



CAROLYN DAWLEY, MICHAEL NATIZ AND MARGO PERNARDI

# DOVES Quarterly Newsletter April - June 2015

Big Bear Outreach: 909-866-1546  
41943 Big Bear Blvd | Big Bear Lake, CA

EVENT PHOTOS

## Chairman of the board steps down after 10 years of service

by Helen Adams, Executive Director

June 24, 2015 marked the last meeting where Michael Natzic, Chairman of the Board of Directors, called the meeting to order.

Michael has tirelessly led the organization and served as Chairman for the past 10 years, navigating DOVES through some challenging and exciting transitions. Here are some significant events that have occurred during his tenure as Chairman:

- Secured a donor to pay off the shelter and dedicated it as Lorrie's House
- Purchased our thrift store building to secure assets for future growth
- Hired two new Executive Directors
- Diversified grant funding
- Improved the reputation of the organization

We thank Michael for his years of outstanding leadership to the organization and are grateful that he will be continuing on the Board in the position of Treasurer.

Margo Penardi, longstanding Board Member, and current Vice-Chair, will take over the position at the July Board of Director's meeting.



### Board Meeting

Michael Natzic leads his last board meeting as the Chairman.



### DOVES Board Members and Staff

Board members and staff are pictured above. Also pictured is Carolyn Dawley, who helped start DOVES as an independent organization, and who got Michael involved in DOVES.

# Cruisin' to Stop Bruisin' car show drives in money

by Sarah Garrison, Program Manager



This year's car show was one of the most successful car show fundraisers for DOVES to date. We made \$3,559, all of which will be used to continue to help serve victims of domestic violence.

The Rodriders of Big Bear hosted the event and helped plan everything from square one. They took charge of vehicle registrations and the raffle prizes. I'm very grateful for their donations of time, money and hard work. Without them, this car show wouldn't have been possible.

The car show was held at Big Bear Snow Play, which was the perfect location. Bruce Voigt, owner, was gracious to donate the venue fees. We had plenty of space for raffle tables, cars and parking.

As always, Sonora Cantina provide a fabulous lunch and everything was donated. We made over \$500 just on lunch tickets alone.

Renny Doyle donated his time and announced the event. He did a great job of keeping the audience engaged and auctioning off raffle items.

Our community played the biggest part in making this fundraiser a success. A handful of organizations donated raffle prizes or sponsored prizes. We are so appreciative of their kind donations.

We also had hundreds of spectators come out to support our organization and take a stand to end domestic violence.

*Pictured below are members of Rodriders of Big Bear. In the center, Sonora Cantina serves lunch plates to community members.*



## Lake Arrowhead Office Closes

by Helen Adams, Executive Director

In late May 2015, the DOVES Board of Directors made the decision to close the office in Lake Arrowhead, effective June 30, 2015. "Although we have maintained a presence for over a decade in this area, these decisions are never easy. In order for DOVES to maintain a sound fiscal budget and better serve our clients, this closure was determined to be necessary," said Michael Natzic, Chairman of the Board. "DOVES will continue to operate its Big Bear Lake Outreach Center, The DOVES Nest Thrift Boutique, and most importantly Lorrie's House, a 17 bed shelter for victims of domestic violence and their families. DOVES will also continue to staff a position at the San Bernardino Department of Child and Family Services (CFS) as well as our 24/7 Crisis Hotline."

Current clients of DOVES will have the option of continuing their program with the Big Bear office, or will be given referrals to other organizations in either the Lake Arrowhead community or in San Bernardino.

Melissa Astle, Director of the Lake Arrowhead office, has led the operation since October 2012. She has collaborated with community agencies to provide the best services possible to the clients at DOVES. As of July 1, 2015, she will be continuing her employment with DOVES, providing services and support to clients as the Transitional Program Advocate based out of the Big Bear Outreach Office.

Sadly, Yvonne Verlich will be leaving the DOVES family at the end of June. Yvonne has worked as a Counselor/Advocate since the Fall of 2014. We wish Yvonne the very best as she pursues her future endeavors.

We sincerely appreciate the support given to DOVES by the residents and businesses of Lake Arrowhead and the surrounding mountain communities throughout the past ten years.



*Board members Margo Penardi and Charlie Schmidt take a break for a photo.*

## DOVES Nest welcomes new employees

by Jane Hewitt, Store Manager

We've had an amazing spring! The donations from our generous community are high quality items and the word gets out incredibly fast to shop at our thrift store. We are looking forward to a record breaking summer season. The entire staff/volunteers have been incredible and on board with this goal.

Our newest staff members, Cristi Hunt, Rachel Campbell and Jerry Patterson came to our organization with such strength, professionalism and great energy. We are so very fortunate to have them on board and look forward to attaining new levels of both sales and customer service because of them.

Our volunteers have been remarkable and should have a red carpet laid out each and every time they enter the Thrift Store, because without them, it would be extremely difficult to have the organization we currently have.

Our current staff is beyond amazing as well. We are an inclusive and extraordinary team and we are so focused on the ultimate goal - BIGGER AND BETTER!



*New staff members Jerry Patterson, Cristi Hunt and Rachel Campbell*

### DOVES QUARTELY STATS

438  
individual counseling sessions

133  
crisis calls answered

39  
new clients served at the outreach center

15  
temporary restraining orders filed

## Lorrie's House Quarterly Update

by Sharon Knapik, On Call Shelter Manager

Lorrie's House settled into spring with a full and busy house. We celebrated a client's graduation from our program. She was able to find employment in our community and continues to live in the Big Bear area. Also, our resident assistant and her lovely children left our shelter in order to move on with the next phase of their lives. We hear from them and are happy to report that they are doing well.

May started some wonderful and long needed physical changes to our house. Many of our rooms have been painted. These include: the large family bedroom, wash room, Rose Room, computer room, entry way, kitchen, graffiti removal from garage, back porch and the play house in the back yard. I cannot begin to tell you what a difference a new coat of paint makes!

June proved to be a very busy month for both staff and clients.

One of our youngest residents graduated to the third grade and brought home an

excellent report card.

We had another client successfully complete her program and move on to live with friends who will continue to support a life without abuse. Staff in the meantime, attended a CPR course given by the Mom & Dad Project to renew their CPR certifications.

As June comes to an end, we still have a few more painting projects to do. Our next project is long overdue. We will be tackling the old metal shed in the back yard, removing and replacing all of the emergency evacuation items that are stored there.

We have a couple of new volunteers that started this month. Wesley Jenkins will be helping with handyman projects and wants to do boy's mentoring. (You know he will be helping with the shed project). Then we have Susan Hernandez who has volunteered to do a walking class with the ladies and do childcare as well. We welcome both of them to Lorrie's House and thank them for their service.

## Volunteer Corner: Debbie Hibbetts



*This quarter, our stand-out volunteer is Debbie Hibbetts. Debbie was raised in Huntington Beach, CA. She moved away when she was 18-years-old and worked throughout Southern California. She eventually moved to Yucca Valley where she met and married the man of her dreams. She was diagnosed with neuro sarcoidosis & sarcoidosis in 2005 and she is fighting it!*

*She has two wonderful daughters who each have given her wonderful grandchildren.*

### **Why did you choose to volunteer with DOVES?**

I chose to volunteer because I have been very ill for five years. I am feeling better and need to get my life back. I felt that volunteering was the best way to achieve this.

### **What do you do as a volunteer?**

I do the grocery shopping and I put the groceries away. I organize the pantry so items are easily found. I also try to be a positive influence in the residents' lives.

### **What is your favorite part about volunteering with DOVES?**

My favorite thing about volunteering with DOVES is the trainings I have taken. They have taught me many things about working with abused women... and myself!

### **When you're not volunteering, what do you enjoy doing?**

I spend time with my wonderful husband and my furbabies. I also enjoy being a "mimi" to all ten of our grandchildren!

### **What is your favorite inspirational quote?**

"I have learned that people will forget what you said and what you did, but people will always remember how you made them feel." - Maya Angelo

## Clients "spring" into transformation with makeovers

by Sarah Garrison, Program Manager



One of our brilliant volunteers, Janet Grace Nelson, pictured in the center, transformed our conference room into a fashion studio to give our clients makeovers. Janet, along with her friends Karen and Jennifer, pictured left and right, wanted our clients to feel new and transformed, just like the season of spring.

Our clients were dressed in outfits that were chosen for their specific body type and personality. They were also shown how to apply makeup and took professional photos after the makeover was complete.

I cannot express the joy our clients felt after their makeover. We are so appreciative of Janet, Karen and Jennifer.

## Life Skills Class Schedule

This year we're bringing in a lot of outside speakers to teach our life skills group class. Below is a list of our current schedule. If you're interested in teaching a group, or attending, contact 909-866-1546. Classes are every Thursday from 11am-12pm at the Big Bear Outreach Center.

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Healthy Communication  
led by Tricia Reynolds

**August 6<sup>th</sup>-September 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Art Therapy  
led by Anna Wilson

**September 17<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Financial Empowerment  
led by Kathy Fields

**October 1<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Gratitude Workshop  
led by Janet Grace Nelson

# Denim Day

by Sarah Garrison, Program Manager



Crowell, Weedon & Co.



First Mountain Bank



Mayor David Caretto



Summit Dental

This year marked the 16<sup>th</sup> celebration of Denim Day. The inspiration of Denim Day came from the 1992 case of a young girl who was raped by the driving instructor of a behind-the-wheel class. The perpetrator was arrested, tried and convicted, but he appealed his case and the Supreme Court overturned his conviction. The Chief Judge reasoned that, "because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans, it was no longer rape but consensual sex."

To protest the ruling, women in the Italian Parliament wore jeans to work the following day to show their solidarity with the survivor.

Pictured are just a few organizations that supported the cause. We would like to thank all community members who wore jeans on Denim Day to support victims of sexual assault!