

## Building Relationships, Families & Communities Free from Violence

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the February 2011 edition of The Center Now. First of all, I would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the family of Schnell School principal Sam LaCara who was shot and killed while at work on February 2. Principal LaCara was a tremendous advocate for his students and was incredibly supportive of The Center and our school based prevention education programs. He will be missed.

On another note, let me take a moment and express my sincere appreciation to all of you who were in attendance at Federated Church for the remarkable presentation of, "From Hate to Hope". We have received such incredible feedback from many of the 100 plus attendees who were captivated and inspired by this truly amazing presentation. The Neighbors Group at Federated, lead by Pam Hagen did such an outstanding job with making this event possible. Once again I am reminded of the importance and the impact collaborations can have on educating community members and furthering our efforts to build a community free from violence. Thank you to our friends at Federated for a job well done. Read more about this event in this edition of The Center Now.

Here's a question... Have you ever wondered what is happening during a single 24 hour period inside of Domestic Violence agencies across the nation? On September 15, 2010 over 1,700 agencies collected and reported every service they provided to their clients during this entire day. Nationally, during this one day; 70,648 domestic violence victims received services from agencies, 36 babies were born to mothers living in shelters, 3 women were murdered by their intimate partners and 391 survivors working with local DV programs started new jobs. Here in California, during this 24 hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered more than 57 hotline calls every hour, nearly one every minute! Be sure to check out the article below as well as the link to the survey to learn what else occurred across the Nation and the State of California. Truly eye opening!!!

Once again, thank you for your tremendous support and encouragement as we continue working towards the fulfillment of our mission; to build relationships, families and communities free from sexual assault and domestic violence. Until next month....

Peace,

*Matt*

Matt Huckabay  
Executive Director  
(530)626-1450 or [matth@thecenternow.org](mailto:matth@thecenternow.org)

P.S.

Find us on Facebook 



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

blue  of california



Independent Investment Advice



Raley's BEL AIR NOB HILL  
10081

  
verizon

Domestic Violence

Sexual Assault

24/7 Crisis Help Line

530-626-1131

## In This Issue

[Survivor Series ~ Article Two](#)

[Cozmic Cafe & Local Musicians Hold Event to Benefit The Center](#)

[From Hate to Hope~ Placerville back on the Map](#)

[Teen Dating Violence Prevention Month](#)

## Survivor Series ~ Article Two

By Julie Sena

Welcome back to part two in our Survivor's Series. Last month we were introduced to Susan Hamlin, a survivor of domestic violence and torture. Susan and her children survived what can only be classified as a living nightmare and Susan has graciously agreed to answer some questions for this series.

Domestic violence tends to baffle people. Telling someone that you are a survivor of domestic violence tends to get a reaction that's akin to seeing someone that owes you money. They may greet you... but then they run away as quickly as they can. We're all apprehensive about what we don't understand and so we've put together this article series to give our readers a peek inside the mind of a survivor.

A little background... in this bizarre case, Susan's husband of 20 years, former Sacramento prosecutor and criminal defense attorney Richard Hamlin, was arrested and charged with assault, assault with a deadly weapon, corporal injury to spouse, willful cruelty to a child, endangerment, false imprisonment, and torture. He was ultimately found guilty of torture and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. He will be eligible for parole this February after serving only 6 years of a life sentence. During the sentencing hearing, El Dorado Superior Court Judge Eddie T. Keller told the courtroom that the violence in this case was "*inspired by pure evil.*"



Last month Susan gave us some insight into when the

916-939-6616

Support The Center

**Donate Now**  
Secure donations through  
Network for Good

### CENTER'S SUPPORT GROUPS

**Domestic Violence Support and Education Groups:**

**Tuesdays 5:30-7:30 pm  
Wednesdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**CAP - Women's Changing Abusive Patterns**

**Peace First - Men's and Women's Workshops on Improving Relationships**

**MAAP - Men's Alternative to Abusive Patterns (English and Spanish)**

**For more information on these groups call  
(530) 626-1450 or  
(916) 949-4464**



### CENTER'S CALENDAR

**February 7, 2011**

**6:00 pm**

**Communicating from Your**

abuse started why she stayed so long, and why seeking help from law enforcement was difficult. Susan and I sat down over coffee recently to work on this month's article, and the questions began...

**The Center:** Did anyone know about the abuse before it came out in the news?

**Susan:** Yes - people at the schools were aware of the abuse, neighbors were aware of the abuse, one friend was aware of the abuse, family was aware of the abuse, the pastor of our church was aware of the abuse. No one knew how to help.

**The Center:** What were the circumstances leading up to Richard's arrest?

**Susan:** Richard's crazy plan included taking me to confess to law enforcement of sexually molesting my children. I had to rehearse at gunpoint for months to prepare for this confession. (A couple of these rehearsals were recorded and later used in the criminal trial.)

I saw this as my opportunity to get out. I pleaded with him to take me to confess because I didn't think I would survive much longer. It dragged on until a small group of his business associates came to the house suspecting abuse. Following that visit, he sensed he was losing control and decided to take me to law enforcement the next day.

I did my best to be convincing, but I was visibly bruised and swollen and the story was truly crazy and not believed. Law enforcement did not arrest me as I had hoped - instead they removed the children and sent me home with Richard - alone. It was a horrible 2 days before law enforcement came back with a warrant and arrested Richard.

The fortunate piece of this crazy story is that it had gotten so bad that, when they finally took Richard, they were able to keep him without bail. The children and I were then safe to start talking and the real story was reported.

**The Center:** What was that like for you when the police came and took him away? What was going through your mind at that moment?

**Susan:** I was in shock when Richard was arrested. I was so beaten down and small. I was living from

Heart

4 week series

February 22, 2011

Volunteer Classes Begin

Community March to  
Stop Sexual Assault  
Saturday, April 30th  
Mark your calendars!!

For more information call  
530-626-1450  
or 916-939-4464

The word "VISIT" is written in a bold, black, cursive-style font. The letters are slightly slanted and have a dynamic, hand-drawn appearance.

[Our Website](#)



Pretty women wonder where my  
secret lies.

I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion  
model's size

But when I start to tell them,  
They think I'm telling lies.

I say,  
It's in the reach of my arms

minute to minute just trying to stay alive. My children had been taken by Child Protective Services 2 days earlier.

I was now going to be left alone in my prison without my children and cut off from the world. I had no money, no phone to call anyone, and no one to call.

I was isolated and still very afraid. Richard had always threatened to kill us if we reported the abuse - even if he was in jail. He was a criminal defense lawyer and had a lot of connections and resources to make his threat believable.

The detectives spent hours trying to help me feel safe. I didn't know which end was up and it took a while to clear my head. I did not feel the immediate relief that you might expect.

**The Center:** Can you tell us what the police investigation was like? How long did it take? How did it affect you personally?

**Susan:** I feel like we were 'rescued' by law enforcement. Our situation had gotten to a point that a 'rescue' was going to be the only way out for us. I have talked to a couple of our 'heroes' since that time - they were frustrated that I didn't immediately perceive them as the good guys and feel safe to talk.

What they failed to understand was that Richard had more power than even law enforcement because law enforcement was constrained by the law - Richard had no constraints because he had no respect for the law. Without constraints - he had all the power.

Once I learned that the children were talking to law enforcement, I felt compelled to get out in front of them with the story so that when it got back to Richard, it was me that was talking, not the children.

The detectives were very thorough. I felt believed. They corroborated everything I told them and found no support for Richard's story.

Return next month for more about this extraordinary woman and her journey to freedom.

Local Musicians & Cozmic Cafe  
Hold Event to Benefit The Center

The span of my hips,  
The stride of my step,  
The curl of my lips.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

-  
-  
*-From "Phenomenal Woman,"*

*by Maya Angelou*

## Calling All

# Volunteers!



Volunteer Training will begin on February 22. Anyone who is interested in becoming a Certified Volunteer of The Center Call the Center or email Martha at [marthab@thecenternow.org](mailto:marthab@thecenternow.org)

(We were voted one of the BEST PLACES TO VOLUNTEER in El Dorado County by Style Magazine!)

## JOIN THE LIST



**Join Our Mailing List!**

Thanks to your contributions:

The Center has....



"All you need is love, love. Love is all you need."

~John Lennon

John Lennon was on to something when he wrote that song and this Friday, February 11th, the Cozmic Café and local artists and musicians share the love with The Center.

The Cozmic Café will celebrate the release of the CD entitled *Placerday in Valenville*, a musical compilation of love songs written by local artists recorded for Valentine's Day. The evening begins at 8:00 pm with a concert featuring performances by Dark River, Quiet Times, Brianna Lea Pruett, and Madelyn Mathews. The evening will also feature live art and a raffle of items donated by local merchants including Bella Capelli and The El Dorado Arts Council. Proceeds from CD sales, the show and the raffle will be donated to The Center for Violence-free Relationships.



Cozmic Cafe, Placerville, CA

The CD, *Placerday in Vallenville* is comprised of 17 tracks from a variety of local musicians featuring Alak, Brianna Lea Pruett, Matthew Trudeau, YoYo Suites, Jacob Mingle, Sister Crayon, Boats, The Bank, Optimiztiq, Coal Beautiere, Aaron Ross, Nick Lacy, Bling Writh and many more!! The CD will be available for sale at the Cozmic Café through the month of February. The event and the CD have been sponsored by The Cozmic Café, Tiger Friends Collective, and The Bank.

Come celebrate Valentine's Day and share the love, we'll look forward to seeing you there!

**Date: Friday, February 11, 2011**

**Time: 8:00 pm**

**Place: Cozmic Cafe, 594 Main Street Placerville, CA 95667-**

provided **25,000** counseling sessions, provided over **37,000** shelter nights and answered nearly **60,000** calls to our crisis line from victims of sexual assault and domestic violence since 1985.

**Domestic Violence**

**Sexual Assault**

**24/7 Crisis Help Line**

**530-626-1131**

**916-939-6616**

**Support The Center**

**Donate Now**

Secure donations through  
Network for Good



Forward this email  
to a Friend

**5610 - (530) 642-8481**  
**Cover Charge: \$5.00**

For more information on this event please [email Julie](#) or call The Center (530) 626-1450.

## Event Wrap Up ~ From Hate to Hope

Join us now as we go to a small community church in Placerville where a gay man and an ex-nazi skinhead share a story of peace and hope...

The spirit of acceptance in the room was almost tangible as over 150 members of our community gathered to hear the encouraging story of Matthew Boger and Tim Zaal. The victim and the perpetrator of a hate crime, who have since become great friends.

The presentation began with a video that Matthew and Tim made about their story. "When I got up to run to get away and they caught up to me in the alley - they were like literally beating, kicking, and screaming 'We're going to kill you.' The last thing I remember was when a boot went right to my forehead and I was out." The video gave a small glimpse into how hard it must have been for Matthew to actually run into the man who wore that boot. Not only did he meet Tim Zaal, but he forgave him.

***Freaks and Revelations***, is a novel about Matthew and Tim's story. The book's author Davida Wills Hurwin joined Matthew and Tim as they took the audience on a journey and then opened



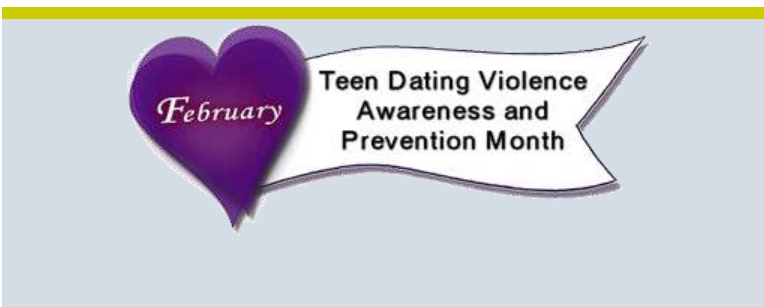
themselves up to questions from the audience. The audience was rapt with attention and the room filled with an energy that carried over into the reception and book signing that followed the

presentation. People entered into deep discussions about our community and how we can make things better by practicing acceptance and understanding, going even beyond tolerance.

Many thanks to Pam Hagen and the Neighbor's Group at Federated Church for putting this event together. It was great to see representatives from other churches well as many of the educators from our community coming together.

The Center's very popular T.E.A.C.H. (Teens Educating Against Classmate Harassment) Program is a youth-adult partnership, school supported program dedicated to eliminating bullying and harassment. This creative program reflects the five supports and opportunities of the Youth Development Framework, as well as incorporating Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets. Students take on leadership roles by leading sessions and school-wide projects in a safe, nurturing environment where they get to express themselves, learn valuable skills, and share information. If you would like more information about this program, please contact Judy Knapp at (530) 295-4203 or you can email her at [JudyK@TheCenterNow.org](mailto:JudyK@TheCenterNow.org).

If you'd like to purchase the book ***Freaks and Revelations***, it is available on Amazon.com [Click here](#) to purchase.



February is the month to show those around you how much you love and appreciate them. Be it friends, family, or your significant other, the short month of February is filled with love. As we demonstrate healthy displays of love to those in

our lives, we here at The Center will also be recognizing a very unhealthy epidemic facing our teens: teen dating violence.

February marks the 2nd Annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month as dedicated by the US Senate. Each year, approximately one in four teens reports being the victim of teen dating violence, ranging from physical abuse, to stalking, to emotional abuse to sexual assault. Women age 16 to 24 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault, and people age 18 and 19 experience the highest rates of stalking. One in five high school girls has been physically or sexually abused, not by a stranger, **but by a dating partner**. This prevalence of teen dating violence is alarming and simply unacceptable.

Teen dating violence is often unnoticed by parents, and usually goes unrecognized as abnormal by the teens experiencing it.

Dating violence is a significant problem that affects every high school in our community. A 2008 National Council on Crime and Delinquency Focus found that approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical,



emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner - a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting our youth.

President Obama issued a [Proclamation](#) on **Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month**. In it, he urged all Americans to "do our part to break the silence and create a culture of healthy

relationships for all our young people. Adults who respect themselves, their partners, and their neighbors demonstrate positive behaviors to our

children -- lessons that will help them lead safe and happy lives free from violence."

Since 1991 Liz Claiborne Inc. has been working to end domestic violence through its Love is Not Abuse program. They have created [A Parent's Guide to Teen Dating Violence](#) that gives great tips on how parents can begin discussions with their children about dating violence.

The Center also has many prevention education programs that educate youth on the [Red Flags](#) seen in abusive relationships. It is crucial that teens receive this education to help them make healthy choices in their lives. Please talk with your child about unhealthy relationships. Perhaps talk with your child's school and let them know The Center's Education Department is available to give presentations about these issues.

For more information about our teen educational programs, please contact Judy Knapp at (530) 626-1450 or [JudyK@TheCenterNow.org](mailto:JudyK@TheCenterNow.org).

## A Day in the Life of Domestic Violence Agencies

On September 15, 2010, 91 percent of identified domestic violence programs in the United States participated in the 2010 National Census of Domestic Violence Services. The results were published in the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) report:

***Domestic Violence Counts 2010. A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services.***

For the fifth consecutive year, NNEDV conducted the one-day, unduplicated count of adults and children seeking domestic violence services in the U.S., documenting:

- the number of individuals who sought services.
- the types of services requested.
- the number of requests that went unmet because of lack of resources.

- and the issues and barriers that agencies face as they strive to provide services to victims of domestic violence.

On this particular day:

- 37,519 domestic violence victims and their children found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing across the country.
- 23,522 crisis line calls were answered.
- 5,686 victims seeking shelter were turned away due to lack of funds.

Some interesting facts:

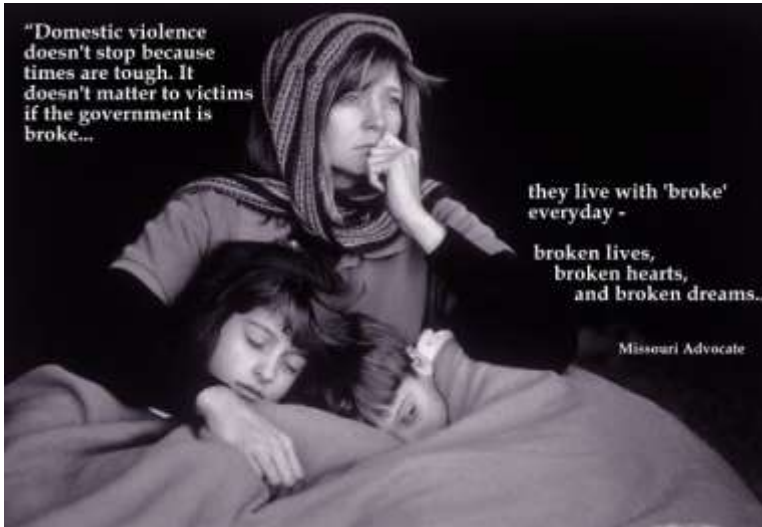
- California at 5,261 people served was second only to Texas.
- Nationally the percentage of agencies that reported not enough funding for needed programs and services was 38% compared to 47% in California.
- The national percentage of agencies that reported not enough staff was 29% compared to 45% in California.

Even as our country continues to experience economic hardships, high unemployment rates and a decrease in community services, 82% of Domestic Violence programs reported an increase in the demand for services.

On a more positive note, on the survey day local domestic violence agencies across the country were able to provide 30,134 people with prevention education training. Providing much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

Despite all the challenges they face, domestic violence programs continue to be a life-line for survivors. Advocates in many states reported not only the increase demand for services, but an actual increase in the severity and lethality of the violence clients are experiencing. The report stated that in Georgia, an advocate reported, "The anxiety and fear among victims and their children have increased, and the abuse seems to be getting worse." In Iowa, another advocate concurs. "We've

seen an escalation of severe physical violence." In Kansas, an advocate reported, "We live in a town where you didn't hear about domestic violence homicides. But in the past nine months, we've had seven domestic violence-related homicides."



We have to stop hoping that someone else will solve the problem. Domestic violence victims face life or death decisions every day and they struggle to keep their families safe and together. They are starving for their communities to believe them and stand behind them by holding their abusers accountable and by supporting local domestic violence agencies.

You can be the instrument of change... you can open your eyes to the tragedy that exists in your community, you can lend an ear to a neighbor or co-worker who tells you about the abuse they are suffering at home, most of all you can raise your voice...let our nation's lawmakers know that domestic violence will not be tolerated any longer.

The change begins here... today. Log on to the [California Partnership to End Domestic Violence's Legislative Action Center](#). There are easy ways that you can get involved.

**The Center for Violence-free Relationships is dedicated to building healthy relationships, families and communities free from sexual assault and domestic violence through education, advocacy, and services in western El Dorado County.**

**The Center is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. All contributions are tax deductible and vital to continue our services.**