



Solano County Family Violence Prevention Newsletter

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www.solanocounty.com/stoptheviolence

Office of Family Violence Prevention
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Fairfield, CA 94533

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."

~ George Washington Carver

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Working to Keep Children Safe

Ensuring that the young people of our community grow up in a safe and supportive environment is a goal that is both attainable and desirable. On June 2, 2009 the Board of Supervisors declared June as Child Safety Month. "Child safety should be our number one priority. When a child doesn't feel safe it hinders their ability to grow and learn," said Stephanie Ladd from the Office of Family Violence Prevention.

The three leading causes of death among children and youth in the United States are motor vehicle accidents, drowning and injuries resulting from fires. The Solano County Office of Family Violence Prevention, Sheriff's Department, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission, Health & Social Services Public Health Division and other local partners joined together to sponsor public education and community activities throughout the month of June to promote the safety and security of Solano children and youth, and reduce accidental deaths and injuries.

To reduce the injuries and deaths of children from automobile accidents the Office of Family Violence Prevention, along with FIRST5 Solano, sponsored car seat safety checks at Family Resource Centers across Solano County.

The Solano County Sheriff's Marine Patrol Department continues to promote water and boating safety both on and off of the water in an attempt to eliminate unnecessary deaths of children from drowning. At the board presentation Undersheriff Tom Ferrara stated that "What we are seeing more and more on the water is children not properly fitted with the right size life jacket. It is critical to have the right size life jacket in order to protect and potentially save the life of your child." Marine Patrol Deputy Mazer, with the help of his children, demonstrated the proper way to fit a child with a life jacket to ensure they will be protected on the water.

Child Safety Month is set aside to recognize the need to educate the



Deputy Mazer lifting his daughter in a properly fitted life jacket at the June 2nd Board meeting. This shows how a child should not be able to slip out.

community about the problem of childhood injuries and to disseminate information on preventative measures. Children are our most precious resource, and their protection and care are the concerns of all in the community. The risk of accidental injury and death to children can be greatly reduced by the use of such commonsense measures as bicycle helmets, seat belts, car safety and booster seats, and smoke alarms.

"It is another resolution you hate to do because the statistics are terrifying. But it's important to recognize this month in order to hopefully help awaken people about the importance of safety measures that can protect our children," said Supervisor Barbara Kondylis.

Car Seat Safety Checks A Success!



CHP Officer Patricia Rodriguez and Officer Aria Dehqanzada prepare a new car seat to replace one that failed inspection.

This year the Solano County Office of Family Violence Prevention partnered with FIRST5 Commission, Family Resource Centers, Solano Car Seat Connection and CHP to host the 2nd Annual Car Seat Safety Checks in Solano County. This year 3 Family Resource Centers participated in hosting car seat safety checks so that local parents in their community could come and have their car seats inspected, and if they were not the proper seats they were replaced at no cost to the families. Overall Solano Car Seat Connection and CHP inspected 38 car seats and replaced over 20 unsafe car seats for children from the ages of 0-7 years old.

These events were a great success and we look forward to doing this again next year. For more information about how to get your car seats inspected please contact your local Family Resource Center or CHP at (707) 428-2100 to

schedule a car seat safety check. Visit OFVP's website to learn more about car seat safety and other safety tips to keep your children safe year around. www.solanocounty.com/stoptheviolence



Officer Dehqanzada finishes properly fitting a child in his new car seat at the Fairfield Family Resource Center Car Seat Safety Check.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

On June 9th the Solano County Board of Supervisors declared June 15, 2009 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). The first WEAA Day was observed in 2006 and involved several hundred organizations and governmental bodies at the international, national, regional, local, community and neighborhood level, in every continent in the world. This day is observed in support of the United Nations International Plan of Action which recognizes the significance



An information table displayed at the Fairfield Senior Center. Similar tables were set up at all 6 Senior Centers.

of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue. Raising awareness of elder abuse and neglect is a challenge and no effort is too small.

The Solano County Senior Coalition partnered with county senior centers and the Area Agency on Aging to schedule events in June designed to raise awareness of elder abuse. Resource information was on display at various Senior Centers throughout the county and purple ribbons were tied outside the Centers to increase awareness of elder abuse issues.

The Area Agency on Aging also hosted two workshops in June titled "In Search Of Solutions: Help Prevent Elder Abuse in Our Community." The workshops empowered the participants by providing information on how to appropriately identify and address the different forms of elder abuse, such as physical abuse, isolation, financial abuse, and deprivation. The events were held in Vacaville and



Vallejo and were well received by both communities. The Senior Coalition advocates

for and supports efforts that improve and enrich the lives of seniors living and working in Solano County. They are committed to helping seniors live a safe and healthy life, free of all forms of abuse.



Purple Ribbons were tied outside 6 Solano County Senior Centers to raise awareness about elder abuse.

LIFT3 Volunteer Advocates Ready to Help

Extreme volunteers for extreme circumstances were honored recently in a special graduation ceremony at the County Administration Center. Family, friends and community leaders were on hand as 17 committed citizens graduated from an intense 40-hour training program preparing them to be volunteer advocates for domestic violence victims and children.

"The real appreciation for what you have done so far will come from the people you will be working with, the lives you will touch. On behalf of them, thank you so much for stepping up to help change lives and break the cycle of violence," said Supervisor Barbara Kondylis.

Other special guests at the ceremony were Supervising Family Law Judge D. Scott Daniels and Fairfield Police Chief Kenton Rainey. The graduates are the first alumnae from a joint effort of LIFT3 Support Group and Solano County's Office of Family Violence Prevention to offer the state-required domestic violence certification training.

As volunteer advocates, they have committed to devoting at least 16 hours a month to help LIFT3 and the OFVP meet the needs of domestic violence victims throughout Solano County. They will also be assisting victims with crisis intervention services, helping them obtain domestic violence restraining orders, providing



The class of 17 volunteer advocates successfully completing the State of California required 40-Hour Domestic Violence training. They each received a "Certificate of Completion".

Court accompaniment, and linking victims to outside support services.

Volunteers will be involved in numerous projects, including assisting with LIFT3's 3rd Annual Community Recognition Event "A Community Stitched Together" and

"Shelter Shower" that was held on June 26, 2009 in Fairfield.

"Finding money for the day-to-day operations of any nonprofit is becoming increasingly difficult. All of us nonprofits are relying even more on volunteers; they are integral to every aspect of the services and programs we offer," said Claudia Humphrey, Executive Director of Lift 3. She also noted that their commitment stands out, above and beyond the typical volunteer.

The mission of LIFT3 Support Group is to empower survivors of domestic violence through awareness, education and training. They also provide shelter so victims can escape a violent situation and transition into a healthy living environment. For more information about LIFT3 or to become a volunteer advocate, call Rena Turner at (707) 398-6865. To learn more about LIFT3 Support Group please visit their website at www.lift3supportgroup.com

Please see next page for more photos of the graduation ceremony and reception.



Friends and family of the volunteer advocates filled the Solano County BOS Chambers for the LIFT3 Volunteer Graduation Ceremony



Stephanie Ladd from OFVP, Volunteer Advocate Fran Wallace, and LIFT3 Executive Director pose for a picture after presenting Fran with her Certificate of Completion.



FVIT Detective Brian Travis, Sergeant Denton Autry and Sheriff's Office Security Officer and Volunteer Advocate Claudette Ramirez celebrate after the graduation.



Fairfield Police Chief Rainey commends the volunteer advocates for devoting their time to helping victims of domestic violence.



Supervising Family Law Judge D. Scott Daniels, Probation DV Unit Supervisor Debra Kaplow and Fairfield Police Department Social Worker Debra Shibuya were some of the special guests in attendance at the event.



A dessert reception was enjoyed by friends, family and volunteers after the graduation ceremony.

Budget Decisions Effects on Family Violence

On July 1st, following three days of budget hearings, the Solano County Board of Supervisors approved the 2009-2010 Solano County budget by a 3-2 vote. The current state of the economy and state budget uncertainties caused the Board of Supervisors to make very difficult decisions in order to pass the current budget. The Board expects that more cuts will be needed once a State budget has been adopted. Several programs that impact family violence prevention efforts are affected by the 2009-2010 budget:

Approved Reductions:

- Reduction in the Crime Victims' Assistance program staffing; the Victim Witness Coordinator and one Victim Witness Assistant position will be eliminated, while two other vacant Victim Witness Assistant positions will be left unfilled and unfunded in the District Attorney's Office.
- Funding was also eliminated for the Rainbow Children's Center Visitation Plus program.
- Though positions were lost, no programs in the Child Welfare Department were cut

Approved Additions:

- Fighting Back Partnership will be funded for an additional month at \$17,000 until the state picture becomes more clear.
- Family Resource Centers and Community Clinics are expected to receive \$150,000 and \$60,000 respectively, in funds transferred from Tobacco Master Settlement funding.

To date, there is still no approved California State Budget. Governor Schwarzenegger and state lawmakers failed to strike a budget compromise by the time the County budget was approved. The Governor will likely declare a new state of fiscal emergency, launch another special session and propose additional program cuts to solve the deficit problem. According to a recent report from the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEVDV), the budget currently being proposed contains the approved 20% reduction to domestic violence programs that the Budget Conference Committee proposed in response to the Governor's proposed elimination of all funding for domestic violence programs. Cuts to state funding for domestic violence services could have a grave impact on over 94 domestic violence shelters in the state of California, including SafeQuest Solano. Proposed cuts to Health and Social Services programs will have a negative effect on victims and survivors seeking safety for themselves and their children as these critical programs provide a safety net for housing, food, medical care, and other critical services. The Office of Family Violence Prevention will continue to monitor these proposals and try to determine their effects on family violence prevention efforts in the upcoming months. To learn more about the comparison of the Governor's May revised budget and the Budget Conference Committee's proposals you can visit the California Budget Project website at:

http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2009/090619_Budget_Comparison.pdf

A Man's Influence on Family Violence

Men must learn to ask for help. That statement was at the center of the HEROES of Solano County's conference titled "A Man's Influence on Family Wellness" workshop held recently in south Vallejo. The primary focus of the event was domestic violence, but also included seminars on the effects of domestic violence on children, preventing elder abuse and managing anger. Vacaville Police Department's Social Worker, Gloria Diaz, explained how children's brain development can be negatively affected by domestic violence in the home, whether or not they see it, and whether or not it is directed at them specifically. "Domestic violence can be unlearned and there is a big connection between child abuse and domestic violence," said Diaz.



Gloria Diaz, from Vacaville F.I.R.S.T. talked about the effects of domestic violence on the development of a child's brain.

The conference also addressed issues of elder abuse. "While the general public often perceives domestic violence to be directed at women and children, the elderly are also at risk," said Rochelle

Sherlock of the Senior Coalition of Solano County. "In our society we do not value the elderly," Sherlock said. Elder abuse can take the form of physical, verbal or financial abuse and it is important to recognize the different forms of abuse and the importance of reporting abuse.

Nicole Fisherman, a psychologist with the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, talked about domestic violence and anger management. "Victims of domestic violence will stay with the perpetrators for a variety of reasons." She noted that much of this has to do with the victim internalizing the negative verbal abuse of the perpetrators. "Barriers to leaving include financial, religious or family compulsions, loyalty and denial," Fisherman said.

Pastor Willie Graham expressed his hope that Saturday's audience will take their new knowledge and use it to better themselves and their communities. Workshop attendees, most of them men,



Rochelle Sherlock from the Senior Coalition, spoke about elder abuse and honoring our elders.

from Vacaville, Vallejo and Oakland also received resource materials from various partner agencies that had set up resource tables for the attendees—among them, Vallejo's Fighting Back Partnership, SafeQuest Solano and the Office of Family Violence Prevention. "Our whole goal is to get men to be better fathers; to take care of their sons, not to hurt their mothers, not to force violence on women and to be overall good role models," said Graham.

He added, "When you have knowledge, you have power. When you have knowledge and power, you have influence. When you have knowledge and power and influence—you have change."

HEROES, was founded by Rev. Graham as a way to improve the community by providing resources to men who would otherwise not ask for help. For more information, please visit their website at: www.heroes-of-solano.org



Stephanie Ladd from Solano County Office of Family Violence Prevention staffed one of several resource tables that were available to provide information for the public.

OFVP Welcomes New Volunteer



We would like to welcome our newest Family Violence Intervention Team (FIT) member Mary Lou Murguia. Mary Lou will be working with FIT to help domestic violence victims file for temporary restraining orders, accompany them to court hearings, and ensure that victims access appropriate and available resources.

Mary Lou recently completed the California State-required 40-Hour Domestic Violence Advocate training and is looking forward to using her training and personal experiences to help victims become survivors. She has previous experience working for the San Bernardino County Public Defenders Office assisting clients and scheduling cases with the court's calendar.

She is passionate about helping diverse populations, especially women and children who suffer from abuse. Mary Lou is bilingual and is excited to be able to reach out to the community and help monolingual Spanish speaking victims as well. She feels that volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to help others and give back to her community. She hopes that she will be able to make a difference and encourage others to volunteer as well.

The Office of Family Violence Prevention and the FIT Team are ecstatic to have Mary Lou as part of our team and we look forward to the community getting to know her as well.

GET INVOLVED!

Advisory Boards

Solano County Board of Supervisor's (BOS) mission is to provide a safe and healthy place to live, learn, work and play. In keeping with this mission their priority goals are to support the health and well being of its residents, promote safe communities and invest in and for the future of Solano County. As a result of the Board's commitment to achieving these goals Solano County has been selected as one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People". It is because of its collaborative approach to helping its young people that Solano County has been awarded this honor 3 years in a row.

One way the Board can continue to achieve their goals is by reducing family violence in our communities through the collective and coordinated efforts of the county and its community partners. Advisory boards play a key role in creating a strong collaborative approach in Solano County. Advisory Board members are appointed by the BOS to advise and make recommendations to the Board on policies and legislation that affect Solano County residents. They also help to raise public awareness, facilitate trainings, and recommend improvements in services to children, families and seniors. The organizations listed are advisory boards that work to improve and prevent family violence in Solano County. All meetings are open to the public.

Senior Coalition

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

1st Friday of the Month: 675 Texas St. Fairfield
Multipurpose Room on the 1st Floor
Contact: Rochelle Sherlock at (707) 864-3984

Children's Alliance

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

1st Wednesday of the Month: Joseph Nelson Center,
611 Village Dr. Suisun
Contact: Dr. Tamsen Stevenson at (707) 421-7229 x 105

Child Abuse Prevention Council

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

3rd Monday of the Month: 675 Texas St. Fairfield,
Multipurpose Room on the 1st Floor
Contact: Rosemary Kennedy at (707) 421-7229 x 111

Solano Partnership Against Violence (SPAV)

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

2nd Tuesday of the Month: 675 Texas St. Fairfield
Conference Room on the 6th Floor
Contact: Sylvia Hutson at (707) 784-7789

Please be sure to contact these groups for any possible changes to their meeting schedules.

Check out our
NEW WEBSITE!!

www.solanocounty.com/stoptheviolence

Calendar of Events



JULY 2009

Event Dates**July 18th: "Vallejo Community Outreach"****Location:** Vallejo Waterfront, Mare Island Way**Time:** 10:00am—2:00pm**Contact:** Daniel Lamons at (707) 553-7349

The event will have free food and games for children of all ages. There will be live local entertainment as well as a job and health fair. There will also be raffles and free give-aways. Bring family and friends for a free day of fun and games!

July 20th: "Solano Baby Coach Orientation"**Location:** Children's Nurturing Project (CNP), 1049 Union Ave Suite D, Fairfield**Time:** 5:30pm—7:00pm**Contact:** Laurie Andres (707) 422-0464

CNP is currently looking for women who have the time, dedication and desire to help new moms-to-be make sure their babies are healthy and nurtured, provide support and education, and link them to community resources. If you are interested in volunteering to be a Baby Coach please attend this orientation!

July 24th: "Senior Scam Stoppers"**Location:** Fairfield Senior Center**Time:** 10:00am—2:00pm**Contact:** Jane Kibbey at (707) 429-6291

A presentation on protecting your assets and credit from fraud and financial abuse.

July 22nd—26th : "Solano County Fair"

Location: Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo
Solano FIRST5 will have a special booth at the fair where they will have free give-aways as well as information and resources from all of their grantees. Stop by and visit the Solano FIRST5 booth while you are out at the fair!

AUGUST 2009

Event Dates**August 1st: "Vallejo Celebrates Youth"****Location:** Children's Wonderland Park, Vallejo**Time:** 11:00am—3:30pm

The 2nd Annual event is all about infants, elementary kids and their parents and families. Come out to the park for free resources, fun and food!

August 1st:**"Creative Curriculum for Child Care Providers"****Location:** Solano County Office of Education Waterman Room**Time:** 9:00am—12:00 noon**Contact:** Sharon Coleman at (707) 428-3180

Family child care providers will receive hands-on training on the Creative Curriculum program. An RSVP is required so call today.

SEPTEMBER 2009

Event Dates**September 12th:****"An Evening in Tuscany: A Masked Affair"****Location:** NorthBay Conference Center**Contact:** Steve Wilkins at (707) 448-0500

This is CASA of Solano County's Third Annual Gala Event Fundraiser for the benefit of the CASA Program which supports children in Foster Care. The evening includes a catered sit-down dinner, music and silent auction. The featured speaker will be Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis, who will address the topic of Children in Foster Care.

