

**www.ccssd.org**  
**24-Hour Toll Free**  
**Crisis Line: (888) 272-1767**

## Thanks to Our Contributors

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Willowbrook Men's Club  
Tierrasanta Junior Women's Club  
California Endowment  
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Marriott International, Inc.  
City of San Diego SHARE  
Gold Diggers Philanthropy Club  
NAWBO  
UCSD Student Organization  
The Waitt Family Foundation

We are extremely grateful for the amazing support we are fortunate enough to receive from these members of the community.

We would also like to thank Cubic Corporation and Heidi Heiser for their help with making this newsletter possible.

## How can I help?

CCS is a non-profit 501(c) 3 agency that is funded through various grants, foundations, and private contributions. You can help in a variety of ways ranging from making a monetary or In-Kind donation, to attending a special event, donating your used vehicle, and of course, volunteering your time. For more information, attend a CCS orientation to familiarize yourself with the agency and to determine the best way that you can help. For more information, contact Erin Miserlis at (858) 272-5777 or [emiserlis@cccssd.org](mailto:emiserlis@cccssd.org).



**Center for  
Community Solutions**

*Healing and Preventing Sexual Assault  
and Relationship Violence*

4508 Mission Bay Dr. San Diego, CA 92109