



WomenSV Background

Mission

The mission of **WomenSV** is to raise awareness about domestic violence in the professional community, to empower victims of affluent abusers through education, advocacy and connection to resources, and to promote the right of every woman and child to live in peace, safety and freedom in their own home.

Ruth Patrick, Director & Founder

Ruth Patrick's educational background includes a Master's in English Literature, teaching credential and state certification in domestic violence advocacy. She worked at Stanford's Center for Research in Disease Prevention and while there, she developed a research model that she used to create her own non-profit in 2009.



In 2009 Ruth set out to fill a gap in services for professional women and stay-at-home moms in middle-to-upper income areas who were trapped in relationships with powerful, wealthy abusers. She knew there was tremendous shame and social stigma attached to domestic violence in more privileged areas. She also knew there were specific risks and challenges involved in leaving an abuser who uses money, power, technology, and social status to coerce and control. Ruth developed a program to help survivors create an individualized safety plan to address these risks and challenges. She also wanted to raise awareness in the community and amongst providers about the impact of domestic violence in this demographic.

Incubated by the Los Altos Community Foundation, nurtured by Domestic Violence Intervention Collaborative, supported by Los Altos City Council, Los Altos Town Crier, local law enforcement, service organizations and businesses, as well as generous individuals, WomenSV has served over 1200 women and 8 men over the past 7 years, and has gained national recognition.

WomenSV's trainings include presentations at the annual Association of Threat Assessment Professionals International Conference in Anaheim, Santa Clara County's Domestic Violence Council's annual Domestic Violence Conference in San Jose, Santa Clara County Superior Court, and the Santa Clara County Psychological Association.

WomenSV has been featured in an Investigation Discovery Documentary, *Behind Closed Doors: Shocking Secrets*, the Megyn Kelly Today Show, the *New York Times* and *Good Morning America*. Most recently, Ruth has won a Jefferson Award for Public Service from CBS affiliate KPIX. Her mission and the mission of WomenSV continue to be to promote the fundamental human right of every woman and child to live in peace and safety in their own home.