



For the past thirty years the Support Network for Battered Women has served families escaping domestic violence with counseling, support groups, therapy, emergency shelter, legal assistance, children's programs, public outreach, the Victim Advocacy Project, teen dating violence prevention, the La Familia Program, and a 24-hour toll-free bilingual emergency crisis line. Today, the Support Network is well known as a vital link in Santa Clara County's social service continuum.

While we have been effective at intervening once domestic violence has occurred, we have barely kept pace with the demand for such services, and our vision of ending domestic violence is still a distant dream. Even before the current economic downturn, our Board of Directors began searching for a solution to this problem and to plan a strategy for our future growth.

As a result of that Long Term Sustainability Project, the Support Network Board began an investigation of possible collaborators for a Strategic Partnership. The YWCA of Silicon Valley was chosen for their 105-year history of service to the region and their focus on women and non-violence. In-depth talks have begun between the leadership of each organization to determine the breadth and objectives of any potential alliance.

We believe a Strategic Partnership with the YWCA of Silicon Valley will bring the Support Network closer to achieving our mission by:

- **Broadening our reach** – Additional capacity to serve more clients both within our current service area and through reaching out into new communities.
- **Broadening our impact** – Being part of a full-service agency with direct access to a wide range of supportive services, including parent education and greater follow-up capacity. Additionally, it brings the Support Network's expertise in Domestic Violence to YWCA's current programs in rape crisis and family counseling.
- **Extending our message** – Using the Support Network's existing materials and curriculum with the YWCA's broad connections and outreach capacity to educate the next generation to live free from domestic violence.

The Support Network wishes to stress that we will only go forward with any potential Strategic Partnership if it will meet our mission-related goals and objectives and serve to strengthen domestic violence services in Santa Clara County. This is a strength-based initiative for our continued growth, and not a reaction to a down economy or fiscal troubles. All donations to the Support Network will continue to serve those escaping domestic violence, regardless of the outcome of current negotiations.

Any questions about this process may be directed to Ken Goldstein at kgoldstein@supportnetwork.org, or 408-541-6100, extension 102.

Evert Wolsheimer
Co-Chair, Board of Directors

Ken Goldstein
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