

News & Updates



9th Annual Adopt-a-Family Program Helps Adult and Child Victims Celebrate the Holidays



The holidays are a time when we gather with loved ones to exchange gifts, share meals and make happy memories. Many families in South Lake Tahoe struggle to meet their basic needs for shelter, food and warmth, and do not have the resources to buy gifts, special food for meals or decorate their homes this holiday season. This is an especially devastating reality for single parents who have survived violence and who are working hard to provide for their children as they rebuild safer, healthier homes and lives free from abuse. They want the holidays to be happy, special and memorable for their children, particularly since past holiday memories are often painful; family tensions and the stress and pressures of the holidays can increase risk for abuse.

The good news is that locals like you can help make this holiday special for families that have worked closely with South Lake Tahoe Women's Center this year. South Lake Tahoe Women's Center is pleased to celebrate its 9th year of the Adopt-a-Family holiday program. Individuals, families, service clubs, businesses and others can help adult and child victims served by the Women's Center in a number of ways. Donors can adopt a family of any size and provide holiday gifts from wish lists completed by clients, or they can provide food for holiday meals through donating groceries, grocery store gift cards, or by purchasing vouchers for pre-cooked holiday meals (at Safeway or Raley's).

Talk to your friends, family and coworkers this holiday season; they may prefer that you help support a local family in need in lieu of giving them gifts. We will be happy to send your loved ones a card letting them know how you honored them this holiday season by giving to our community's neediest children. Contact us today to learn how you can make a difference on any budget, or feel free to visit our website at www.sltwc.org/calendar.html to find answers to the most commonly asked Adopt-a-Family Program questions.

Sierra Nevada Alliance and Project Partners Install Yard and Garden Demonstration Site at SLTWC

The Sierra Nevada Alliance recently completed installation of a Yard and Garden Demonstration site at the Women's Center. Everyone is encouraged to come by before the snow falls to walk through our amazing native and adapted western plant flower gardens alongside our parking lot. Visitors have an opportunity to learn from signage addressing how to protect soil and prevent erosion and runoff around drip lines, and can see for themselves how to properly install BMPs on their own properties. Other signs teach visitors about how to choose native species to vegetate yards that will thrive with little maintenance, and give credit to all of the time, energy and other resources necessary to complete this project. Local donors include Aspen Hollow, Dale Rise Construction, Ed Cook Tree Service, Meeks Lumber, Robert Morris Construction, Sandi Osterman, Tahoe Outdoor Living, and Tahoe Sand & Gravel. The Sierra Nevada Alliance worked in partnership with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District and the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, and the project was partially funded by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund through an agreement with the State Water Resources Board, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Thank you to all of the project's supporters! Come take a look and see how a well-designed yard enhances our building while keeping it low-maintenance and safer from fire.

Governor Reinstates Funding for Shelters for One Year

On October 21, 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SBX3 13 by Senator Elaine Alquist (D-San Jose) to restore \$16.3 million of state funding to support California's domestic violence shelters. This bill provides domestic violence shelter programs with about 80% of the funding that agencies like South Lake Tahoe Women's Center lost when the Governor eliminated the state's Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Program funding from the state budget earlier this year. This resulted in six emergency shelter closures, including our sister shelter in Grass Valley. Governor Schwarzenegger said "I want to congratulate the many groups that put victims first and came together to find this creative solution that will keep domestic violence shelters throughout the state open." This bill is a temporary fix, since it only restores funding through the end of the current fiscal year in June 2010. This means that the Women's Center and the other 93 domestic violence shelter agencies across the state may find ourselves in a similar financial crunch next year at this time. Governor Schwarzenegger said, "I encourage the legislature to continue looking for a permanent funding solution for this important program so domestic violence shelters aren't faced with the same uncertainty next year."

10th Annual Sunset Gala Raises Over \$26,000!

Thanks to our generous community of sponsors, donors, attendees, and supporters, and also the hard work of our Board, other volunteers and staff, we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$20,000 on September 12, 2009. More than 200 guests came to enjoy the beachfront home donated by Dr. Sean Degnan, as well as good conversation, fine hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and wine. Music and Polynesian dancers entertained guests, who donated nearly \$10,000 through the event's silent auction. Please take the time to review the second page in this mailing, and support the businesses and individuals who contributed to the success of the 10th Annual Sunset Gala by the Lake.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you know who may be interested in the work of The Women's Center!