



Photo of attendees at La Casa's most recent Living Room Event, "Men as Allies."

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La Casa's Living Room: Men as Allies

On August 22nd, our San Francisco community came together to discuss the role of men in our work to end domestic violence. Panelists John Finley of CalCASA and longtime La Casa advocate, Gary Coover, each shared their perspective on how men can take a more active role in preventing violence against women. Panelists also shared their own experiences about overhearing friends, colleagues and peers using language that perpetuates violent behaviors and norms. By the end of the evening, one thing was clear, it's takes all of us to end domestic violence. Men have an equal responsibility in supporting survivors, preventing violence, and holding batterers accountable. Attendees also helped us build "Welcome Kits" for shelter, which our new residents receive on their first day at shelter -- a nice reminder that the community is here to support them and help them on their journey away from violence and abuse.

Healthcare and Domestic Violence

La Casa's partnership with the San Francisco healthcare community has always been a critical piece of our work to support survivors of domestic violence in San Francisco.

The relationship between La Casa and the SF health care system has been strengthened in recent years by our partnership with Zuckerberg SF General Hospital and UCSF via the ARISE program. Our work with ARISE has connected nearly 150 patients to a La Casa advocate in a healthcare setting. But our work with healthcare providers does not stop there. In the last year alone, we trained medical professionals and hospital-based social workers at Kaiser, UCSF, Dignity Health, Healthright 360 and also provided critical information to future doctors at UCSF Medical School and future nurses at San Francisco State.

Domestic violence is a public health issue. Survivors have a higher risk of mental health disorders, chronic disease and infection. Well-trained, trauma-informed medical professionals are an important piece of our work to increase survivors access to community-based resources. We look forward to our continued partnership with the healthcare community. Together, as we work toward our common goal of ending domestic violence, we are creating spaces for survivors to seek support, intervention and safety.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



...no matter how much power, influence or access to resources that you have, accountability is coming.

Dear Friends of La Casa,

We strive to use our voice in the San Francisco community to inspire change and create bold solutions aimed at ending domestic violence and keeping survivors safe. We believe it is important to celebrate the gains we have made: the number of people who have found safety and support at La Casa, and the thousands of community members who learn more about domestic violence each year. Yet, it is also important to take a moment to remember the lives of those lost due to, or drastically altered by domestic violence. In a single week this August we learned of several of domestic-violence related tragedies and acts of violence, some of which have made national headlines. In Clearlake, California, a man on probation due to domestic violence killed three of his four children. One child and the man's wife narrowly survived the rampage. A Utah man flew a plane into his home, where his wife and son were residing hours after he was arrested for domestic violence. He killed himself, but thankfully the wife and son escaped out the back of the house. In Colorado, a man killed his pregnant wife and two daughters and after lying to the public about their disappearance, investigators found the bodies of his wife and children days later.

These events are just some of the thousands of acts of domestic violence we know happen in our communities each year. This Fall, as we increase awareness during the month of October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, celebrate our work and raise funds at redHOT*, and come December, watch our community bring holiday joy to many of our clients and their families, I want to pause to remember those who are no longer with us. Those who survived, day in and day out, bringing their friends, family, and children joy in the face of abuse. Our work honors them, each and every day.

Those of you that follow us closely on social media know that we have been closely watching the legal case of Gurbaksh Chahal. Chahal violated his probation for a domestic violence conviction after he attacked another woman one year after violently beating another woman in his apartment. As of mid-August, Chahal has exhausted his ability to appeal, and as San Francisco District Attorney spokesman Max Szabo stated, "It's time for Mr. Chahal to return to San Francisco to face the consequences of his actions." This particular situation sends a strong message: that no matter how much power, influence or access to resources that you have, accountability is coming.

While it has taken quite some time for individuals like Chahal to face consequences, and there is no amount of comfort or accountability that can heal the emotional pain of losing loved ones to domestic violence, I am reminded of a Martin Luther King Jr. quote. "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

We are still a ways away from a violence-free world, but we continue to see progress. As we pause to remember the victims, we recommit to our work to prevent future tragedy, and to be a part of the solution today, tomorrow and for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kathy Black". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey background.

Kathy Black, Executive Director



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION!

La Casa is powered by the amazing work of our volunteers.

Volunteers help us answer crisis calls and texts, assemble welcome packages for shelter residents, spread La Casa’s message in the community, and so much more! Domestic violence can only be prevented by a community that is committed to talking about the issue, supporting survivors, and holding abusers accountable. With the help of volunteers, we reach thousands of additional community members each year, and are able to provide individualized, trauma-informed support to all survivors that walk through our doors. Interested in volunteering? Email comed@lacasa.org!


Counter-Clockwise From Top:

Sephora volunteers providing backpacks and school supplies for the children and teens at La Casa’s emergency shelter; Oath volunteers building hygiene kits for the women at La Casa’s emergency shelter; Uber volunteers beading bracelets for La Casa’s teen program; Wells Fargo volunteers decorating journals and creating cards for La Casa’s emergency shelter; Fundbox volunteers decorating journals for La Casa’s clients; Google volunteers decorating journals for La Casa’s clients.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

CRISIS RESPONSE

 **8,914** callers received live support from our two 24-hour, statewide crisis response hotlines (Adult and Teen)

 **434** women and children found safety at our Emergency Shelter.


INTERVENTION

 **4,873** survivors accessed our emergency residential and community-based support services

 **3,371** adults and teens were supported through direct intervention

 **1,502** minors accessed our family-focused support

PREVENTION

 **3,555** people learned about domestic violence dynamics in educational workshops.

 **9,980** community members engaged through **360** outreach and engagement events.

31,458,675

 **viewers of our four-week bus campaign**



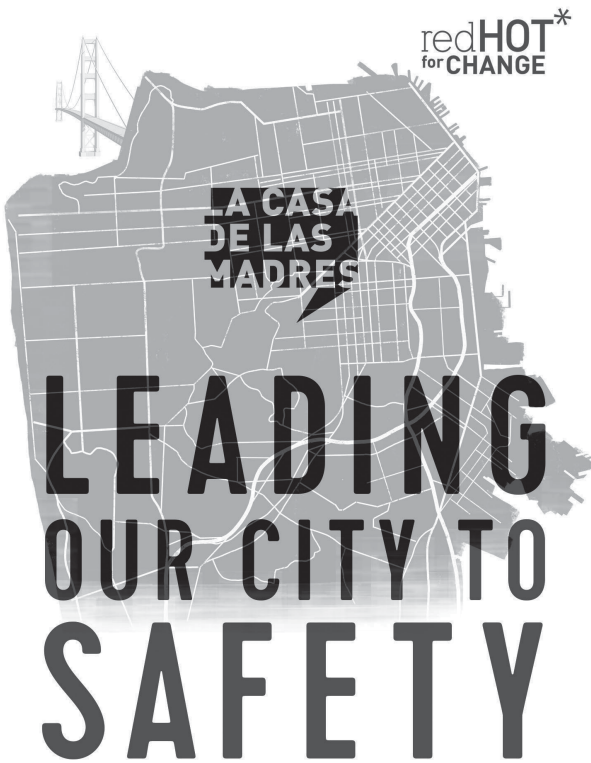


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redHOT* party 2018

On Thursday, October 18th we're celebrating over **40 years** of service in San Francisco.

Our annual redHOT* party will be held during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Join us for an evening of delicious hors d'oeuvres, tasty cocktails, and auctions featuring items from prestigious restaurants, vineyards, and experiences from across the Bay Area.

Announcing Our Keynote Speaker **Beverly Gooden**



A representation of the extraordinary power of storytelling and social media, victims' rights advocate, Beverly Gooden firmly established herself as a leading activist in the modern era, when she created and introduced the hashtag #WhyIStayed that led to a global movement against domestic violence.

As a survivor of domestic violence, and in the wake of several high profile incidents, Gooden presented a viable channel for people to contribute to the conversation in a meaningful way on a global scale. Featured on leading media outlets, including Good Morning America, The Today Show, CNN, TIME and The Washington Post, Gooden has simultaneously increased awareness while providing a relatable role model for victims and survivors.

With important insight on domestic violence sensitivity, social justice, and the power of storytelling, she also offers valuable messages of hope, opportunity and resilience. Please join us in welcoming Beverly Gooden to San Francisco this October.

A Special Thanks to our redHOT* Corporate Sponsors

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Kathryn Black

* \$100 provides a day and night of safety and comprehensive support services for a mother and child at our Emergency Shelter.

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United Way & Corporate Campaign donors, please note that La Casa makes every effort to acknowledge support as soon as we are notified of a donation. External processing time may create a delay of several months but your support is vital and appreciated. Our United Way designation number is 44026.

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**Pricilla Zocchi "For the times
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Nothing can dim the light that shines from within. — Maya Angelou

La Casa de las Madres

A Refuge. An Advocate. A Strong Voice Against Domestic Violence.

The mission of La Casa de las Madres is to respond to calls for help from domestic violence victims, of all ages, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We give survivors the tools to transform their lives. We seek to prevent future violence by educating the community and by redefining public perceptions about domestic violence.

La Casa de las Madres

Un Refugio. Un Consejero. Una Voz Fuerte en Contra de la Violencia Doméstica.

La Casa de las Madres ofrece amparo a mujeres que han sido víctimas de la violencia doméstica, y a sus hijos e hijas. Nosotros nos esforczamos en ayudar tanto a las mujeres como a los niños a descubrir su fuerza interior, manejar los riesgos que se les presentan y tener más control sobre sus propias vidas. Nuestro objetivo es restaurar la dignidad de nuestras clientes, fomentar su esperanza, evocar su valor y ayudarles a desarrollar su mayor potencial.

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