

Subject: YWCA of Silicon Valley Event



March 12, 2008

January 7th Rape Victim Update

We learned from the press that a local woman living in an assisted-living facility was brutally raped the night of January 7th of this year. The perpetrator came through her window and assaulted this woman in the most terrifying way. She quickly became a client of the YWCA Rape Crisis Center in all the usual ways and in one unusual way. The Rape Crisis Center quickly assessed that this woman, who lived on a fixed income, had post-assault needs that would well-exceed her monthly income, so the YWCA went to the community to see if financial support could be obtained. We knew that there would be costs attached to her medical needs that would require extra support, such as damage to her apartment, having her bed replaced, etc. And the victim would need to be out of her apartment while all of this was underway, so costs of a hotel, transportation and food would need to be covered for almost a month.

I am happy to report that your support was overwhelming and we were able to collect over \$6,000 on her behalf plus an assortment of in-kind donations, all of which have aided in her recovery. She still has medical issues that need to be addressed, and faces the emotional peaks and valleys that we call the Rape Trauma Syndrome. She is receiving counseling and has an advocate. In other words, she is now a survivor.

That is why our upcoming event, **Walk a Mile in Her Shoes**, is so important. No one should become a victim of rape or sexual assault. But all too often, that is the case. Please join us on Wednesday, April 9th at 4:30pm in Plaza de Cesar Chavez as the men in our community (supported by women and children!) put on a pair of women's shoes and take a stand against sexual violence for the sixth year in a row. For more information, visit our website at www.ywca-sv.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keri", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Keri Procnier McLain Ph.D., CEO
YWCA of Silicon Valley