



**SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER
CENTRO CONTRA LA VIOLACION SEXUAL**

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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GONZALES RULING A “SERIOUS BLOW” TO VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE WHO NEED POLICE PROTECTION

By a margin of seven to two, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Monday, June 27th, that Jessica Gonzales cannot sue the Castle Rock police department for failing to enforce a restraining order against her violent ex-husband. At issue in *Town of Castle Rock, Colorado v. Jessica Gonzales* was whether victims of domestic violence have the right to sue if their local governments fail to protect them and their children from batterers. “This ruling is a serious blow to victims of domestic violence who count on local police to protect them and their children,” said Family Violence Prevention Fund President Esta Soler. “By refusing to hold local governments accountable for damages when they fail to enforce restraining orders, the Court is allowing gross negligence to go completely unpunished. This is a terribly damaging ruling that may result in more family violence victims living in terror, and more domestic violence injuries and deaths. Restraining orders aren't worth the paper they are written on when police do not enforce them. Jessica Gonzales did everything right. She divorced her violent ex-husband. She recognized the threat and sought help from courts and police. When her children were in danger, she begged for help, even going to the police station to plead her case. But the police let her down and her three daughters died as a result. This is a sad day and a giant step backward for a nation that had been making progress in stopping domestic violence and helping victims.”

Facts of the Case

The case centered on a brutal crime. Jessica Gonzales sought and received a protective order in May of 1999 requiring her estranged, violent ex-husband to stay away from her and their three daughters. Police failed to enforce the order, and her husband kidnapped the three girls from their yard in June of 1999. Gonzales reported her daughters missing, pleading with local police over the course of eight hours for help - to no avail. She eventually reached her ex-husband on his cell phone, and he told her he was with the girls at a nearby amusement park. She called police to pass on the information and ask for help. She alleges they took no action, even after she called four times and went to the police station personally to seek assistance. Simon Gonzales came to the police station some ten hours after the kidnapping, in the middle of the night. He opened fire with a handgun he had purchased that day. Police killed him and later found the three girls' bodies in his pick-up truck; Simon had killed them while they slept. The Denver-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit ruled six to five that Jessica Gonzales could sue Castle Rock for failing to enforce the restraining order because police failed to follow proper procedures and heed her repeated calls for help. But the town appealed, and the Bush Administration joined the case on behalf of the City, arguing to maintain the longstanding policy that individuals cannot go to court to invoke a right to law enforcement. On June 27th, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed.

“In ruling that there will be no financial consequences for the police failure, the Court today removed one critical incentive for police departments and local governments to enforce restraining orders,” Soler added. “This ruling sends a dangerous message. Nobody wants to see police departments subjected to a crush of lawsuits that second guess every law enforcement decision. But there should be consequences to prevent a department from flatly refusing or negligently failing to enforce restraining orders.” The ruling is available at <http://www.supremecourt.us.gov>

WASHINGTON, JUNE 23RD, 2005: A BIPARTISAN BID TO HEAD OFF PRESIDENT BUSH'S RAID OF THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND WON SUPPORT OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The panel, which handles the Senate's work in writing the annual budget bills for the Justice Department and several other agencies, approved language championed by Leahy and Crapo rejecting the Bush Administration's proposal to zero out the Fund at the end of fiscal year 2006, which would have rescinded more than \$1 billion. The fund is used for local services that help more than 4 million victims annually. Leahy has led efforts to reverse the Administration's move to zero-out the trust fund. He successfully offered an amendment to the Senate version of the budget resolution, and Crapo joined Leahy in taking the issue next into the appropriations process.

"The Crime Victims Fund is a not slush fund for the White House to drain to offset its reckless fiscal policies," said Leahy. "After squandering record surpluses to rack up record debt through irresponsible tax and spending policies, the White House's answer is to siphon off resources for critical victim services. Restoring these funds is the right thing to do for crime victims everywhere. In every state and every community across our country, this fund plays an essential role in helping crime victims and their families. It's wrong to victimize these people again by raiding the fund that is the main source of helping their recovery from these crimes." The fund helps victims meet crucial expenses and recover from the crimes they endured so they can move forward with their lives, Leahy said. Those helped by the fund include victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse and drunk driving, as well as survivors of homicide victims. The fund does not rely on tax revenues but instead is supported from federal criminal fines, penalties, bonds and from private donations.

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER: BARBARA JOHNSTON

It is a great honor for us to acknowledge Barbara Johnston for her valuable work as a Santa Barbara Rape Crisis Center volunteer. Barb has volunteered for SBRCC as both a rape crisis advocate and as a long-term counselor.

Barb is originally from Kansas, and has fond memories of living on farms and out in the country, enjoying the beauty and wonder of the great outdoors. Beginning in 1997, Barb commuted from Kansas to Santa Barbara to complete coursework at Pacifica Graduate Institute. After one year, she moved to Santa Barbara to begin her second year of graduate school. Demonstrating tremendous commitment, Barb completed her Masters and Doctorate degrees in Mythological Studies, with emphasis in Depth Psychology. With two degrees under her belt, Barb continued her education at Pacifica in order to complete a second Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology. After almost twelve years of school, Barb is nearing the finish line: she just took her oral exams, she is gearing up to finish the summer quarter of classes, and will then write her final masters thesis.

Barb said that her connection to this work and to this movement began about 15 years ago. In the early 1990s, Barb began to have dreams – archetypal dreams – about her childhood experiences as an incest survivor. The dreams focused on the feminine world and more specifically, the feminine divine. The dreams were inspiring and opened her to a whole new world, through which she rediscovered her own femininity. This awareness became absolutely critical in her personal healing process. During this time, she discovered the feminist movement, which shaped her educational career and her personal commitment to empowering women to heal from the traumas they have experienced.

Being a volunteer at SBRCC has deepened Barb’s connection with the feminine. She states: “Working with this incredible group of women dedicated to helping sexual assault survivors has enriched my life in so many ways. It has brought me a lot of meaning and direction.” Barb is motivated to continue this work every time she sits with clients and has the privilege to see their tiny victories and witness their moments of healing. “It is such a responsibility to hold another person’s trauma. But, it is an honor to witness my clients’ progress.” Barb credits much of her development as a counselor to Counseling Supervisor, Marilyn Goldman. Barb says, “Marilyn is an absolute jewel. She has real dedication to helping survivors and to making true cultural change. Marilyn’s supervision has been excellent. My confidence has strengthened and I have grown so much due to her guidance.”

When asked what one societal or cultural change she would like to see happen in her lifetime, she said that we need to work together to create a more egalitarian culture where the expanding and goal-directed masculine energy is in equilibrium with the containing and relational feminine energy. She believes that her efforts will help to create a culture where people are aware of the need for both energies and where we are able to embrace masculinity, separate from patriarchy. Her vision for SBRCC is that we continue to recruit more advocates and long-term counselors who can provide individual and group counseling. And more importantly, she hopes that we will find a new facility with the space and resources we need to do the incredible work we do.

Barb is a proud mother and grandmother. Her son Jeff and daughter-in-law Jill live in Tulsa, OK with their 11-year-old son Ben. 21-year-old grandson Coady is in the Navy and is currently stationed on an island near Saudi Arabia. Although they are far away, her family is always near to Barb’s heart. In her spare time, Barb likes to connect with nature by getting to the sea and spending time on the beach. She also enjoys bird-watching and flower gardening whenever she can create the time.

Barb feels honored to be selected as the “Volunteer of the Quarter.” However, in reality, it is SBRCC that is honored to have **Barb** as a critical part of our team. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication. We are so lucky to have you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT ADVOCATE MEETING: MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 6PM – 8PM

The Program Coordinator from Transition House will be presenting about their services and their new improvements. Please come....and enjoy some cookies too!

SPEAKER'S BUREAU TRAINING SCHEDULING MEETING ON AUGUST 8TH, 5:30PM

Here's your chance to overcome your fear of public speaking and help dismantle rape culture at the same time! If you're interested in becoming a member of SBRCC's Speaker's Bureau, please come to a Scheduling Meeting before the Advocate Meeting on Monday, August 8th, at 5:30pm. Bring your calendar so that we can try to schedule training in a way that works for everyone interested! Speaker's Bureau Training is open to all certified Rape Crisis Advocates. After the 12 hour training, you will be ready to give presentations about Sexual Assault Awareness and Rape Prevention to middle and high schools, colleges and universities, parenting cooperatives, faith-based organizations, and other community groups. If you would like more information about Speaker's Bureau training, please contact Alena at alena@sbrcc.net or 963-6832 ext. 29.

ARE YOU SBRCC'S NEXT LIBRARIAN?

SBRCC is looking for a volunteer to help organize the library of books and other resources related to ending sexual violence. If you have a few hours a week to volunteer during August and September and support SBRCC by helping with the library, please contact Alena at 963-6832 ext. 29 or alena@sbrcc.net.

SBRCC NEEDS MORE ADVOCATES – HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

- The next **Spanish Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **August 2, 2005 – September 20, 2005**. Classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Maria by email at maria@sbrcc.net or by phone at 963-6832, x. 27.
- The next **English Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **October 3, 2005 – November 30, 2005**. Classes will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Heather by email at heather@sbrcc.net or by phone at 963-6832, x. 28.

CALL REPORT FORM REMINDER

Advocates must complete and return Call Report Forms to SBRCC *within 48 hours* after the contact date with the client. In addition, follow-up should be provided within 72 hours after initial contact.

SAVE THE DATE: THE GREAT AMERICAN WRITE-IN

Saturday, August 27th; Time: 2-4pm

Center Stage Theater: 751 Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara, 93101

The Pro-Choice Coalition invites you to celebrate Women's Equality Day by standing up for reproductive freedom. Come to the Great American Writer to help us send thousands of letters to our leaders on issues critical to women's reproductive health.

JOIN SBRCC'S TEAM FOR THE 15TH ANNUAL HEART & SOLE AIDS WALK/RUN '05!
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005 AT LEADBETTER BEACH, SANTA BARBARA

Be a part of SBRCC's team of volunteers and staff at the Annual Heart and Sole AIDS Walk on Saturday, October 1, 2005. The walk is a benefit for Pacific Pride Foundation's (PPF) HIV/AIDS programs and services. SBRCC will walk to show our support for PPF and the members of our community affected by HIV/AIDS. Together, we have a goal to raise \$500 for PPF's crucial community services. The Walk route is 10-kilometers (6.2 miles) and leads walkers along the beach on Cabrillo Boulevard. The Walk ends with a beachside celebration with complimentary snacks, live music, free massages, and an awards ceremony. For more information about the Walk, see www.aidswalksb.com. To join the SBRCC team, contact Alena at 963-6832 ext. 29 or alena@sbrcc.net.

*Congratulations to Paula H. for completing her in-service training hours
for the 2004-2005 grant year!*



Happy Birthday to:



- Maribel L. on August 10th
- Teresa A. on August 11th
- Laura E. on August 15th
- Suzy S. on August 25th

**And, Happy BELATED Birthday to:
Lili F. on June 19th!**