

2015 - 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



**Women's & Children's
Crisis Shelter**

Program Accomplishments



203 mothers and their children were provided with safe shelter (59 women and 144 children).

The capacity of our **45-day stay emergency shelter** is 31 individuals.

In addition, 2 families entered with their pets; 1 cat and 1 hamster.



4,045 individual safe nights were spent in our shelter.

The emergency shelter home is comprised of 7 bedrooms (28 beds and 3 cribs) and 4 restrooms. The average shelter stay per family is 20 days.



5,690 hygiene items were distributed to 60 families.

3,334 clothing items were distributed to 196 women and children.

734 toys were distributed to 151 children.



3,313 hotline calls from victims and survivors of domestic violence, their families and/or allies were answered.

All hotline operators are bilingual in English and Spanish and provide each Caller with a minimum of 3 referrals. Our hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



626 trips to the shelter and/or another safe location were provided on a 24 hour basis.

564 hours of legal advocacy and in-court support to 50 families.

565 hours of peer support services were provided to 62 families.

513 hours of health and social services advocacy were provided to 53 families.

156 hours of case management were provided to help 42 families achieve self-sufficiency.

255 hours of household establishment assistance were provided to 42 families.



447 hours of individual counseling were devoted to 39 women and 71 children by our in-house clinician therapists.

580 hours of group domestic violence workshops and parenting classes were provided to 47 women to help them gain an understanding of the cycle of violence and non-violent parenting skills.

A Legacy Gift For Generations To Come

This year Eric Day presented Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter with a generous legacy gift from the Martha Sheff-Schmehl estate. Martha and Eric's father, Peter, lived in Orange County for over 20 years. Martha was very dedicated to giving back to those in need and lived most of her life in support of philanthropic organizations that help children and animals. After the passing of Peter, Martha decided she would donate her entire estate to charities with the help of Eric. Honoring Martha's wishes, Eric made the decision to bestow this amazing gift to 3 local nonprofits in Whittier, a community in which he is well known, and WCCS was lucky and honored to be among them.

No words can accurately express our gratitude for this wonderful gift. It is a gift that will keep giving as it will help sustain the operations at the emergency shelter. This gift will change the lives of families who enter our shelter for generations to come. And while our clients may never know Eric or Martha, they will be their hero and we will always be grateful for what they have given our organization.



534 hours of recreation and learning activities were provided to 75 children.

852 hours of childcare were provided to 151 children, ages 1 month-18 years, while their mother received other services.

598 hours of art and self-esteem building workshops were provided to 94 children from the on-site children's program.

460 hours of Mommy & Me classes were provided to 40 families.

461 hours of on-site education were provided to students courtesy of the Whittier City School District.

1st Annual Lip Sync Event

On October 8, 2015, some of the biggest community leaders from Whittier and its neighboring cities took the stage at the Whittier Center Theater to "Speak Out for Those Who Cannot" by performing at our 1st Annual Lip Sync Fundraiser event.

This was the first major fundraising event that we had ever organized and for that reason, we went all out! We reached out to several pillars in our community that shared our beliefs and were willing to represent their City in taking a stand against domestic violence. Over 250 guests cheered and voted for their favorite performer which included: Whittier Police Chief Jeff Piper, former Whittier Mayor Fernando Dutra, Santa Fe Springs Highway Patrol Captain Dave Moeller, Montebello Councilmember Vivian Romero, La Mirada Councilmember Ed Eng, Judy Bradt of A Special Event, Linda Domis of Keller Williams Realty, Community Advocate Suzanne McGarry, and Andrea Avila & Steve Napolitano of Supervisor Don Knabe's Office.

This unique event kicked off Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Our goal was to increase community awareness of the work that we do, and to raise funds that will enable us to provide emergency shelter and supportive services to the women, men, and children who are affected by domestic violence in Los Angeles County.

The audience determined the event's winner by voicing their opinion with a "cash vote." This year Linda Domis took home the winning trophy with her rendition of Aretha Franklin's "Respect."

Congratulations to all of our performers as we appreciated the time, dedication and support that they contributed in making this event a huge success!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



June, 2015 – June, 2016. Where did the year go. I want to publicly say this Board of Directors are some of the BEST. The Board of Directors again stepped up with excitement and commitment and are continuing to increase awareness to the general public that Domestic Violence is out there; and that we need to assist the victims and educate to STOP it.

We did it again! We held our second Lip Sync event with the help of community leaders. It was so rewarding when we had alumni Lip Syncers, who understood the importance of the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter and took the time to come back and perform again to help spread the awareness of our mission to end Domestic Violence and care for the Victims.

Last year I spoke about two very unexpected donations that just confirmed that our mission of "commitment to provide safety, shelter and hope to victims of domestic violence" touches the hearts of many. Our thanks to those whose generous donations allowed our organization to continue to grow our services.

Exciting news for us is we have a family thriving in our transitional home. They are beating the cycle of domestic violence and living the life they deserve. Soon they will go out into the world and make a difference because YOU, our supporters and friends, have taken your time and money to care.

Thank you and Happy New Year to all.

Best regards,

Bonnie Watje
Board President
Women's and Children's
Crisis Shelter

also afforded us the opportunity to measure the impact of increased staffing, and thus provide justification to our government grants to ensure that this position is sustainable moving forward. So far things look promising, as we were able to secure a new funder to keep the position for an additional year.

Thank you BCM Foundation for helping us to protect the children who come to us from the violence of the world they knew, and for giving them back a bit of the childhood that was stolen from them, as they develop the skills and build the self-esteem needed to break the cycle of violence in their lives.

trauma they have experienced.

Before the grant award, our Children's Program was operating with just one full-time staff member, a part-time Children's Therapist and a licensed school teacher. This was despite the fact that over two-thirds of our emergency shelter clients are children under the age of 17. Since the new addition, the number of children's support groups has increased 87%, childcare support has increased 7%, and Parent & Me workshops have increased 18%.

The BCM Foundation grant has

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



With each year comes new growth and new challenges, and this past year was no exception. It is no surprise that demand for domestic violence services across the nation are on the rise again. At the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter, this rise is evident in the number of hotline calls we receive, fielded through our small office of four phone-lines that are kept busy. The number of crisis calls we receive from domestic violence victims and/or their family members increases, on average, 17% each year. Turning people away, because we are either full, or we do not have staff available to pick up a victim and their children, is the hardest thing our hotline operators are forced to do.

Because of this, I made it a priority to expand our staff so that we can do more for our future clients with the sensitivity, comfort and care that they deserve. To do this, the Board of Directors and I have reached out for new funding and created a fundraising event to help make this dream a reality. Now, I'm happy to share that we were able to hire two new employees to join our passionate team, a full-time overnight position

and full-time children's advocate.

Additionally, in collaboration with California State University, Fullerton, we developed an internship counseling program for masters-level graduate students to enhance our mental health services and provide direct services. The extra help alleviated the workload for the existing staff, allowing them to spend more one-on-one time with each client and focus on their needs during their stay with our shelter. Above all else, we were able to connect to and help more women, men, and children affected by domestic violence through our 24-hour crisis hotline.

Last, but of course not least, our biggest change—and most fun challenge—was the launch of our 1st annual Lip Sync Event held in October 2015 in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month! This was the first major event WCCS has ever organized and for that reason we went all out. We were very fortunate to have nine community leaders that shared our views on issues related to domestic violence, participate in a very fun and successful evening. Not only did we surpass our fundraising

goal, we also increased community awareness with respect to our organization and the services that we offer. This past October, we wrapped our 2nd Annual Lip Sync show and our Board of Directors is already planning for 2017's show.

Change and growth requires the support from those around us and I honestly could not have done it without our hands-on Board of Directors, loyal and passionate staff, and community support. We are really setting a course for change and transforming lives every day.

Sincerely,

M. Dolores Salomone
Executive Director

BCM Foundation Awards Grant to Expand Children's Program

In September 2015, WCCS was awarded a grant from the BCM Foundation, approving a request to hire a much needed full-time Children's Advocate for the 2015-2016 year. WCCS' Children's Program provides for all of our young clients' basic needs so that they can begin to focus on attaining optimal physical and mental well-being. This is achieved by creating a safe and secure environment, furthering their education, addressing behavioral issues, and healing from the devastating

Puente Hills Subaru Shares the Love with WCCS

Last November, Puente Hills Subaru selected Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter as one of their three hometown charities to benefit from Subaru of America's 2015 Share the Love Campaign.

To stay true to "The Subaru Love Promise," Subaru of America partners with a wide variety of nonprofits and charities every year. Since the program's inception eight years ago, they have helped raise over \$50 million for causes they care about at both the national and hometown level.

For every vehicle sold or leased

during the November-January event, Subaru donated \$250 to the customer's choice of charity. During Puente Hills Subaru's 2015 event, a total of \$4,414 was raised for WCCS! We are thankful to Subaru of America, Puente Hills Subaru and its owners for their support and involvement with the local community.



Executive Director, Dolores Salomone and
Amanda Dacumos, Puente Hills Subaru
Customer Service Manager

MISSION

The Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter is committed to provide safety, shelter and hope to victims of domestic violence.

Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter offers a variety of services designed to protect, assist and empower victims and survivors of domestic violence as well as to raise awareness of domestic violence in the community. We operate a 24-hour crisis hotline, 45-day emergency shelter and transitional housing program—all at no cost to the client.

Mozart the Salon Cuts Out Domestic Violence with Annual Cut-A-Thon

For the 3rd year in a row, Whittier's Mozart the Salon hosted a Cut-A-Thon fundraiser benefiting Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Their dedicated stylists donated their time and skill offering a special \$20 wash and haircut to first time customers. The event was organized by Gerardo Arechiga, a talented professional hair stylist, freelance graphic designer and photographer who believes in communities helping communities.

Arechiga rallied together local businesses to join his efforts and made the event a huge success! The event grew in both scope and scale compared to last year's, as new clients received discounted professional haircuts and had the opportunity to win door prizes and participate in raffles and other contests, sample local food trucks, and view a Pop Up Gallery featuring six local artists. The event raised \$2,000 and helped to increase visibility of the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter within the community by shining a spotlight on the work that we do.

Thank you Gerardo for another successful Cut-A-Thon.



From left to right: Mozart the Salon Owner, Alfonso Maldonado, WCCS Board President, Bonnie Watje, WCCS Executive Director, Dolores Salomone, and Mozart the Salon Hairstylist, Gerardo Arechiga

Changing Lives and Providing Hope

"Becky" entered our shelter last summer. At the time she was 27-years-old and had a two-year-old son. She called our 24-hour hotline and described her situation, consisting of sporadic physical abuse, daily emotional abuse, and more recently threats of taking her son away - all from her then boyfriend.

One day, in a fit of rage, her boyfriend broke down the bedroom door she had locked herself behind. This was her tipping point. It was then that "Becky" finally realized that she needed help, and she needed it fast! Fearing for her life, and the well-being of her son, "Becky" finally made the call.

Upon entering our shelter, "Becky" was very depressed and overwhelmed. A condition that isn't uncommon for people in her situation. As time went by though, she began to feel more comfortable and safe. Thanks to the legal action our staff took on her behalf, and intense therapy from our in-house counselors and therapists, you could see her confidence emerge. With each day she became stronger and more determined.

One day, during a weekly workshop, "Becky" decided to truly open up, sharing something that had been bothering her. "Becky" always kept her bleached, almost white-blonde hair up in a ponytail. She often wore a jacket with her hair tucked under the hood. She shared that the color and severely damaged state of her hair wasn't her choice. It was something that her boyfriend made her do. She said "the mirror is a constant reminder that he is still with me...still trying to control me."

Despite the fact that she hadn't seen her ex-boyfriend for several weeks, this part of him was still with her. Her reflection was like a ball and chain that she was being forced to drag around. That needed to change.

So, as we always do, we turned to our community, and once again they came through. We reached out to Mozart the Salon, a local salon, and one of the stylist volunteered to donate his time by providing a professional treatment, dye, and cut. We couldn't wait to share the good news with "Becky". And we did, on of all days, her 28th birthday.

When "Becky" finally saw her new chestnut-colored-hair-reflection she was exuberant and said, "I feel happy, I feel beautiful...I feel human again!"

"Becky" stayed with our shelter a few more weeks, continuing down the long road to recovery, before ultimately entering into a long-term transitional shelter. A few months after her exit date, she wrote WCCS a letter. In the letter, she expressed her gratitude for the services she was provided, and even wrote a few words of advice and encouragement to future WCCS clients. Here are her words:

"Breaking the cycle of violence is a difficult journey but it's not impossible! I've learned so much. My mind is now filled with positive affirmations, dreams, and goals. Don't get discouraged. Always think about what you want out of this life; set yourself goals. I know that you'll be able to achieve them! I've always said that good things come at a hard price. But the end result will be greatness and happiness because you knew you could do it. Much luck."

Financial Statement

Public Support & Revenue

Public Support

Government Grants	\$476,996
Contributions & Grants	\$358,202
In-Kind Donations	\$16,709
Total Public Support	\$851,907

Revenue

Special Events & Fundraising	\$34,213
Interest Income	\$1,140
Total Revenue	\$35,353

Total Public Support & Revenue	\$887,260
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Expenses

Program Services

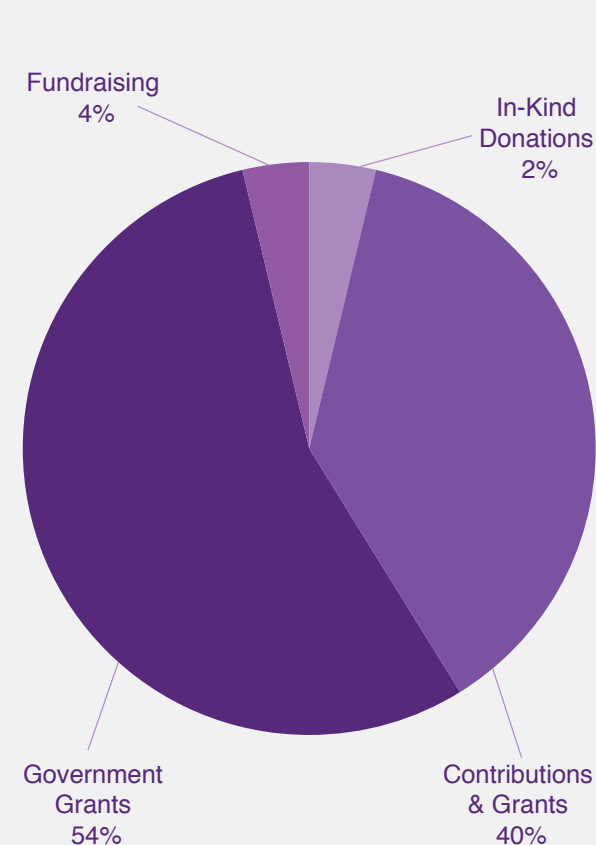
Emergency Shelter	\$440,306
Children's Program	\$94,500
Transitional Shelter	\$15,396
Total Program Services	\$550,202

Supporting Services

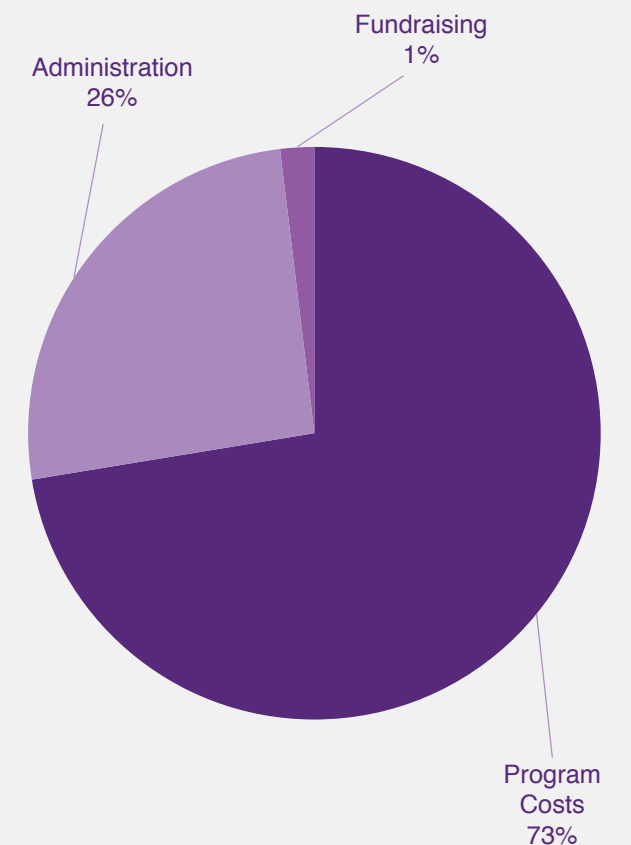
Management & General	\$200,180
Fundraising	\$5,364
Total Supporting Services	\$205,544

Total Expenses	\$755,746
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Revenue & Support



Expenses





THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

SUPPORTERS

Our work at Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter would not be possible without the generous support of our community. We are extremely grateful for the kindness that they show to our organization as well as the individuals we serve.

\$100,000 and over

Shelter's Right Hand

\$50,000 - \$100,000

Eric Day on behalf of Martha Sheff-Schmeh Estate

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Albert and Bettie Sacchi Foundation
BCM Foundation
City of Whittier

\$10,000-\$24,999

Blue Shield of California Foundation
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous
City of Pico Rivera
In-N-Out Burger Foundation
Supervisor Don Knabe
Macy's Inc.

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Elaine Allen
American Property Mgmt
Diane & Glenn Britton
Chevron Employee Campaign
Cliffside Enterprises
Credit Union of Southern California
Jane Dick
Domis Enterprises
Ruth McFarland
Mozart the Salon
National Charity League - Whittier Chapter
Bonnie Jo & Lee Panagos
Dorothy Patapoff
Margit Polyak
Puente Hills Subaru Share Love Event
John Rosenberger
SkyRose Chapel Foundation
So Cal Edison Corporate Headquarters
Truist Campaign
Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
Whittier Methodist Foundation

\$500 - \$999

ACRO Printing, Inc.
Allstate Employee Campaign
Ameriprise Financial
California Highway Patrol - Santa Fe Springs
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court Whittier
City of Montebello
East Whittier Presbyterian Church
Friendly Hills Womans Club
Friendship Sq Quilt Guild
Hacienda Heights Woman's Club
Hillcrest Congregational Church
Jersey Mike's

Joanne Klemm
Manjarrez & Partners
Linda Markstrom
Maurice Meysenburg
Carol Mott
Renew Massage
Gerald Roodzant DDS
Rotary Club of SFS
Rotary Club of Whittier
Karen Shepard
Kathy & Stephen Smith
Emily Wakefield

\$499 & Under

Brittni Acuna
Gregory Alaniz
AmazonSmile
Marina & Ralph Anaya
AT&T Employee Giving Campaign
Emanuel Avina
Virginia Ball
Bank of America Employee Giving Campaign
Yolanda Barrera
Nancy Bauer
RW Bell
Benevity Giving Campaign
Maurice Bickley
Lynda Bobka
Boeing Employee Giving Campaign
Constance Bonanni
Judy Bradt
Shannan Calland
Elizabeth Camp
Kroger Campaign
Pepsico Campaign
Captial Direct Funding
Sandra Carrasco-Carrillo
Betty Cauley
Chevron Employee Giving Campaign
Thomas Copsey
Harriet Cornyn
Christina Cortez
Ronald Cowan
P Craig
David Briano, State Farm Insurance Agency
Bruce & Carrie Decker
Vanessa Delgado
Delta Kappa
Gamma Society
Jacqueline Di Pinto
Carmen Duran
East Whittier Lions Club
ECHO Employee Giving Campaign
Edison Community
Elizabeth Ellis
Marilyn Fant
Fortunata Forte
Christopher Foster
Paul Gallovich
Rhona Gewelber
Barbara Gile
Brian Globberman

GM Properties
Julie Green
Caren Grisham
Robert Grove
Robert Grove
Ramon Gutierrez
Adamo Guy
RJ Guyan
Jack Hadjinian
Bruce Hallenbeck
Donna Hanson
Debbie Hao
Mallory Harris
Karol Head
Arthur Hillson
Nancy Hoites
Louise Holden
Suzanne Hsi
Lisa Huish
Carole Hull
Eileen Hurley
Theresa Jurado
Kaiser Employee Campaign
Wm Kanengiser
Kennedy Properties
Kiwanis Club of La Mirada
Maria Ladd
Arthur Leslie
Patricia Lozano
Sally Mancillas
Judith Martinez
Marco Martinez
Renew Massage
Christina Maxin
Jacqueline McCauley
Helga McGinnis
Janet McMahon
Nancy Mendez
Nancy Meschuk
Mehdi Mirfatah
Barbara Monderine-Williams
Mary Moore
Henry Moraga
LaDonna Munier
Wynne Nord
Northrop Grumman Employee Campaign
Chikeze Nzewi
LK Oppermann
Christina Ortiz
Pacific Gas & Electric Employee Giving Campaign

Tim & Karen Padovese
Paypal Giving Campaign
Mary Pena
PEO Chapter 1R
Roseann Picazo
Michele Pirnat
Amy Pound
PWC Employee Campaign
Quick Services
Paul Rakoczy
Rolf Rauschenback
Holly Reinhart-Marean
Richie's Body & Paint
Mary Rios
Brenda & Athan Rodriguez
Rotary Club of Pico Rivera
Salem Lutheran Church
SCE Employee Campaign
Laddie Schmidbauer
Petra Scjmischke
Robert Settlage
SGV/Whittier of NOW
Betty Sheldon
Glenn Sheppard
Dorothy Simmons
Bhavandeep Singh
Joan Smith
So Cal Decorative Painters
DA Spencer
Spile & Assoc
St. Bruno Church
Sandra Stern
John Sudick, DDS
Rachel Tavarez
Michael Taylor
Leslie Thornton
Melba Thune
Ronald Thune
Rose Trevino
Patricia Trojanowski
Roger Underhill
United Methodist Women
UW OC PRD
Donald & Shirley Votaw
Nola Voyles
Bonnie Watje
Whittier Area Health Partnership- PIH
Pam Wilkinson
Tracy Witman
Women Society First
Friends Church of Whittier
Calvin Yoshitake