



SHELTER STAFF SMILES WITH SANTA AT THE BIG BEAR DISPOSAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

DOVES

Quarterly Newsletter

Big Bear Office: 909-866-1546
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October – December 2015

HOLIDAY PHOTOS

DOVES' clients receive generous community donations

By: Sarah Garrison, Program Manager

Every year around the holidays DOVES receives an abundance of gifts, food, and donations.

The donations started coming in during November for Thanksgiving. Crabco donated 16 turkey dinner baskets for our outreach and shelter clients. The Big Bear Middle School Interact Club also did a canned food drive for our pantry. Our pantry is located at the outreach center and is open to any of our clients, or clients from collaborating agencies who need food.

In December we were blessed with holiday parties, Christmas gifts, and toy and food drives. The Big Bear High School held the biggest toy drive and literally filled a truck full of gifts. The Moose Riders also filled four large boxes with toys during their toy drive. We used these toys in our "Santa Shop", which is where our clients "shop" for gifts for their children. We also had a food drive with Wolf Total Fitness to help fill our pantry.

Our first Christmas party was hosted by Barnstorm Cafe. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived by helicopter to have breakfast with the children. Clients also went to the County Sheriff's Department Gift of Love Christmas party which was held off the mountain with all other county shelters. Also, shelter residents and staff attended the Big Bear Disposal Christmas Party at Northwoods Inn. Again, Santa was there and there was live music and gifts specific to each person. Plus our shelter received some nice new appliances!

The Moose Lodge blew us away and adopted 23 children for Christmas. Each child got a least two gifts that they specifically asked for. The lodge had an angel tree with the names of every child they donated to on angel ornaments.

In addition to the parties and toy drives, BodyTek held their annual Zumbathon and donated over \$150. We also had Dennis Warnesky, Suzanne Klump, Janet

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Toys for everyone

Toys from the Big Bear High School toy drive were used in our "Santa Shop."



Adopting clients

Bambi from the Moose Lodge (center) takes a photo with staff members and gifts that were purchased for our clients.

Aguila Krause, and John Hummell of Mountain Arts Photography set up a studio in our conference room and take professional photos of our clients and their children.

We also had our pajama drive where we received about 100 new pairs of pajamas. Donation boxes were located at: First Mountain Bank, First Baptist Church, Citibank, US Bank and Community Church.

We use these pajamas to give to clients and children when they first arrive at the shelter. They will be used throughout the year.

It was heard countless times that this was the best Christmas our clients had and it is all because of the generous, kind community we live in.



Studio Magic

Mountain Arts Photography set up a photo studio in our conference room for clients.

Toy Drive

The Moose Riders fill four large boxes full of toys for our "Santa Shop".



Thank you for donating to DOVES this holiday season:

Barnstorm Café

First Baptist Church

Big Bear Disposal

First Mountain Bank

Big Bear Middle School

The Moose Lodge

Big Bear High School

The Moose Riders

BodyTek

Mountain Arts Photography

Citibank

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

Community Church

US Bank

Crabco

Jumpstart for Joy in 2016

We are pleased to have had life coach Janet Grace Nelson join us this January to teach a four week class on Joy. Classes will be taught during the Life Skills class on Thursdays from 11am-12pm.

In February we will have classes on financial empowerment and in March we will have classes on career development.

All classes are free for DOVES clients.



Rebecca David, legal advocate, assists clients with restraining orders, court preparation, legal advocacy, and attorney referrals.

DOVES QUARTELY STATS

474

individual counseling sessions

178

crisis calls answered

46

new clients served at outreach center

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New laws in 2016 impact survivors of domestic violence

by Rebecca David, Legal Advocate

The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence was successful in aiding the passing of AB 418. Essentially this law allows the victim of domestic violence to break her lease with a statement from her counselor or caseworker. The survivor is obligated to pay rent for 14 days. This is beneficial to the survivor because they can move without the fear of breaking their lease and ruining their credit, or feeling obligated to stay where their perpetrator can violate their safety. Assembly member David Chiu authored this bill.

The other bill that could be beneficial to a domestic violence victim is AB1014. Under AB 1014, the state will allow family members to ask a judge to remove firearms from a relative who appears to pose a threat. (ABC.com staff, 2016). Authorities will be allowed to seize a person's weapon for 21 days if a judge determines there is a potential for violence. This law came into effect because of the college shooting by Elliot Rodger. Rodger's families asked law enforcement officials to do a wellness check on their son. They were concerned that their son was on the brink of a mental breakdown and knew he had firearms. Law enforcement officials did conduct a well check, but they had concluded Rodgers was okay and did not

need to be taken in for a mental health assessment. The family of Rodgers felt that if he was taken in for an assessment he would not have been able to commit the college shooting.

Do you qualify for a domestic violence restraining order?

You can ask for one if you are worried about your safety because:

- A person has abused you *and*
- You have the following relationship with that person: (married, divorced, separated, registered domestic partnership, dating or used to date, live together or used to live together*),
- or you are closely related (parent, child, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, grandchild, in-law).

* You have to be more than just roommates.

If you are interested in getting a restraining order call our office at 909-866-1546 to speak with Rebecca, our legal advocate.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

by Helen Adams, Executive Director

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As a way of promoting information about domestic violence, DOVES hosted the Walk A Mile in Her Shoes event on October 25, 2015. The day began with a presentation by a survivor of domestic violence, Pam Berry, at both the 8:45 and 10:30 AM services at Community Church. Pam shared her experience of being in an abusive relationship for over 25 years and challenged the attendees to not be a bystander when confronted with friends or family who may be in an abusive situation.

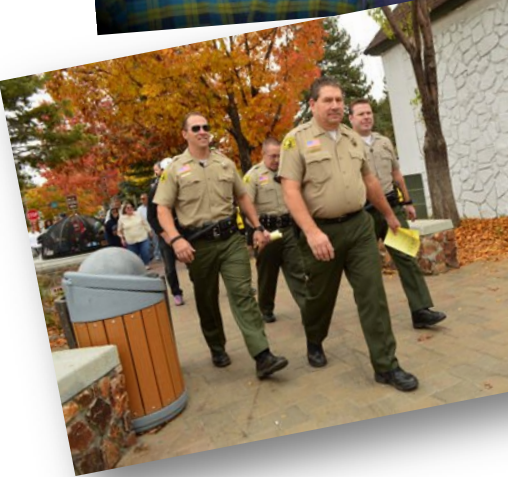
At noon, a wonderful lunch was provided by DOVES' Board Members for individuals and groups who participated in "the Walk." Once

again, we were delighted to have the following organizations in attendance: the Big Bear High School football team and coaching staff; representatives from the Big Bear Lake Sheriff's Department; and representatives from the Big Bear Lake Fire Department. Over 125 community members joined in the walk through the Village, where we distributed information to bystanders about DOVES and domestic violence.

In stating her thoughts about the event, Pam said, "It was very touching to see so many men, young and old, who care enough about the issue of domestic violence to 'walk a mile in her shoes.' So many who deal with domestic violence feel like they are all alone

and no one would believe them or care. I think an event like this is not only a good way for people to contribute financially, it is also a great source of encouragement for those who may be affected by domestic violence."

DOVES thanks Community Church and Pastor Mike Barnes for allowing us to share during the services as well as use the facilities for lunch. A heartfelt thank you goes to Pam Berry for her transparency, bravery, and willingness to share her domestic violence experience with a new audience. And, as always, we thank the organizations and individual community members who took time out of their day to support an important cause!



Photos from Walk a Mile in Her Shoes include: Board Member Michael Natzic and his sons, the Big Bear High School Football Team, The Big Bear Sheriff's Department, and The Big Bear Fire Department.

Domestic Violence support and services provided for victims at the Department of Children and Family Services (CFS)

by Shirley Wade, CFS Domestic Violence Advocate

Since November of 2010, the Department of Children and Family Services (CFS) and the coalition to end domestic violence have been working collaboratively to assist families that come to the attention of CFS and also have the complicating factor of domestic violence.

A unit within CFS was assembled and named the Family Advocacy and Resource Services (FARS) unit. One component of the FARS unit consists of the Parent Partner program. Parent partners are CFS staff that have had experience in the Child Welfare System either as a parent who experienced the removal of a child, received child welfare services and successfully reunified with children, or as a care provider or foster parent. Parent Partners provide an orientation to parents who are new to the court process and share their experiences within the system to guide parents and families toward positive outcomes.

The other component of the FARS unit is the domestic violence program, which consists of counselors from seven domestic violence outreach centers or shelters within the county of San Bernardino.

They are:

- Desert Sanctuary working at the Barstow office
- A Better Way working at the Victorville office

- House of Ruth working at the Rancho Cucamonga office
- Family Assistance Program working at the Fontana and Yucca office
- Option House working at the Central San Bernardino office
- DOVES working at the Eastern San Bernardino office

The counselors provide onsite crisis intervention, trauma informed care, prevention and support services to victims of domestic violence, their families, as well as CFS staff. Services include assessing victims for danger, safety planning, assisting victims to get into emergency shelter, domestic violence education, accompaniment & advocacy at Juvenile Dependency court, and access additional resources such as CAL VCP, Safe at Home, VAWA, medical care, legal assistance, housing and batterer's resources.

How we provide support to CFS social workers is by accompanying a social worker to a home visit and observing and assessing if there may be domestic violence. We can ask solution focused questions and discuss with social worker and family which is the best way to support the family. We also attend daily CFS RAMs (Risk Assessment Meetings). These are meetings where the social workers will provide the information collected from the family and present them to CFS social workers, supervisors

and management regarding which key factors are present, which are not, assessing the degree of risk in a family and if the family has a plan, support system and the likelihood of future maltreatment to a child or adolescent. We also attend TDMs (Team Decision Making meetings). A Team Decision Making meeting is a collaborative process designed to produce the best joint decisions concerning a child's safety and placement, with contributions from: Children, Family, CFS staff, the child's family members/parents, the child (when appropriate), community partners, service providers, foster parents, family's support networks, and other supports as invited. The goal of a TDM is for the team to arrive at a consensus decision regarding a placement option that protects the child(ren) and preserves or reunifies the family.

Most of the clients we see or are referred to are very upset or angry that CFS has become involved in their families and that they may have to participate in services for domestic violence. Although a great many change their minds after meeting with us, after working with us and completing services, many clients are actually grateful for the support they themselves and their families were given.

If you suspect a child has been abused or neglected call the Child and Adult Abuse Hotline (CA AHL) at (800) 827-8724 or dial 211.

Lorrie's House Updates

by Sharon Knapik, Shelter Manager

I can hardly believe that it is already a new year. The old one slipped by way too fast. Looking back we have had an extremely busy last three months. During the month of October, we celebrated a client's completion of our six month program. Her party was close to Halloween, so we all had the added fun of dressing up in our favorite costumes. Our clients participated in a really fun "Make Over Day" at the Outreach. Everyone returned looking simply wonderful. Our children had such fun going to the village to go Trick and Treating. We learned that several of the adults accompanying them had a terrific time also.

The month of November was very successful when it came to accomplishing maintenance projects and purchasing items. A television was installed in our dining room and the sliding window was fixed up in the office. Two new sofas/love seats for the Anderson Room and office were purchased. We also got two new bunk beds and mattresses for two rooms downstairs. Our clients were fortunate enough to attend a breakfast with Santa Claus at the Barnstorm Cafe.

My goodness, talk about a very busy and fun month. You would be speaking about the month of December. The Christmas events alone are almost too long to list, but here it goes. Our clients had a potluck and drawing

at our Outreach, there was the Sheriff's "Gift Of Love Party," a jewelry class was held and Angel Bracelets were made, our clients attended a "Santa Shop" at the Outreach, and finally there was a lovely party given by Big Bear Disposal. The clients and children were very happy with the wonderful gifts they received.

There were also a few Christmas gifts for the shelter. A new dryer was installed, new flooring was laid in the West Wing and a new security system was set-up. On top of all of this wonderful excitement we were able to conduct a forty-hour training and hire two new on-call staff for our shelter.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Join us and wear orange on February 9th and email your photos to info@doves4help.org. You can also share your pictures to our Facebook or Twitter page - @DOVES4HELP.

WEAR ORANGE DAY FEBRUARY 9, 2016

1 in 3 teens has experienced some form of abuse by a dating partner.

Wear orange and show your support for healthy relationships!

Share your pics with #orange4love and #RespectWeek2016.

Have questions about your relationship?

call 1.866.331.9474 | chat at loveisrespect.org | text loveis to 22522 |  love is respect org