

Women's Center of San Joaquin County

DAWN House



*Celebrating
25 Years of
Help and Hope*

2006/2007 Annual Report

a non-profit organization serving San Joaquin County since 1976



Our Mission

The Women's Center's mission is to provide a wide range of supportive, educational, and crisis intervention services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, enabling them to regain control of their lives.

Vision Statement

- A community where women can share ideas and feelings, examine their role in society, and learn to bring about change.
- An environment conducive to growth and self-empowerment where women can teach and learn skills important for dealing with a changing world, and further community cross-cultural understanding.
- A forum where women's issues and concerns can be brought before the public.
- A place where women, men, and children in need can find supportive services.
- A catalyst for change pursuing societal goals of equity and self-worth, working to ensure the provision of quality services, community education, and new, innovative programs for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Message from the Executive Director & Board President

Dear Friends of the Women's Center,

Fiscal year 2006/2007 brought much hope to the 17,302 women, children and men who turned to the Women's Center for crisis intervention and other supportive services. 2007 marked DAWN House's 25th anniversary. DAWN House, our undisclosed emergency shelter for battered women and their children, opened its doors in 1982. This bittersweet milestone pays tribute to the many women and men in San Joaquin County that created and maintained this safe haven for battered women and their children. At the same time, we must pause and acknowledge the more than 14,000 brave women and children who have found refuge and hope while residing at DAWN House. DAWN House exemplifies the Women's Center's core mission by providing more than just the essentials—battered women and their children truly learn to recapture their lives.



This past fiscal year I had the pleasure of a chance meeting with a former client of DAWN House. Her testimonial and genuine appreciation for what the Women's Center staff did for her and her daughter while at DAWN House says it all...

"It was a strange day and a strange new place that I entered with my 14-year-old daughter sometime in the late 1990's. We walked into Dawn House, a shelter for women experiencing domestic violence. I was living in Oakland, California at the time. I was being physically abused and threatened to be killed by my ex-husband. We were literally running for our lives. Now we were getting ready to walk into a shelter called Dawn House. Frankly, I was scared to death. I didn't know how we would be treated. I didn't know anything about domestic violence.

Well, I knocked on the door and someone answered. To my surprise, the lady was cordial, soft spoken, and said, and "Welcome, you're safe now." I looked at my daughter and grabbed her hand as we sat down. She began to ease my mind by telling me what Dawn House was about and that we took a big step to leave. After all, I left my home behind, new furniture that I had just bought, 3 cars, and 2 beautiful dogs. My daughter and I began to cry because we didn't know what any of this was about. This was new, but here these people were making us feel welcome and safe.

They would come and check on us after telling us the house rules and what was expected of us. I sat down on the bed still in disbelief. I had so many, many questions and they answered every one of them politely, not making me feel like I was crazy or that I had done something to cause the violence.

Later, I remember describing Dawn House to my mother by saying words like kind, gentle, nice, understanding, and easy to understand. After about 3 or 4 weeks, we went back to Oakland to begin a new life.

Now, many years later, I have transformed myself and my entire life. Today, I am proud to say that I am the Executive Coordinator for the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, the State Domestic Violence Coalition, working at the local, state and national level to end domestic violence. Each day, I get to make a difference in the lives of domestic violence victims and their children. Dawn House helped pave the way for my new and better life."

Each year we compile this annual report to share our notable accomplishments and recognize our generous donors who make it possible for us to reach so many people impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault. But it's not until you hear from our clients that you begin to see beyond the numbers that we report out. Working at the Women's Center is a privilege and a constant reminder why we are here – to end the fear and create hope for a better future. Thank you again for believing the Women's Center can have an impact. With your continued support, the possibilities are endless. Thank YOU!


Joelle Gomez
Executive Director


Dave Sant
President, Board of Directors

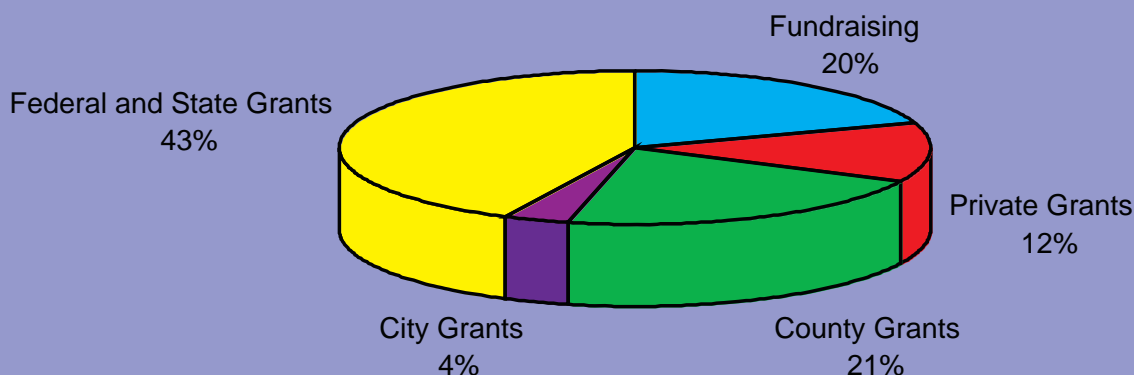
2006–2007 Financials

The Women’s Center successfully met the financial demands of its programs and services for the fiscal year 2006/2007. The Center managed an operating budget of \$1.6 million that provided critical services to over 24,000 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The agency continues to operate in a cost-effective manner by keeping administrative and fundraising expenses to 9.5 percent.

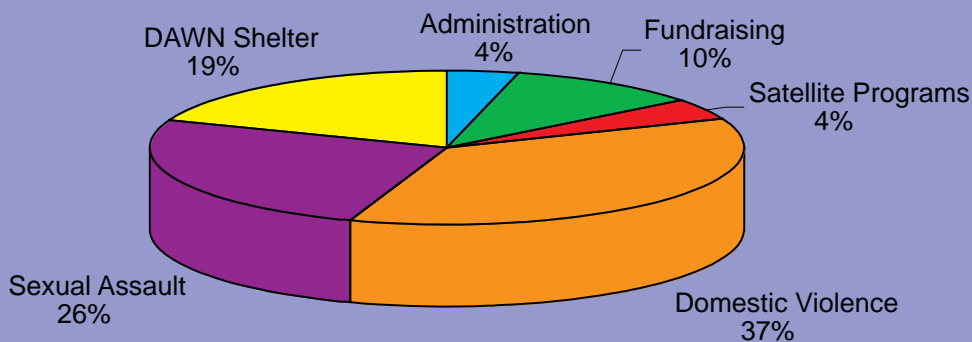
Program income and expenses are allocated to the following areas: Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, DAWN Shelter, Satellite Programs, Administration, and Fundraising. An independent audit is completed annually. Upon request, 990 Financial Reports are available.

Financial Statement: *July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007*

Income



Expenses



Ending Fear, Creating Hope

2006 – 2007

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

• Battered women who received individual counseling	2002
• Battered women who attended group counseling	1870
• Battered women who received advocacy services	560
• Battered women who received assistance with restraining orders	289
• Battered women assisted on the Domestic Violence Help-line.	4776
• Individuals who benefited from community education presentations.	2291
• In-home visits through referrals to differential response and case management	267

SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM

• Crisis intervention services provided to sexual assault victims/significant others.	1535
• Follow-up services provided to sexual assault victims/significant others.	996
• Advocacy services provided to sexual assault victims/significant others.	896
• Accompaniment services provided to sexual assault victims/significant others	879
• Counseling services provided to sexual assault victims/significant others	821
• Prevention education services provided to individuals	6893
• Community education services provided	4231

EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Our shelters are a critical component to our crisis intervention services and continue to be the only emergency shelters available to battered women and their children countywide. DAWN (Directions for Abused Women in Need) House, the agency's largest shelter, was established in 1982 and TREE (Tracy Refuge for Education and Empowerment) House, located in Tracy, was established in spring of 2003 from the support of Sutter Tracy Hospital.

The shelters provided the following services:

• Women and children who received emergency shelter at DAWN House	396
• Women and children who received emergency shelter at TREE House	62
• Child survivors who received one-on-one counseling through the "Just for Kids" Program	261
• Battered women and children (accessing our services countywide) who received emergency food and clothing.	458

SATELLITE OFFICES

North County – Lodi

• Battered women assisted on the Help-Line	401
• Victims who received individual counseling	394
• Victims who attended Support Groups.	189

- Victims assisted with temporary restraining orders 86
- Victims who received court accompaniment and/or advocacy services 21
- Referrals received from law enforcement. 147
- Individuals who received information & referral services. 277

The Lodi volunteers contributed 2296 hours of volunteer services.

South County – Tracy

- Battered women assisted on the Help-Line 245
- Victims who received individual counseling 222
- Victims assisted with temporary restraining orders. 71
- Battered women provided with court accompaniment and/or advocacy services 63
- Individuals who received community education 1044
- Referrals received from law enforcement 43



Special thanks to our collaborative partners. With your support and cooperation in working together, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault were provided a comprehensive safety net.

Special thanks to:

- Stockton Police Department
- SJC Human Services Agency, Child Protective Services
- SJC Mental Health, Behavioral Wellness
- Sutter Tracy Memorial Hospital
- Lodi Memorial Hospital
- Child Advocacy Center
- San Joaquin General Hospital
- Kaiser Permanente
- United Way of San Joaquin County

A Commitment to Ending Violence Against Women, Children, and Men

July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

We could not continue to provide our critical services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault without the support from our generous donors. We continue to be grateful for your ongoing support. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this acknowledgement listing. If we have accidentally excluded your name, please contact our Development Director at (209) 941-2611 to correct our error.

In appreciation of our donors, we proudly acknowledge the following businesses, organizations and individuals:

Benefactors **\$10,000 and above**

Aisin Electronics, Inc.
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Phoebe Watt Endowment
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Target Stores - Lodi
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Women's Success Group

Sustainers **\$1,000 - \$1,999**

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GFWC Tracy Women's Club
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\$250 - \$499

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United Way - California Capitol
Campaign
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Dexter and Sharon Vollbrecht
Wal-Mart Super Center
Jennifer Whipple
Women of Temple Israel
Roy and Beverly Yoneshige

In-Kind Donations

Each year, the agency receives an outpouring of tangible items and donations to help support the agency's Wish List and the specific needs of our clients who are hopeful to begin a new life, free from violence. We are grateful to ALL of you for choosing the Women's Center and believing in our work. Thank you.

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The Balloonery
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Tony Roma's
Tracy Hospital Foundation
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Women's Success Group
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Silent Witness Exhibit

The Silent Witness Exhibit provides a powerful visual testimonial to the sad reality of domestic violence and seeks to educate and motivate public support against the devastating cycle of domestic violence. The Silent Witness Exhibit's goal is very specific: achieve zero domestic violence crimes by the year 2010. As part of the exhibit, the Women's Center displays resource information and literature regarding domestic violence, for victims who may be unaware of where or how to ask for help. There is a tremendous need for education on the issue of domestic violence. Many people ask, "Why does she stay?" or "Why doesn't she just leave?" The fact is that women who leave their abusers are at a 75% greater risk of being killed by their batterer than those who stay. The Silent Witness Exhibit not only heightens the awareness but also provides us a unique opportunity to disseminate information about help and resources available to victims of domestic violence and their children.

To date, the Women's Center has created 42 Silent Witnesses representing women who were murdered in acts of domestic violence. Five of the silent witnesses represent children who were caught in the crossfire of domestic violence and killed. The Silent Witness Exhibit can have a tremendous impact on those who come face-to-face with the Silent Witnesses, especially the abused women who have seen it and decided to get help.

This moving exhibit has the power to inspire us all into action; take a stance today to do your part in being a part of the solution. Learn more about the dynamics of domestic



violence, its impact on children and our society in general. Learn where you or your family, friends, or co-workers can access services that are free and confidential. Most importantly, become an advocate and take a stance against domestic violence. Each of us can play an important role in combating domestic violence, whether we are in the health care profession, legal profession, criminal justice system, social services, education, etc. The list is endless, we can all learn to be better listeners, learn to become non-judgmental when someone discloses they're in a domestic violence situation, and learn to steer victims and their family members to critical services to help them regain control of their lives.

The list below includes the name of each domestic violence victim in our Silent Witness Exhibit and each person's age at the time of their death. We hope their stories will raise awareness and prevent future violence.

Victim	Age	Victim	Age	Victim	Age
Marybel Aldea	44	Chastity A. Cogo	20	Jenna Nannetti	17
Janorah Austin	42	Deanna Copeland	25	Michelle Neuvert	38
Carla Alexander	40	Magdalena Coronado	35	Sailor Marie Neuvert	4
A. Lilia Badillo	14	Maria Espinoza	42	Wesley Donald Neuvert	2
Jamie Baker	30	Maria Forniciari	40	Kathryn Nixon	40
Kathleen Batman	34	Rebecca Foster	45	Eileen Pett	20
Pamela Bennett	40	Patricia Hawthorne	56	Norma Pescador	42
Lillian Brenna Best	20	Laura Hopper Lucero	25	Lucinda Correia Pina	30
Michelle Brown	26	Stacie Housewright	28	Renee Michelle Ramos	18
Ashley Burks	6	Shirley McBride	35	Nora Robles	47
Bobby Burks	4	Robin McClary	24	Leslie Simons	32
Mikhala Burks	5	Lisa Gunder	35	Peggy Ann Spencer	52
Jennifer Bushnell	29	Melissa Mendoza	29	Stacey Treadway	26
Pearl Burks	48	Jennifer Mitchell	38	Deanna Vonwalton	32



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Women's Center of San Joaquin County

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Fax: (209) 941-4963

North County Satellite Office

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Lodi, CA 95240
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Fax: (209) 333-1890

South County Satellite Office

Healthy Connections

35 E. 10th Street, Suite A
Tracy, CA 95376
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*All services are free and confidential.
Services are available in English, Spanish,
South Asian and Southeast Asian languages.*

www.womenscenterofsjc.com

