



**City of Los Altos**  
**Non-Profit and Civic Organization Contributions Application**

**Organization Information**

Name: WomenSV

Address: PO Box 3982 Los Altos, CA 94024

Website: [www.WomenSV.org](http://www.WomenSV.org)

Tax Identification Number: 81-5015102

Non-Profit: Yes

Civic organization: No

Benefit Los Altos community: Yes

**Description of organizational activities:**

WomenSV’s mission is to empower survivors, train providers and educate the community to break the cycle of covert abuse and coercive control in intimate partner relationships. Our vision is a world in which every woman and child can exercise their fundamental human right to live in peace, safety and freedom in their own home.

WomenSV was founded in 2011 by current Executive Director Ruth Darlene in order to fill a gap in services for victims of domestic abuse. She knew there were specific challenges involved in leaving an abuser who uses money, power, technology, and social status to coerce and control his intimate partner.

Over the past 13 years, WomenSV has offered support to more than 1,500 survivors of domestic abuse. Today, WomenSV has entered a new phase of evolution that holds the promise of even greater impact and community transformation. While our commitment to empowering survivors remains steadfast, our expanded focus on education and prevention is a natural progression, driven by a desire to create a safer world for all. To that end, WomenSV’s primary focus is on educating not only survivors, but providers across all fields, as well as the general public through educational campaigns, interviews and professional trainings.

WomenSV’s Domestic Abuse Education & Empowerment Program includes the following components:

1. Provider Training (primary focus) – Survivors often encounter a labyrinth of services, and inadvertent re-victimization can occur during this journey. Ensuring that court staff, law enforcement officers, therapists, physicians, religious leaders and educators can identify and address more subtle, yet still potentially lethal, forms of abuse is a pressing concern. Otherwise,

survivors of covert abuse and coercive control risk being revictimized by the very systems meant to serve and protect them. This approach amplifies our impact, safeguarding not only the survivors but also those who stand alongside them. WomenSV offers customized courses for professionals, tailored to each particular service provider. Trainings include use of the Danger Assessment by Johns Hopkins University clinical researcher Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell and the Women's Experience of Battering (WEB) Scale assessment endorsed by Dr. Evan Stark, retired Rutgers University professor and author of *Coercive Control; how men entrap women in personal life*.

WomenSV has done several trainings for Kaiser physicians and Valley Medical Center physicians. Other providers we have done trainings for include: Strangulation Prevention Institute, SCC Probation Department, Los Altos and Mountain View Police Departments, Foothill De Anza College Police, Community Services Agency (CSA) in Mountain View, therapists in San Jose's Christian Counseling Center, Mountain View-Los Altos Challenge Team, St Francis High School in Mountain View, and Harker Academy in Saratoga, Google's global security teams (partial list). We have an upcoming training for Marriage and Family Therapist program graduate students at the University of San Francisco. We are in the process of scheduling trainings for the El Camino Hospital District and Mountain View High School. See attached list for more examples.

2. Public Education - Education is empowerment, and this philosophy fuels our approach. We are creating comprehensive educational resources to empower survivors, raise public awareness and train providers to recognize and address covert abuse and coercive control.

This includes:

- A widespread educational campaign with content distributed online through WomenSV's website and social media channels
- A presentation for Sunnyvale's City Council meeting to proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
- Educating youth to recognize early signs of controlling behavior in relationships

#### **Description of organizational impact on Los Altos community:**

In addition to serving 105 survivors so far this fiscal year, in line with transitioning to a full-time educational center on covert abuse and coercive control, we have conducted 11 presentations / trainings for over 1717 attendees (providers and DV agencies / staff). 74 attendees were from the Los Altos service area.

Last year (fiscal year 2022-23), WomenSV served a total of 171 women. Of those, 22 women (12.86%) were from the Los Altos community. A total of 75 (43.86%) of all women served were from Santa Clara County.

While our headquarters remain in Los Altos, WomenSV has achieved national recognition for expertise in covert abuse and coercive control. In partnering with the Strangulation Prevention Training Institute, WomenSV is in the process of expanding its educational programs across the country.

Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Violence is a public health epidemic in the United States:

- About 1 in 4 women have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime.

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>

- In homes where violence between partners occurs, there is a 45% to 60% chance of co-occurring child abuse, a rate 15 times higher than the average.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/progress-notes/201902/alarming-effects-childrens-exposure-domestic-violence>

- Children witness 68% to 80% of domestic assaults. Exposure to domestic violence has been classified as one of several adverse childhood experiences (ACES), which contribute to poor quality of life, premature death, and risk factors for many of the most common causes of death in the United States. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/progress-notes/201902/alarming-effects-childrens-exposure-domestic-violence>

- Women exposed to intimate partner/domestic violence are twice as likely to experience depression; 15 more likely to acquire HIV and 1.5 times more likely to contract other sexually transmitted diseases; and are almost twice as likely to have alcohol use disorders.

<https://vawnet.org/sc/impact-domestic-violence-health>

Highlights of WomenSV's achievements last year (2022-23) include:

- Provided Direct Client Support services (including helpline support, intake session, follow-up meetings and support groups) to 171 unduplicated women
- Facilitated 88 weekly survivor support groups
- Provided 17 presentations and trainings to court staff, law enforcement, physicians, schools, and Google, reaching over 1200 individuals within our community and globally. Our audiences included (partial list):
  - Statewide Judicial Officer Conference
  - Google – London/Europe Security Team
  - Google – India/Asia Security Team
  - Google – United States of America Security Team
  - 29th Annual Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Conference
  - St. Francis High School

WomenSV focuses on education and prevention in the realm of subtle domestic abuse. The program trains providers to be more trauma-informed in their interactions with victims of domestic abuse, educates the public in recognizing and addressing covert abuse and coercive control, and supports victims in addressing these more subtle forms of abuse safely and effectively.

The success of WomenSV's program is illustrated in the results from our annual Survivor survey:

- 100% of survivors surveyed reported that they have a better understanding of covert abuse and coercive control.
- 100% of survivors reported that they have learned to identify and feel better equipped to address more subtle forms of abuse such as emotional, financial, legal, and technological.

- 92% of survivors reported that they can make more informed choices and decisions regarding their safety and the safety of their children.
- 92% of survivors reported that they have been connected with resources and providers to help them deal more effectively with the abuse they experienced.
- 92% of survivors reported feeling more empowered.

Contact name: Ruth Darlene

Contact role: Founder & Executive Director

Email: [Ruth@womensv.org](mailto:Ruth@womensv.org)

Phone: (650)996-2200

**Contribution Information**

Annual contribution amount requested: \$30,000

Length of contribution request? 2 years

Total contribution amount requested: \$60,000

Repeat request from a previous budget cycle? Yes

**Use of funds:**

Expense	Amount	Provide a detailed explanation of the use of requested funds	Explain how this expense will benefit the City?
Domestic Abuse Advocate & Trainer	\$60,000 (\$30,000/year over 2 years)	Partial salary of staff Covers partial salary of Advocate Trainer to prepare and deliver presentations on covert abuse and coercive control to survivors, a wide range of providers, and the general public. Presentations range from 30 minutes to 2 hours in length and are customized for providers (ex: law enforcement officers, court staff, therapists, physicians, attorneys,	WomenSV’s program trains providers in Los Altos to be more trauma-informed in their interactions with victims of domestic abuse, educates the public in recognizing and addressing covert abuse and coercive control, and supports victims in addressing these more subtle forms of abuse safely and effectively.

		teachers, corporate security) plus general audience and students from high school to college age.	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>		

**Agreement**

As the official representative for the above organization, I agree to comply with all requirements listed or otherwise enforced through the City of Los Altos Non-Profit and Civic Organization Contribution Policy. The City reserves the right to revoke this application at any time for any purpose. The organization shall provide all documents and organizational information as required by the City of Los Altos necessary to comply with Non-Profit and Civic Organization Contribution Policy application. The official representative certifies that the above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  Date: 4/19/24