



### Did you know?

- **1 in 3 women has experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. (CDC)**
- **Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women - more than car accidents, muggings and rapes combined. (CDC)**
- **Over 50% of homeless women are homeless due to domestic violence. (NCFH)**
- **3 top lethality risks: ending the relationship, gun ownership and coercive control. (Evan Stark, PhD)**
- **Up to 60% of domestic violence relationships also involve child maltreatment. (CDF)**
- **Childhood exposure to domestic violence increases the risk of adult mental and physical health consequences ranging from anxiety and depression to diabetes, heart disease, alcoholism and suicide. (CDC)**

## Our Mission

WomenSV is an educational center focused on educating survivors, providers and the community at large about more subtle forms of abuse that don't always leave forensic evidence behind but can still be dangerous, even life-threatening.

We empower survivors, train providers and educate the community to break the cycle of covert abuse and coercive control in intimate partner relationships.

We also help survivors address more subtle forms of coercive control, including financial, legal, technological and emotional abuse. Our unique program has evolved to meet the growing needs of survivors not only in our community but across the United States, with a focus not only on educating survivors but also the systems meant to serve and protect them.

In the past 13 years, WomenSV has served over 1,400 survivors.

Domestic violence can happen in any neighborhood. The power and control dynamics are the same across income levels. However, the power, money and influence of a sophisticated abuser can make it difficult for a survivor to escape, avoid crippling debt and maintain custody of her children. This pattern of threatening, isolating, controlling behavior does not always rise to the level of police intervention, yet it can still cause tremendous damage to the entire family.

We offer our services pro bono because financial abuse is rampant in this demographic. At WomenSV, we believe that regardless of socioeconomic background, it is everyone's fundamental human right to live free and safe in their own home, and they shouldn't have to pay to exercise that right. We therefore rely on donations to sustain our program.

[Click here to visit us online!](#)





# WomenSV Women of Silicon Valley

## Our Services

**Direct Client Support in the form of weekly support groups focused on education, safety planning and validation to survivors of covert abuse and coercive control.**

**Professional Education to help providers become more trauma-informed in serving survivors involved with a covert abuser.**

The providers we have worked with include:

- Law enforcement, therapists, court and medical staff, other DV agencies. Examples include: Kaiser and Valley Medical Center physicians, Google, Bay Area Psychological Association (BAPA), San Jose Christian Counseling Center, Santa Clara County (SCC) Psychological Association's Annual DV Conference, Orange County and Santa Clara County Probation Departments and Los Altos / Mountain View / Atherton police departments



**Public Presentations & Media Interviews to raise awareness that domestic violence, including covert abuse, crosses all socioeconomic levels, neighborhoods, genders and professions.**

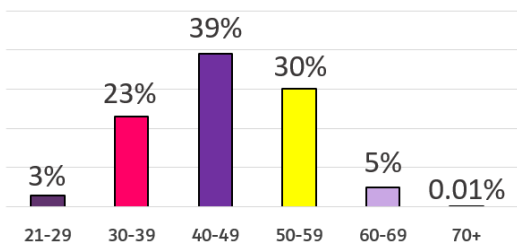
Presentations and interviews include:

- Service Clubs & Community Organizations, City Councils (examples include Kiwanis, Rotary, Los Altos, Sunnyvale and Cupertino City Councils)
- Interviews include Wall Street Journal, New York Times, NBC, Mercury News and K-LOVE

## Our Impact

**On average we serve about 200 survivors each year.**

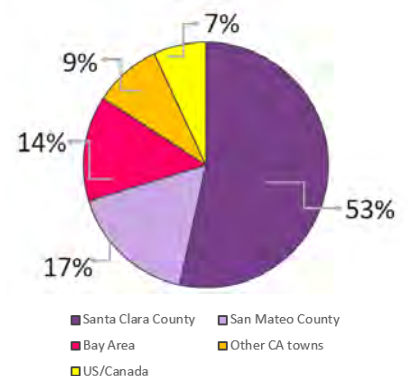
Age Ranges of Survivors



*"Today, because of the support I received from WomenSV, I'm stronger. I love myself more. I'm getting my self-confidence back. I still attend Support Group to take care of my mental health and to lift others up."*

— WomenSV survivor

Regions



### CONTACT US

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# WomenSV

## Women of Silicon Valley

What are some of the more subtle forms of abuse?

### Financial

Abusers often take complete control of joint finances, hiding assets, limiting access to funds and taking measures to destroy their partner's credit and career.



### Technological

The technology we use in our daily lives can become a weapon in the hands of tech-savvy abusers who digitally stalk their partners, track their movements, send harassing messages or impersonate their partners online.



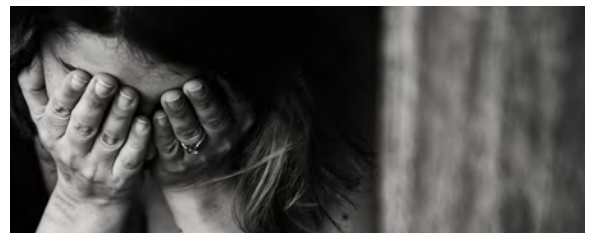
### Legal

The legal system is often used to continue the abuse even after a woman has decided to leave the relationship. Abusers often drag their partners through the legal system, filing an unending stream of lawsuits, custody battles and even false protection orders against their partners.



### Emotional

Abuse does not need to be physical to cause lasting damage. Verbal abuse, intimidation, manipulation, constant criticism and gaslighting all allow an abuser to maintain power and control over their partners causing them to walk on eggshells, live in fear and even question their own perspectives, memory and sanity.



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# WomenSV

## Women of Silicon Valley

### Media Coverage

WomenSV's unique program has gained local and national attention over the years. We believe that an ongoing relationship with the media is crucial to raise the visibility of domestic abuse in middle-to-upper income areas and the challenges that survivors face when confronted with powerful, sophisticated abusers.

WomenSV's media exposure includes:



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# WomenSV

## Women of Silicon Valley

### Awards & Recognition

## AWARDS

- Santa Clara County Psychological Association (SCCPA) for Outstanding Community
- Service Los Altos/Los Altos Hills Joint Service Award
- Woman of Influence Honoree (Silicon Valley Business Journal)
- Chief's Challenge Coin from Los Altos Police Department
- Chief's Challenge Coin from Foothill/DeAnza College Police
- CBS Jefferson Award for public service
- Mountain View Chamber of Commerce Celebration of Leaders Honoree
- Heroes Award Honoree (Mid Peninsula Media Center)



## RECOGNITION

- Featured as a SCORE Success Story (<https://bit.ly/2yNkPcG>); <https://www.score.org/womensv>
- Public recognition by Los Altos City Council and LAPD, announcing WomenSV's partnership with the city and local police (<https://bit.ly/2Kq8WOg>)
- Certificates of recognition from:
  - Senator Jerry Hill
  - Supervisor Joe Simitian
  - Ret. Assembly member Rich Gordon
  - Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

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# WomenSV Women of Silicon Valley

## GRANTS INCLUDE:

- El Camino Healthcare District
- Sequoia Healthcare District
- Peninsula Healthcare District
- Los Altos Mountain View Community Foundation
- Los Altos Town Crier
- Los Altos City Council
- Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors



And a very big THANK YOU for the generous donations and support we have received from our community!

## Board of Directors

- Ruth Darlene, M.A. (Chair), Executive Director, WomenSV
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## Chief Financial Officer

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