



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

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.

Not all abuse is physical. A perpetrator can exert control by tracking his partner's whereabouts, isolating her from extended family members and friends, cutting off access to joint finances, threatening to take the children away from her and attacking or undermining her accomplishments and capabilities. While WomenSV addresses physical and sexual violence -- in fact about 40% of our survivors have experienced non-fatal strangulation -- our specific area of focus is coercive control, including emotional, financial, legal and technological abuse.

While most domestic violence agencies are well-equipped to address physical and sexual violence, they often lack resources to serve survivors impacted by these more subtle forms of abuse. WomenSV's focus on coercive control and covert abuse is filling a much-needed gap in services - and not only in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since receiving national exposure on the Megyn Kelly Today Show and Good Morning America in 2018, and most recently giving trainings to judicial officers statewide and to all three of Google's Global Security teams (Asia, Europe and the Americas), we have seen a steady increase in calls from around the country.

Our Survivor Support Program helps victims of domestic violence and coercive control find the means to address domestic abuse more safely and effectively and build healthier lives for themselves and their children. WomenSV offers lifelong support of survivors as opposed to short-term, crisis-only interventions that more traditional domestic violence agencies offer. We establish a lasting relationship with each survivor and maintain it for as long as she chooses.

Program services from our State-Certified Domestic Violence Advocates include a domestic abuse helpline, one-on-one intake sessions and in-depth follow-ups to do threat assessment and customized safety planning around all areas a survivor comes under attack. Our Advocates

determine which of our three different weekly support groups would be the best fit: 1) just beginning to understand coercive control, or 2) addressing the impact of coercive control as they navigate the court system and when there are children involved, or 3) moving forward, beginning to recover and rebuild a new life free from abuse. Our Advocates also provide ongoing safety planning, as well as connections to resources (e.g., certified divorce financial analysts, cybersecurity experts, private investigators, etc.).

Description of organizational impact on Los Altos community:

Last year (fiscal year 2021-22), WomenSV served a total of 210 women. Of those, 15 women (7% were from Los Altos or Los Altos Hills. A total of 56% of all women served were from Santa Clara County.

Family Code 6320 now includes coercive control as cause for a restraining order—a problem that WomenSV has been focused on for the past 12 years while serving over 1,400 survivors. Since we are unique in our focus on coercive control in mid-to-upper income areas, in this past year we have gained global recognition for expertise in this area. Housed locally, that puts Los Altos at the leading edge of addressing an issue that impacts women and children worldwide.

Highlights of WomenSV’s achievements last year include:

- Handled 164 inquiries from across the US from survivors seeking help
- Served 109 new survivors and 101 prior year survivors
- Conducted 535 individual interactions, providing 678 hours of support
- Hosted 51 Support Groups: 521 total attendees, 96 unique participants

WomenSV’s success is illustrated in the results from our second annual Client Survey, which was administered in November 2022:

- 89% of survivors surveyed reported they have learned to identify and feel better equipped to address more subtle forms of abuse such as emotional, financial, legal, and technological.
- 89% reported they have been connected with resources and providers to help them deal more effectively with the abuse they experienced.
- 86% reported they can make more informed choices and decisions regarding their safety and the safety of their children.
- 82% reported feeling more empowered

We anticipate similar results in 2022-23.

With more and more survivors reaching out to us, your support will enable us to better meet this need.

Contact name: Ruth Darlene

Contact role: Founder & Executive Director

Email: 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

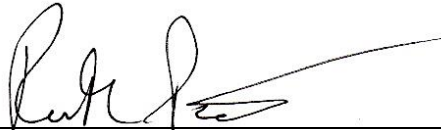
Use of funds:

Expense	Amount	Provide a detailed explanation of the use of requested funds	Explain how this expense will benefit the City?
Domestic Abuse Advocate	\$60,000 (\$30,000/year over 2 years)	Partial salary of staff person who provides survivor support services: intake interviews, follow-ups, survivor support group facilitation	Currently, our wait time for an individual intake session is 4 weeks. To meet the demand for our services, we must hire additional Advocates.
Total	\$60,000		

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: 12/27/22