



## PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE NEEDS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ADVOCATES

Volunteers are Vital to Stop the Cycle of Violence

### For Immediate Release

December 9, 2011

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For over 12 years, Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People (PHP) has partnered with the local Santa Barbara Sherriff's Department to provide a trained volunteer advocate to meet in-person with victims of domestic violence. After a domestic violence crime scene has been secured, Sheriff's Deputies focus on conducting a thorough investigation and ensure that victims are safe. PHP's Advocates for Domestic and Child Abuse Prevention (ADCAP) Advocate arrives on the scene and provides support to the victim and family and furnishes information about the cycle of domestic violence. Together the victim and Advocate develop an immediate family safety plan.

Often, this encounter with an ADCAP Advocate is the first time the victim learns about services available to end the abuse and fear and hears from an ADCAP Advocate and the Sheriff's Deputy that the perpetrator's behavior is not their fault. Victims are able to share their story without being judged or blamed.

Volunteers are needed now to respond to 911-domestic violence related calls to provide these critical supportive services. ADCAP Advocates participate in a 40-hour training to learn about the cycle of violence, criminal justice system, restraining orders, community resources for domestic violence victims and other important issues. Arcelia Sención, Director of PHP's ADCAP Program, stated that "not only is participating in the domestic violence training life changing, the impact volunteer advocates have on the lives of domestic violence victims is priceless and can even save a life."

ADCAP statistics over its twelve year existence show that the services are extremely effective. Sencion stated that only 5% of victims have had repeat incidents. Nearly 60 families are assisted each year.

Volunteers must be 18 years and older, have access to transportation, be willing to be on-call on a regular basis (1/2 evenings per week and 2 weekend evenings per month) and complete a free 40-hour training. No prior knowledge of social services or domestic violence issues is required. Rather, the best Advocates are those that display the desire to empower victims to take control of their lives to live in a violence-free relationship.

If you are interested in volunteering and/or or learning more about ADCAP, please contact Arcelia Sención, Program Director, at 686-7353 or [arcelia@syvphp.org](mailto:arcelia@syvphp.org). If you know someone who needs assistance you are also encouraged to contact Ms. Sencion.