

CHOICES



Summer 2010
Issue No. 66

TRI-VALLEY HAVEN

P.O. Box 2190
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(925) 449-5845 – Business line
(925) 449-5842 – Crisis line
www.trivalleyhaven.org

COMING FULL CIRCLE

Six years ago Amanda (not her real name) and her two boys entered Sojourner House, Tri-Valley Haven's family homeless shelter. Even though she was homeless, she had secured a spot on a waiting list for permanent housing but needed a safe and stable place to be in the meantime. Sojourner's policy of allowing families to stay for up to six months allowed Amanda to have the time necessary to secure employment and develop the nest egg needed to move into her own home. Sojourner House and TVH's domestic violence shelter, Shiloh, are the only local shelters that allow teen boys, so Amanda did not have to choose between having safe shelter and having her children with her. While staying at Sojourner House, Amanda's boys flourished, and currently her oldest is exploring art school. Happily, Amanda graduated Sojourner House just short of the six months and moved into her own apartment. She remembers as she was leaving the program that she told staff they had not seen the last of her, and that she would return one day to volunteer.

Amanda maintained her employment with a local retailer and enrolled in community college. Given her experiences with homelessness and navigating the shelter and social service system, Amanda decided she wanted to give back and be of service to others in similar circumstances, so she enrolled in Human Services classes. When it came time for her to find an internship as part of her program, she contacted the Haven.

For us at the Haven, it was an unexpected and delightful surprise. For most of the people we serve, the time they spend with us is part

of a chapter in their lives that they would rather leave behind. Even the most positive shelter experience cannot negate the series of events and the circumstances that led to someone needing our services, and we respect the desire to move forward without looking back. This is one reason that the Haven does not solicit volunteer work or donations from former residents, and it is also what made Amanda's call to us so special.

Amanda worked with Geneal, Tri-Valley Haven's Volunteer Coordinator, to complete the training necessary to do childcare at the shelters and is now one of our regular volunteers, working with the children at Shiloh each week while their mothers attend one of the evening group sessions. Amanda is now thinking about taking our 65-hour volunteer training so that she can answer our crisis hotline. I wanted to share Amanda's story, in part because it illustrates how the circle of giving is often completed (even if we rarely get to see it unfold), but also because the Haven has been particularly in awe of its volunteers, and Amanda is no exception.

During the course of the year, Tri-Valley Haven works with approximately 500 people who generously give of their time to help us further our mission; of these 500, about 50 are our core volunteers who take crisis line shifts, respond to sexual assault calls, staff our legal clinic, work at our food pantry, or serve on our Board of Directors. It is no exaggeration to say that we could not do our work without our volunteers, especially during the past year when we have experienced so many cuts to staffing.



To Amanda and to all our volunteers—thank you. You are at the heart of what we do. *Together we build a world without violence.*

Jennifer Dow-Rowell
Director of Community Education and Development

FRIENDS OF THE HAVEN

TEXT2GIVE!

Tri-Valley Haven in partnership with Give by Cell is pleased to announce that we now have our own Text2Give option! Now, more than ever, it's easy to give to the Haven! Just text *TVH* to 20222 on your mobile phone to donate \$10 to the Haven. Who would have thought that helping to end domestic violence was just a text message away?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TVH!



June 21 marked 33 years of service for Tri-Valley Haven! To all our friends and supporters who have stood by us through thick and thin, thank you! We recently perused our old newsletters and we were taken aback by some of the statistics from "the old days". For example, in our early years we fielded about 50 crisis line calls a month; now it is about 200 calls a month. In 1978 we sheltered 108 women and children in our safe house; last fiscal year we sheltered 344 women and children! While there is no doubt that we have made great strides towards addressing domestic violence, it is also clearly evident that our services are still sorely needed.

2010 VAGINA MONOLOGUES

M A HUGE SUCCESS

It was another successful year for the Tri-Valley Haven production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*! Many thanks to our director, Karen Hogan; to Tom Darter, who wrote original music for the production; and, of course, to the fantastic cast!

New this year was a very special partnership with the Livermore Downtown Association and the downtown merchants who came together and declared April 2010 to be "Women Helping Women" month. Not only did many of our downtown merchants support the *Monologues* through sponsorship, ad space, and purchasing booth space inside the Bankhead Theater, but many committed to giving the Haven a percentage of their sales during the month of April. We are especially grateful to Rachael Snedecor, Executive Director of the Livermore Downtown Association, for her leadership in helping forge this partnership.

TRI-VALLEY HAVEN TEAMS UP WITH THE RAIDERS



Are you ready for some football? Now you can support your favorite team and the Haven at the same time! We would like to invite all Haven supporters to join us for the August 28 preseason game against the 49ers and the October 10 game against the Chargers; these are Tri-Valley Haven Days with the Oakland Raiders. In addition, the Haven has been designated by the Oakland Raiders to sell tickets to all of their home games for the upcoming season! We have great end zone seats at amazing prices. Ticket order forms can be found online at www.trivalleyhaven.org, or call Fay at (925) 449-5845.

WESTAMERICA BANK /TVH MARKETING

A special thank-you to our friends at Westamerica Bank! They are generously helping us develop a marketing campaign for both our domestic violence program and, in the coming months, a campaign for our food pantry. If you have been to our main office, you have undoubtedly seen the poster they have developed for us (and if you haven't, you should start seeing them around Livermore very soon). We are so excited to be working with a marketing team to help us refine our message and get it out!

SUMMER SCHOOL IS IN SESSION!

Summer is always a difficult time at our shelters for child residents. With school being out of session and limited opportunities for day camps and other educational programs, our kids are often left with little to do other than watch TV. Thanks to the Junior League of Oakland-East Bay, that will no longer be a problem! They have generously granted Tri-Valley Haven \$3,000 to assist in the development of a summer school curriculum and fund field trips for the kids and their parents. Our Children's Liaison, Genevieve Valentine, wasted no time in getting a curriculum together, and the children are very excited! Thank you, Junior League!

A LEGACY OF PEACE

The Haven would like to honor the following individuals whose families have given to the Haven in their memory:

Lois Kaemper

Isabel Bokanich

Frances La Mar

We gratefully acknowledge the commitment of our friends who have provided for the Tri-Valley Haven in their estate plans. Their interest in supporting the Haven and its mission ensures a brighter future for the victims and survivors whose lives we touch. The Haven is especially thankful for the generosity of the late Henrietta Cope and her niece Catherine Yoder. Her legacy of peace lives on through the work of the Haven. Thank you.

PACE FOR PEACE AND PANAMA RED BLOCK PARTY!

Once again, we invite all our friends and supporters to join us for our annual Pace for Peace and Panama Red Block Party. This year both events are on Saturday October 2.



Pace for Peace is our 5k walk/run which begins at 8 a.m. at Second and K Streets in Livermore. Entry is \$50 and includes a t-shirt. We will have prizes for first, second and third-place runners and walkers as well as prizes for the individual and groups that raise the most money for the Haven! Last year was our biggest year ever for the Pace and we look forward to making it even bigger this year! Registration forms can be downloaded from our website, www.trivalleyhaven.org, or you can call (925) 449-5845.

After the Pace, stay and play at our third annual Panama Red Block Party from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.! We will have live music, games, BBQ, shopping with downtown merchants, and fun for the whole family!

BEHIND THE SCENES

FUNDING CUTS FORCE REDUCTIONS

The Haven is making major changes in July 2010 to address the impending cuts from our State funding sources. We will be closing our business office entirely on Fridays, and no employee will work more than 35 hours a week. Unfortunately, the cuts do not stop with personnel; as a result of the lack of funds we will be reducing our beds in Shiloh, our domestic violence safe house, starting in September.

Our hope is that these cuts are temporary. The State Assembly and Senate both have voted to fully reinstate domestic violence shelter funding, it is expected that we will be back in the budget this year, and we are hopeful that the governor will not do as he did last year and line-item-veto our funding.

Across the state, victims and survivors of domestic violence are forced into an even more precarious situation as services are being reduced or eliminated in the face of major funding cuts. How can you help? Call or write the governor and ask him to sign a budget that includes full funding for domestic violence shelter programs; remind him that programs such as Tri-Valley Haven save lives and need the support of the State to continue to help end family violence in California. You can also help through making a financial gift to Tri-Valley Haven. Your financial support helps us bridge the gap created by the lack of State funds and helps ensure that we are able to continue providing a safe place for victims and survivors.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION IS REACHING OUT TO A YOUNGER AUDIENCE

For many years, Tri-Valley Haven has focused its sexual and domestic violence prevention efforts on high-school-aged students, and while we still believe it is crucial to work with young adults to help them make safe choices and develop healthy relationships, we also understand that our message needs to be heard by an even younger audience. We are in the process of launching new programs specifically for middle-school-aged youth. Our new program will incorporate our messages about safety, healthy relationships, and effective bystander training; it will be available to middle schools, community groups serving middle school-age students, and parents of middle-schoolers. We will continue to work with local high schools and are starting after-school programs that will be peer-based and youth-driven. For more information about our community education programs, please contact Darlene at (925) 449-5845.




Childcare Volunteers

Childcare volunteers provide a crucial service at both our homeless shelter and our domestic violence safe house as well as our Parents Creating Change program. These generous volunteers work with our child residents so that their parents can focus on the evening life-skills and parenting groups. Childcare volunteers must be at least 21 years old and need to attend a four-hour training with Geneal as well as pass a Lifescan background check. For more information on how you can join the Haven team as a childcare volunteer, please contact Geneal at (925) 449-5845.

FYI

Call (925) 449-5845	Domestic Violence Group/Sexual Assault and Incest Groups
Call (925) 449-5845	Individual Counseling
Call Nicole, (925) 449-7889	Support for Parents of Children Ages 0-5
Call Mike, (925) 449-5845	Legal Clinic Tuesday/Pleasanton, Thursday/Livermore and by appointment
Call Geneal, (925) 449-5845	Volunteer Training
Call Darlene, (925) 449-5845	Self-Defense Training / Community Education
Call (925) 449-1664	Food Pantry
(925) 449-2510	Homeless Services
Call (925) 449-5842 or (800) 884-8119	24-Hour Crisis Line / Shelter Information / Sexual Assault Advocacy

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