



turning point

Summer 2009

FREEDOM FROM FEAR

“Undying Love... Deep Fear”

by robin king

CUIDADO! (Danger)

by libby campbell
& aida reyes

Messages like this are posted by domestic violence programs in Latin countries, and summarize the experience of the women who attend Sistercare’s Latina Battered Women’s Support Group. Spanish machismo refers to the belief in the superiority of males over females. Women have the responsibility of keeping the family together.

The Sistercare Latina Group held its first meeting in 2007. The women attending embrace their culture as they enter the group with warm “holas” and smiles. The women are glad to be together again to talk about their victimization in a room where their stories, and the Spanish they speak, are understood by all.

Like any other Sistercare counseling group for battered women, it is the commonalities that bind, the freedom to speak that unites. It becomes, for many women, the family that was left behind in their native countries.

If you know any Latina who is experiencing violence in her interpersonal relationship, please give her Sistercare’s crisis line number, 803.765.9428, to call. Let her know that she’s not alone, that others believe her and Sistercare can help!



“He slapped me on a regular basis,” she said. “He wasn’t trying to be mean, he really didn’t mean it and he was only trying to make me focus.” Young Woman A was trying to explain why she tolerated a regular slap from her boyfriend. It started out as a “love tap”. He said she was dumb, but beautiful, so that’s why he

kept her around. She believed she wasn’t smart and accepted that she had to work hard to please him. She just didn’t understand how things escalated so fast and got so bad.

Young Woman B thought it was cute that her boyfriend was interested in her cell phone conversations until he began restricting her from speaking with certain people because he didn’t like them or thought they were a bad influence on her. When she chatted with some of these friends anyway - and he found out—he snatched her phone and stomped it. As she reeled in shock, looked at him in horror, he delivered his first personal threat, “You better pick up every bit of that phone off the floor or I will make you suffer for it. And be quick!” After that he started showing up when she least expected it to confirm her whereabouts. She vacillated between undying love for him and deep fear.

Young Woman C came from a quiet, reserved family. She was brought up to respect herself and to know what her priorities should be as a teen—education and responsibility. She was shy and didn’t start dating until after her sweet sixteenth birthday. She got quite a surprise after a disagreement when her new boyfriend displaced her arm from her collarbone and snapped it back with the threat that she better not tell anyone or the punishment would be worse the next time. He had begun pressuring her to send him compromising pictures of herself from her cell phone. He wanted pictures of her all of the time because he never believed it when she was not able to reach her phone or respond to him.

All of these young women were between 13 and 18 years old. All of them thought they were getting special attention from a caring person. Young Woman A finally spoke to her big brother and her uncle when they saw her come home crying and sporting red bruises and a ring mark on her jaw. This time her boyfriend had slammed her head into the table they were working on when she did not answer him correctly. She could no longer hide her shame; after all, she believed it was her fault.

turning point

Sistercare publishes *Turning Point* three times a year and is a non-profit organization chartered under South Carolina laws to provide services to battered women and their children.

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WOMEN AFTER FIVE Annual Fundraiser Becomes a Tradition

by kathleen shaw

On May 12, 2009, over 350 people gathered at Columbia Conference Center for the 16th Annual Women After Five Sistercare benefit.

The Women After Five Annual Reception and Silent Auction provided a wonderful opportunity for Sistercare supporters to gather for a pleasant evening of fellowship and camaraderie, while showing their support for battered women and their children.

As has come to be expected, this year's event included a large and assorted selection of silent auction items on which to bid. We greatly appreciate the many generous silent auction donors.

Guest speaker, **Frank Crachiolo**, shared his experience in reference to domestic violence victims in the work place. This experience led Frank to become an active and vocal supporter of Sistercare for the past ten years.

Through sponsorships, silent auction sales and donations, more than **\$55,000** has been donated to Sistercare. Due to uncertain economic times, these funds are even more vital in ensuring Sistercare's mission of serving victims of domestic violence.

Sistercare is extremely grateful to Women After Five for their diligent planning, creative talent and hard work which makes this fundraiser such a successful and enjoyable evening.

Women After Five would like to extend their deepest appreciation and a most sincere thank you to the following sponsors whose financial support was instrumental to the success of the 2009 Women After Five Reception and Silent Auction.

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by robin king

Young Woman B ended up in the hospital with three broken ribs. He *knew* she was not being honest. It didn't matter what she said. Young Woman C could not bring herself to send her boyfriend pictures of a derogatory nature. He beat her on her legs as a result and made her promise to wear her jeans so no one would see the bruises.

How do we protect young people and inform them about acceptable and safe behavior and relationships? What do we tell young people about the distinctions between friendly disagreements and the cycle of power, control and violence? Most people are not raised being taught skills that protect them from slipping into a physically, verbally or emotionally abusive relationship.

We need faith groups, schools, human service organizations, the medical community and parents to be informed about dating violence, know the signs of interpersonal violence, and be ready to respond so that relationship abuse can be addressed before someone is seriously hurt. We need to listen carefully to hear, understand and interpret the thinking of youth who minimize and justify threatening and controlling behavior in relationships. Adolescents and young adults can benefit from counseling, support and information which increase healthy decision-making and lifestyles.

Most of all, teens need to have safe outlets to ask questions about relationships and dating. Teens need to be able to sound out their queries and thoughts without consequences and judgment. They should not have to be subservient or controlled to get along with each other. They should not repeat poor choices they may have witnessed at home because they have no other reference. Our efforts to address interpersonal abuse will lead to healthier communities and a positive future for SC, and gradually end the intergenerational cycle of domestic violence.

Sistercare Receives \$8,000 Grant from BI-LO Charities

by kathleen shaw

Sistercare received \$8,000 from BI-LO Charities to support its children's counseling program. The funds were raised and donated through BI-LO's 2008 Charity Classic Golf Tournament.

The funds will be used for the children's post-shelter counseling program. The program builds on the relationship that children establish with Sistercare's children's counselors during their stay in the shelter and allows children to continue to make progress in counseling after leaving shelter.

Special thanks to BI-LO for its long-term commitment and loyal support to Sistercare's services in the community.

Sistercare is proud of its partnership with BI-LO and grateful for the generous support BI-LO has shown Sistercare over the past twelve years.



From left: Sam Blaiss, BI-LO Regional Vice President; Kathy Shaw, Sistercare; Tony Williams, BI-LO District Manager.

Sistercare Makes Donating Easier Than Ever!

by kathleen shaw

Sistercare's Automatic Monthly Giving Program has been developed to make monthly support to Sistercare simple and convenient.

This program allows a donor to make a monthly donation to Sistercare in any amount from their funds which are automatically withdrawn from a personal checking account.

For more information on how to enroll, visit Sistercare's web site, www.sistercare.com and click on "Give/Donate" on the side menu, or e-mail or call Kathy Shaw, Development Director, at kagshaw@bellsouth.net or (803) 926.0505.

Shop and Earn \$\$ for Sistercare

by kathleen shaw



BI-LO grocery stores offer a simple way to donate to Sistercare.

Every time you shop at BI-LO and use your BONUSCARD, BI-LO will support Sistercare by donating 1% of your total purchase.

Your BONUSCARD must be enrolled in the boostersplus program. To do so, you simply need an enrollment form. You may obtain an enrollment form at Sistercare by calling (803) 926-0505 or from Kathleen Shaw, Development Director, at (803) 781-9073.

Simply take the enrollment form with you the next time you shop at BI-LO. The cashier must scan it along with your BONUSCARD and that's it! You're enrolled for the year and supporting Sistercare with 1% of your purchase! (Supporters must re-enroll each year.)

Yes!

I will help prevent domestic violence.

Pledge Amount : _____

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Donations can be made through PayPal.
Visit www.sistercare.com.

My tax-deductible contribution is enclosed.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
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WOMEN AFTER FIVE

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Memorials and Honorariums

Anonymous in honor of my sister, a survivor
John M. Cox, in memory of Rose Marie G. Cox



From left: Women After Five—Terry Henshaw, Linda Leeke, Dianne Lemacks, Melody Mikell, Carla Cox Brophy, Debbie Thomas, Ann Henry, Claudia Maloney, and Nancy Barton, Sistercare Executive Director .

Please mark your calendar for **Women After Five's 2010 Reception and Silent Auction** to be held at Columbia Conference Center, **Tuesday, May 11, 2010.**

SISTERCARE IS ALWAYS IN GREAT NEED OF CELL PHONES AND USED, WORKING VEHICLES . PLEASE HELP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS BECOME INDEPENDENT AND SAFE. TO DONATE, PLEASE CALL 926.0505 OR VIEW www.sistercare.com.



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