



Lives Free From Violence and Abuse

Quarterly Newsletter ~ Spring 2018

The #MeToo Movement

IN 1996 WHILE WORKING AS A YOUTH CAMP DIRECTOR, Tarana Burke was asked by a young camper to speak to her privately. The young girl struggled to tell Burke about “all sorts of monstrous things” her stepfather was doing to her body. Burke, listening and feeling horrified could not take the horror of this little girl’s words anymore. She cut off the camper mid-sentence and directed her to a counselor who could “help her better.”

As Burke watched this young survivor walk away feeling rejected and likely wishing she hadn’t opened up to her about her painful experience, she thought about how ashamed she felt that she couldn’t listen to this little girl and whisper to her, “me too.”

From that moment on Burke vowed that girls and women deserved better than the shame that is carried as an oppressive, and at times suffocating, weight. When people have the courage to come forward they are met with, “I see you, I hear you, I understand you; and I’m here for you or I get it,” rather than a blank stare, cold shoulder, or worse, cut off mid-sentence.

Fast forward to 2017 and Alyssa Milano’s tweet urging survivors of sexual harassment or assault to reply with #MeToo on their social media. The flood gates opened and Burke’s #MeToo movement which began over ten years ago went viral. Milano has since

credited Burke with creating the massive movement and Burke has said, “I’ve seen it happen over and over again in small waves, but to see it happen en masse has been pretty amazing.” The #MeToo movement shows us that though changing cultural

attitudes and behaviors is not easy, in the age of widespread

access to information it can be done. Through social media the #MeToo movement has brought increased awareness to the prevalence of sexual harassment and sexual violence that women face regularly, though these issues also greatly affect men, children, and transgendered/non-binary individuals as well. For those at Monarch Services

this movement has done more than create increased awareness about sexual violence, it has created a global conversation around the idea that has driven the work at Monarch for decades; That survivors of sexual violence should not feel shame for what they endured, and that the violence is not their fault. In many ways the #MeToo movement allows us to connect the work we do here in Santa Cruz county to what’s happening in American society at large. <https://metoomvmt.org>



“When you experience trauma and meet other people that have a similar experience, and you show empathy for each other, it creates a bond.”
~ Tarana Burke

According to Facebook, in the initial 24 hours after Milano’s tweet, 4.7 million people worldwide and over 45% of people in the U.S. engaged in the #MeToo conversation.

Below are some of Monarch’s staff responses to what #MeToo has meant to them.

The #MeToo campaign is an opportunity for people to express their experiences and be acknowledged as survivors of sexual assault and/or harassment; to know they’re not alone; to build a support network where hopefully easy-access resources are available to all of them where they can continue healing.
~ Karen

The #MeToo campaign has opened up the platform for all of those survivors that have been impacted by sexual assault to connect with one another and speak up.
~ Alma

#MeToo means that my voice needs to be heard and that we can’t stay quiet anymore.
~ Angelica

I am a survivor who has experienced sexual assault in the fields.
~ HOPE

No person deserves to live in darkness or to be silenced and all survivors deserve to be heard.
~ Maria Barranco

This is a unique opportunity for positive change to occur right now on a large scale level—a direct invitation to speak, advocate, rally and construct new narratives, norms, experiences and stories.

~Aimee

The primary word that comes to mind when I think of the #MeToo movement is finally. Finally, we are rejecting the shame and stigma forced on survivors of assault. Finally, we aren’t just discussing how women can avoid being assaulted we are discussing how to prevent the assaults in the first place.

~ Sydney

#MeToo means that I will teach my daughters the power of love, acceptance, respect and the power of their voice.

~ Bri

I can say, “me too” because I will join this movement in advocating for women to prosecute, to recover from the trauma, and to advocate for respect.

~ Sintia Solis

#MeToo is a pivot. It is a collective shift in what we have looked past and therefore condoned; what girls have giggled away uncomfortably in school hallways; what women have tolerated to keep jobs at great expense to their personal well-being. It gives me hope that my daughters and little girls everywhere have a chance to grow up in an environment in which they are celebrated for their passions, their talents and are able to achieve their dreams without having to experience harassment, discrimination and emotional and physical assault as a normal part of their path.

~ Kalyne Foster Renda



me too.

Advocacy

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

February was Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, a national effort to raise awareness about abuse in teen relationships and promote programs that prevent it. Dating violence is more prevalent among young people. One in three teens in the U.S. will experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by someone they are in a relationship with before they become adults. Monarch Services held several chalking events at local schools to create awareness around teen dating violence and to foster open conversations with students.



▲ Monarch Staff at EA Hall Middle School at an awareness chalking event.



Pajaro Valley Trailblazer Awards!

Congratulations to staff Member Maria Campos for receiving the Trailblazer Award for her 20 years of advocacy helping survivors who have fled their homes to safety.



◀ Far left: Maria receiving her Trailblazer Award from the County's Women's Commission
Right: Commissioners, Maria Barranco, Ari Parker and Laura Cross with awardees, Maria Campos and Gina Gallino Cole

#StandWithUs

Thank you to all who attended our #StandWithUs Annual Fundraiser at the beautiful Chaminade on March 1st!

The Fundraiser was attended by over 150 supporters and featured a buffet dinner, raffle and a live auction. The event raised over \$44,000 to support our direct service programs. The event's theme was #StandWithUs, an evening of celebration and action to stand together as a community and commit to working towards lives free from violence and abuse. The event also supported the #metoo and #timesup movements for equity and parity across all industries, safety among every worker in every occupation and inclusion of all women and marginalized people.

The evening was wonderful and a complete success!



▲ Executive Director, Laura Segura (R), and longtime Monarch friend and supporter, Leola Lapidés.



▲ Guests Esmeralda and Jorge Torres



▲ Monarch friends and sponsors from Bay Federal Credit Union



▶ Maria, Nancy and Briana greeting guests as they arrived!





Formerly
Women's Crisis Support
~Defensa de Mujeres
233 East Lake Avenue
Watsonville, CA 95076

Non Profit
Organization
U.S.Postage
PAID
Permit #12
Watsonville, CA



Monarch Services is proud to be a green certified business!



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Office Hours: Mondays–Fridays, 9–5
Evening Hours Available.
722-4532 or 425-4030

Services for all survivors of domestic violence,
sexual assault, and human trafficking:

- 24-Hour crisis line and emergency response
- Emergency Shelter
- Legal assistance
- Individual counseling
- Services for children and teens
- Domestic Violence and sexual assault support groups
- Community education and outreach

*All services are available
in English and Spanish
and are free or low-cost.*

Santa Cruz Office
1509 Seabright Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Ongoing Support Groups

Watsonville: Tuesday 6 – 7:30 PM

Santa Cruz: Wednesday 6 – 8 PM

*(Childcare is provided. Please call to
confirm if you are in need of childcare.)*

Grupos De Apoyo

Watsonville: Martes 6 – 7:30 PM

Santa Cruz: Miércoles 6 – 8 PM

*(Se proporciona cuidado de niños.
Favor de llamar para confirmar si
usted necesita cuidado de niños)*

**24-Hour Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault Crisis Line**
**Línea de Crisis de Violencia
Doméstica y Asalto Sexual las 24 horas**

1-888-900-4232

Website/sitio: monarchscc.org

Horas de Oficina: Lunes–Viernes, 9–5
Horas por la tarde disponible.
722-4532 o 425-4030

Servicios para todos los sobrevivientes de asalto sexual,
violencia doméstica, y tráfico humano:

- Línea de crisis y respuesta de emergencia las 24 horas
- Refugio de emergencia
- Asistencia legal
- Consejería individual
- Servicios para jóvenes y niños
- Grupos de apoyo para sobrevivientes de violencia
doméstica y asalto sexual
- Educación y alcance comunitario

*Todos los servicios
son disponibles en español
e inglés, y son gratis ó a bajo costo.*

Watsonville Office
233 East Lake Avenue
Watsonville, CA 95076