

Walnut Avenue Women's Center

A Strength Based Family Resource Center

Fact Sheet

Historical Development:

- 1933 Started local Chapter of YWCA with Mrs. McPherson as our President
- 1944 Bought current building & joined the Monterey, National YWCA
- 1946 Became Santa Cruz Chapter of the National YWCA
- 1994 Changed name and affiliation to Walnut Avenue Women's Center
- 2008 Celebrated 75 years of service to Santa Cruz County



Departments

- **Domestic Violence Services-** provides advocacy, legal advocacy, court accompaniment, restraining orders, 24 hr hotline, and support groups for battered women.
- **Youth Development Services-** programs for youth and teens with the common goal of providing a place where young people can find and express their voice in their families, schools and community
- **Family Literacy-** serving both parents and children through integrated early childhood education, adult education, parenting classes, home visiting, Parent and Child Time Together, and community resources and referrals.
- **Early Childhood Education-** provides comprehensive early education for children from birth to age 5.
- **Resource & Community Development-** manage daily and long term resources of the Women's Center including fundraising, marketing, daily operations and volunteers. We also provide family support services including supplemental groceries, clothing, diapers and household items. Additional family support programs includes a breast cancer survivors support and fitness program: Women Recovering Together and the African American Community Health Group.

Awards & Honors

- 2004 Agency of the Year from the Santa Cruz Domestic Violence Commission
- 2005 Elena Baskin Award for Outstanding Service in Public Schools
- 2006 Comerica Award of Excellence
- 2006 Recognition from California Department of Education to Even Start for having highest graduation rate for teen moms in the State of California.
- 2007 Family Friendly Employer Award from United Way of Santa Cruz County
- 2007 Mother-Baby Friendly Workplace Award from the Santa Cruz County Breastfeeding Coalition
- 2008 Recognition from California Department of Education to Even Start for having highest rate for teen moms in the State of California continuing on to higher education.

Program Highlights for the last year:

- 3400 women, children and families received support & services.
- Sixty-two families received subsidized child care.
- 9,000 services provided to battered women and their children.
- 700 women impacted by domestic violence received support & services.
- 184,650 meals were provided to families through our food pantry
- 1,000 individuals received clothing for job interviews due to bountiful donations from the community.
- Over 90% of teen moms in our Teen Parent Program graduate from high school.
- 35 youth received one on one mentoring services.
- 1200 youth reached through outreach to schools.
- 45 families participated in the Family Literacy and ESL program.
- 75 women, 6 men served by the African American Community Health Project
- Outreach to over 1000 community members through the African American Community Health Project
- Domestic Violence Prevention Outreach to over 10,000 people throughout the community
- Received award for having the highest rate of teen parents continuing on to higher education in the state of California.

Staff & Volunteer Profile:

- Over 60% of staff are bilingual Spanish speakers.
- Leadership staff has over 40 years of combined leadership and management experience.
- This year our essential volunteers and interns provided over 23,426 hours of service.

Contributions to Community

- Partnerships with Santa Cruz High School, Mission Hills Jr. High, Shoreline Middle School, Cypress Charter High School, Del Mar Elementary, San Lorenzo Valley After School, Costanoa Continuation School, Branciforte Middle School, New Brighton Middle School to provide Youth Development Education Programs
- Friday Night Live Partnership for Youth Service
- Together for Youth Executive Committee
- Chair the Youth Development Alliance
- Family Resource Network
- The Legacy Project: Youth Development and Asset building Collaborative with YWCA of Watsonville, and the Family Resource Network.
- Domestic Violence Commission member
- Child Care Administrators Network
- Partnership with Juvenile Probation in Girlzpace to create a safe space for teen girls

