

## In This Issue

[A Word from Maura Mitchell](#)

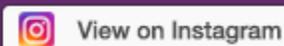
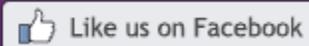
[We Still Need Help!](#)

[Events](#)

[Partner Appreciation](#)

[Donate!](#)

## Engage!



Shop via [Amazon Smile](#)



[Volunteer](#)

## First Time In 40 Years....

### Friends and Supporters of DVS,

In July, I participated in the dedication of two of our Santa Maria shelter apartments to the memory of Elyse Erwin. Elyse was the tragic victim of a domestic violence related homicide in Orcutt, CA. She was a loving mother, daughter, sister and friend.

The event was beautiful---it was heartbreaking---and it emphasized that our work at DVS is about life versus death.

These apartments are Elyse Erwin's powerful, meaningful legacy. They will provide four families at a time with safe, confidential housing, helping 288 individuals each year. Over 10 years, they will give more than 10,000 safe nights of shelter to victims escaping from domestic violence and rebuilding their lives.



I want to say a special thank you to the Trilogy Service Club headed by Yvonne Williams for spearheading the campaign that made the refurbishing and dedication of these apartments possible.

I also want to thank the staff of DVS who work tirelessly---every single day---to make sure that victims of domestic violence have access to the services they need. The staff also played a huge role in making our

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newly renovated Santa Maria shelter, and especially these two apartments, beautiful and welcoming.

This is the first time in our 40 year history that DVS has named apartments or buildings after individuals. If you would like more information about opportunities to dedicate an apartment at our newly expanded Santa Maria shelter, please contact our Development Director; Laurie Barene at [laurieb@dvsolutions.org](mailto:laurieb@dvsolutions.org).

With deepest gratitude for all you do for DVS,

Maura Mitchell

DVS Board President

### Did You Know?

Creating a safety plan is one of the most important steps in leaving an abusive relationship?

If you are thinking about leaving your abuser think about...

1. Four places you could go if you leave your home.
2. People who might help you if you left. Think about people who will keep a bag for you. Think about people who might lend you money. Make plans for your pets.
3. Setting aside money in case you need to get a cell phone.
4. Opening a bank account or getting a credit card in your name.
5. How you might leave. Try doing things that get you out of the house - taking out the trash, walking the family pet, or going to the store. Practice how you would leave.
6. How you could take your children with you safely.
7. Putting together a bag of things you use every day. Hide it where it is easy for you to get.

Our advocates take time and effort with each and every victim to walk them through the steps to a safe exit.

Take a look at our [Safety Plan!](#)

Please share with loved ones, they may benefit more than you know!

## We Still Need Help!

A little goes a long way. Consider donating even \$10, or \$10 a month. \$10 can help buy a blanket to keep a victim warm in their time of need, or simple hygiene items that we need on a daily basis. Encourage your friends and family to donate also!

The Trilogy Club was able to raise enough money to furnish not one, but two rooms at our newly expanded Santa Maria emergency shelter! Unfortunately, we still have **many units** that are **not furnished**.

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller**

***Consider becoming a monthly donor***

**[DONATE NOW!](#)**

## Events

### **Macy's Shop for a Cause Charity Challenge:**

**Going on now!**

- **July 11th - August 9th**

Macy's has teamed up with CrowdRise to host the Macy's Shop for a Cause Charity Challenge - a friendly fundraising campaign for US-based 501(c)3 charities and accredited schools across the country. DVS is participating [visit the campaign website](#) for more details!

### **40 Hour Training Dates:**

#### **Santa Maria**

*Community Cornerstone Room*

*705 South McClelland Ave., Santa Maria*

**August - 16, 17, 18, 23, & 24**

#### **Santa Barbara**

*Community Partner Center, Union Bank*

15 E Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**December - 7, 8, 12, 14, & 15**

Trainings are \$225 per person, and run from 8:15 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For more info or to register please contact Eloisa Patterson at [EloisaP@dvsolutions.org](mailto:EloisaP@dvsolutions.org) or visit our [website](#).

**Annual Luncheon:**

Save the date for **February 25, 2018!**

**Community Partner Appreciation!**

[Old Town Brew](#) - Heartfelt thanks to Daniel at

Old Town Brew in Nipomo for hosting a night of tacos to benefit DVS! Also thank you to 360 cookies for donating cookies to the event. A portion of the evenings' proceeds will be donated to DVS, we appreciate you all!



[United Way](#) - They have continued to support our organization throughout the years. We cannot express how grateful we are!



**LIVE UNITED**

**Please consider helping local victims  
of Domestic Violence:**

**Donate Now!**

Domestic Violence Solutions | (805) 963-4458

<http://www.dvsolutions.org>



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