

Dear Friends,

Register here for Be Brave Speak Up 2014!

you are invited

to join Family Violence Law Center for a spectacular evening of
Designer Cocktails • Dancing • Food • Live music by Pride & Joy Band



BENEFIT PARTY

Friday, Sept. 12, 2014 @ 7pm

Get your tickets today at www.fvlc.org/shoutbebrave
Please contact us for more info: 510.209.0220 or info@fvlc.org

BE BRAVE SPEAK UP is FVLC's campaign to empower the voices speaking up against domestic violence in our community.



WHERE: Impact Hub Oakland
2323 Broadway, Oakland, CA

WHY?

Your support enables us to provide free legal and 24 hour crisis intervention services to domestic violence survivors and their children, and to educate our youth about teen dating violence prevention.



Individual Event Major Supporters

Jane Kaplan & Don Bonato
Erin Scott & Ben Mapp
Gael Haynes
Anonymous
Cheri Allison & Richard Allison
Wanda Deunika in memory of "Aldia Rosa"

BE BRAVE SPEAK UP 2014
is the event of the season.
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Alameda County Family Law Association

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What's New About FVLC's Youth Program

This new iteration of the youth program draws heavily on the work of Oakland-based community education teacher, particularly **Making the Peace**, by James Creighton and Paul Kivel. The youth program is very grateful for the ongoing

A note from our Executive Director



Since I became FVLC's Executive Director I've been thinking a lot about the impact of the work we do. Some impacts are easy to describe and quantify. We can tell you how many court orders we get and the difference those orders can make. We know, for example, that restraining orders, which can include orders settling issues of custody, visitation, property control, and who lives in the home, can stabilize volatile situations. We can tell you how many times we helped someone relocate from an abusive situation in the middle of the night and then worked with her the next day to help her decide what to do next. We can tell you how many classes we've taught to middle school students about healthy relationships.

What's harder to quantify is the deeper impact our work is having. In other words, how do we talk about the real difference we are making in the world? To find an answer, we did a series of exercises that began with the question, "What's different if we do our work well?" We set aside worrying about

what we could prove and just tried to describe what we knew in our gut.

What moved me most were the responses that described the space we create for domestic violence survivors. Responses like:

"When I represent someone in a restraining order matter, she feels supported and confident."

"When I respond to a crisis call, the caller is better able to feel secure that there is help and able to calm down and focus on her immediate needs."

"When I provide emergency relocation, it gives the client a chance to think about next steps."

"When I advocate with law enforcement for a client, it helps her feel more in control of the situation, which is empowering."

These intangible impacts, which we will never be able to measure to our satisfaction, are the real reason that we do this work. When a middle school student thanks us for giving them questions they can ask to support a friend in an abusive relationship or a client relaxes because she's no longer terrified of the court process, we have done our job. This is the real fight for justice - the fight to give people information and the space they need to realize their full potential. And that is the difference FVLC is making in the world.

I'm humbled and honored to have the opportunity to lead FVLC. Please join me on September 12th to celebrate our work by attending our annual [benefit party](#), which will mark the launch of our Be Brave Speak Up 2014 campaign.

Erin Scott, Esq.

Peer Educators Graduate as Youth Program Grows



FVLC's Youth Program recently graduated its first cohort of peer educators under its new model that incorporates anti-oppression education into conversations about healthy relationships for young people. Youth Program Manager Mauro Sifuentes and Youth Organizer Ali Meyers-Ohki spent fourteen weeks working with seven youth leaders from Oakland communities to strengthen their peer educator and group facilitation skills.

Youth leaders were encouraged to engage with the issues that affect their ability to be in healthy relationships; they discussed how structural issues of racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia work to keep people isolated and to keep movements for justice separated. They learned about how these larger social "-isms" make it difficult for young people to learn how to treat one another well, especially in intimate relationships. This diverse group of young people came together to learn how to support one another and their communities as they decided to try on new ways of thinking and approaching conversations about social oppression.

The courage, humility, candor, laughter, and commitment these young people brought to the program made it an unforgettable experience for youth participants and program staff. Participants developed their own toolkit after deciding which information they thought was most important for other young folks to know about. They worked hard to develop their facilitation skills and are ready to take their message out to their communities. Participants had this to say about the program:

- "I've learned a lot about myself personally."
- "Coming to this youth program actually makes it easier [to talk about relationship violence]."

On what they learned from the curriculum:

- "Why aren't we having these conversations in school? I think **everyone should be having these conversations.**"

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On what they learned apart from the curriculum:

- "I learned not to judge people so much."

On the facilitators:

- "You don't sugar-coat anything....I feel like **you guys respect us and don't judge.**"

These young leaders have wasted no time when it comes to sharing what they have learned; participants are sharing their knowledge with other young people at **Youth UpRising** already and others are taking the toolkit into community spaces where they can engage with other youth. They will be encouraged to return to support new cohorts of youth leaders this fall, as the Youth Program is going to be welcoming two new cohorts and bringing on a new Youth Organizer to help the continued growth of the program!



New Board Members!

In July FVLC added three new members to its Board of Directors. **Mona Khalil** is a Project Manager at Duarte Inc. who has a certificate in non-profit management and just completed CompassPoint's Multicultural Board Leadership Academy. **Kathryn Baer** is the Co-Founder of the Trafficking Research Project and has an MSc in Social Planning and Policy. **David Wallach** is an Associate Attorney with Jones Day focusing on complex international disputes.

We are looking forward to having Mona, Kathryn, and David's expertise on our board as we enter FVLC's 37th year.

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