

ywca SAN GABRIEL VALLEY our voice



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Covina, CA 91724
(626) 960-2995
www.ywcasgv.org

SENIOR SERVICES
YWCA Intervale
24-Hour Message Line:
(626) 214-9465

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
YWCA WINGS
24-Hour Help Line:
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eliminating racism empowering women

October 2010

OUR MISSION • *To eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.*

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All proceeds benefit YWCA San Gabriel Valley's programs for victims of domestic violence, senior citizens, and teens.

**OCTOBER 24, 2010
"SIN BY SILENCE"**

**Sponsored by the Covina Women's
Club Domestic Violence Action
Coalition (DVAC).**

The movie "Sin by Silence" is about women who were imprisoned for killing their abusers. The film will be screened and discussed. Despite prison walls, these women changed laws and lives for those dealing with abuse.

YWCA WINGS will provide a presentation about resources and victim services. There is a suggested donation of \$3 but no one will be turned away.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA BRABO

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Since 1987, Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) has been observed across the US during the month of October. Traditionally, DVAM is a time to raise awareness about domestic violence issues, and the services that are available to victims and survivors. For more information, go to the DVAM National Home Page: <http://dvam.vawnet.org>.

If you know of anyone who needs assistance with domestic violence issues, please refer them to our 24-hour crisis helpline **(626) 967-0658** ■



Health Care Providers Learning How to Refer Violence Victims

The following is a Q & A with Marialuz Sevilla-Herrera, MD, Family Practice Physician, Kaiser Permanente, Baldwin Park. Each year, dozens of patients from this facility are referred to the YWCA WINGS program for counseling and assistance.

Q: *Domestic abuse is on the rise; now nearly one-third of all American women are victims during their lifetime. What can the health care providers like yourself do to address this alarming tide?*

A: At Kaiser Permanente, we acknowledge as an organization, that the actual reported and identified cases of intimate partner violence among our patient base is much lower than what is expected based on the actual national incidence rate. Our goals are to increase awareness to our physicians and staff of this fact and to increase not only our identification of victims of violence, but also to increase reporting.

Q: *How are you raising awareness of your health care providers?*

A: We are hosting a 3-hour symposium in November for all our physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and senior staff to share available tools for increased screening and reporting of intimate partner violence, elder abuse and child abuse. The training includes use of role playing, as well as testimony by survivors of family violence who received assistance from the YWCA's WINGS program. We're pleased to partner with the YWCA in educating our physicians and staff about this important issue. We also have a family violence prevention team that works year round to help us constantly keep this important issue at the forefront for all our health care providers.

A screening tool available is a questionnaire in our electronic medical system (EMS) used by doctors when they interview patients who are possible victims of violence.

continued on next page

YWCA SGV New Video!

View it on YouTube at
www.youtube.com
(search YWCA SGV).



Woman of Achievement Honoree 2010 Sue Hammett

For more than 30 years, Sue Hammett has owned and operated a graphics/printing business, most of those years with her husband Bill. Although she was a teenage candy striper, she became a dedicated volunteer after Bill introduced her to some exceptional women affiliated with the YWCA of San Gabriel Valley WINGS domestic violence program. Her service started simply—she donated her time and products to meet their needs.

Since then, she has held numerous positions and worked numerous projects for the YWCA, the Soroptimists of Azusa/Glendora, the Glendora and Covina Chambers of Commerce, and the Leads Club. She has assisted her husband with his many Covina Sunrise Rotary responsibilities, especially Operation Santa Clothes, a self-esteem program that provides clothing to underprivileged children.

To Sue, the core values of Soroptimists dovetail with those of the YWCA. “That’s why I moved so well into the YWCA,” she says. Both are worldwide organizations committed to empowering women to achieve their potential through improved work skills, elimination of domestic violence, and equality.

“I’m very family-oriented and goal-oriented. If I see a hole in the street, I get my grandchildren and we fill it up,” Sue says. “My real strength is being a facilitator. I see a need at the YWCA, Soroptimists or Rotary, and I share the information with others. Then everyone networks to get the job done.” ■

Health Care Providers Learning How to Refer Violence Victims continued from previous page

The questions are :

- Are you able to speak freely?
- Do you feel safe right now?
- Within the past year, has anyone threatened to hurt you?
- Within the past year, has anyone physically hurt you?
- Within the past year has anyone forced you to have sex?
- Describe the nature of the abuse or injuries?
- Where did the abuse happen?
- Do you fear for yourself or your child's safety?
- Do you have a safe place to go?
- Is the patient willing to be contacted?

These questions are to be used at the discretion of the provider, except in our OB/GYN department, which uses this tool as a part of its routine prenatal care screening. Our goal is to eventually expand the screening questions to all departments on a routine basis.

Q: *What happens if screening results in positive results?*

A: The medical providers are educated about referrals for help and how to counsel patients on safety planning. A doctor is legally mandated to report violence when he/she treats a patient for injuries resulting from physical abuse. We document the injuries and refer the patient to social work, behavior medicine (psychiatry) and the YWCA’s WINGS program for proper follow up.

Q: *How is Kaiser Permanente taking a leadership role in violence prevention?*

A: We are acknowledging that domestic violence is a problem which is under-treated. We are taking the necessary steps to begin educating providers and staff to improve the screening of families affected by family violence. We are increasing community partnerships, such as those with WINGS so that we can more effectively identify and refer victims who need help. ■



Senior Workers at YWCA Gain Job Skills for Employment

Lilian Reyes has ten years experience in banking and a bachelor’s degree in banking, finance, and human resources, but was unable to get a job since she has no work history in the United States. But now, thanks to a federally-funded employment program called Service, Employment and Redevelopment (SER), the 57-year old Glendora resident is working part-time at the YWCA SGV.

Lilian, who emigrated here from the Philippines a year ago, is one of five individuals receiving paid on-the-job training at the YWCA under the SER program. Begun in 1964 and based in Texas, the national organization helps low-income persons 55 and older with training and part-time employment.

For Lilian, her work in administrative support functions such as data entry is helping her lay the groundwork for full-time unsubsidized employment in the private sector.

To assist workers like Lilian, the federal government has increased funding for senior training and employment this fiscal year to nearly \$700 million.

“This program provides jobs for unemployed older workers, and in turn, really helps the YWCA provide the wide array of services we offer to senior citizens and victims of domestic violence,” says Lisa Brabo, executive director of the YWCA SGV. “We see this as a win-win for everyone.”

For more information about the SER program, contact Elaine Collette at **(626) 338-4325**. ■



Woman of Achievement Honoree 2010 Patricia McIntosh

During her years of volunteerism, Patricia McIntosh can be credited with a number of "firsts." While serving as president of Cal Poly Women's Club in 1962, Patricia promoted the entrance of women students to the all male campus and established the first woman's scholarship. She still serves on the Scholarship Committee.

Patricia was the first woman to join Industry Hills Rotary Club—not without controversy—in 1990. Through her hard work and outgoing personality, she became club president and opened the door for many additional women members.

Dedicated to the concept of promoting education through financial scholarships, she helped establish Bridge Foundation in 1999 to support the Regional Occupational Program (ROP) of La Puente Valley. The Foundation gave \$3,000 in scholarships its first year, allowing students to attend community colleges, trade schools, and vocational programs. Today, Patricia is president of this Foundation, and scholarship awards have grown tenfold to over \$30,000 in 2009.

An enthusiastic collaborator and community leader, Patricia also serves as president of the La Puente Historical Society, and on the boards of the Hacienda Heights Friends of the Library, the Women's Clubs of La Puente and Hacienda Heights. ■

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YWCA Intern Studies Needs of Female Veterans

As a medical corpsman in the Navy and Marine Corps, Erin Van Asch faced sickness, war, and death while she served her country in Iraq, Okinawa and Twenty-Nine Palms.

Upon returning home to West Covina after seven years in the military, she knew she needed to do one thing for herself: finish her education so she would be able to support herself and her young son. As a 25-year old single mother, she faced numerous challenges. But with uncommon courage and determination, she overcame them and will complete her bachelor's degree at Cal State Fullerton this December.

During her final semester as a psychology major, Erin is serving as a student intern at the YWCA SGV. She is researching community resources available to female veterans, especially those who, like herself, have children to support.

"I'm looking at what's available and what's still needed to assist women returning from military service," says Erin. "The Veterans Administration hospitals just recently opened women's services program, in recognition of the health needs of many returning female veterans," she adds.

"There are gaps in other areas, such as availability of affordable, high-quality child care for veterans who want to finish their education or who re-enter the job market," notes Erin. In her early research, which started in September, she says she has found that one of the greatest needs is care for children 5 years and younger.

Erin says the goal of her research is to find ways to empower women veterans so that they can achieve their full potential. "And that means raising their self-esteem and helping them overcome obstacles in their path," she notes. In the future, she plans to earn a graduate degree in social work so she can help other women realize that "if they work hard and stand up for themselves, they can succeed."

Meanwhile, Erin says she is looking forward to spending more time with her 8-year old son, Joey, who is in third grade. ■

Pfaffinger Foundation Grants \$20,000 for YWCA Urgent Case Management



Urgent Case Management not only helps older persons age in their own homes with dignity and independence, it saves lives. The Pfaffinger Foundation recently awarded the YWCA SGV Senior Services Program \$20,000 to provide linguistically accessible, coordinated care to low-income frail elders who are in crisis or at high risk for illness, injury or harm. This service combines clinical care (counseling and linkages to affordable medical services) with safety-net services (meal delivery, elder abuse prevention, assistance with daily activities, transportation, and nutrition and health education).

Through this service, older persons and caregivers learn how to navigate care systems. The broader goals of the program are to improve multicultural access to community-based health and social services, engage peer volunteers whose aid reduces caregiver stress, and increase seniors' participation in community life. ■

YWCA SGV Programs

Services for Domestic Violence Victims: Shelter and support services so that adults and children can be safe, healthy, and lead violence-free lives.

24-Hour Helpline 626-967-0658

Teen Education Program: Presentations in schools about healthy relationships to prevent teen dating violence and provide assistance to teens in need.

Services for Seniors: Nutritious meals and care management so that elders can live in their

own homes with independence and quality of life. **24-Hour Message Line 626-214-9465**

Leadership Development Opportunities for women, girls and older adults

If you'd like to help the YWCA SGV save money and communicate more efficiently with you, please sign up (via one of the three options below) for our free email newsletter.

Sign up instantly at www.ywcasgv.org
Email us at info@ywcasgv.org
Give us a call at (626) 214-9440