

# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA



*Commission  
for Women*

## **2009 Service Award Recipients**

### **1<sup>st</sup> District**

#### **Transition House**

*For 25 years, Transition House has provided food, shelter and services to Santa Barbara's families who have lost their housing. Transition House was started by volunteers in the community who took personal responsibility for their neighbors need. 1,200 volunteers account for 25% of agency resources. Transition House has adopted a philosophy to explain the underlying causes of family homelessness. Using that philosophy as a basis, a strategy has evolved to solve homelessness for capable and motivated families and to end their reliance on public assistance. The philosophy is that the root cause of family homelessness is poverty. There may be other contributing factors, but underlying it all is poverty. To solve family homelessness and welfare dependence, Transition House helps families find ways to alleviate their poverty. Staff and volunteers work with them to discover, or sometimes create, realistic avenues to meet the goal of safe and affordable housing, a good and meaningful job that pays a decent living wage and access to high quality childcare that is within the family's means. While working toward these goals, Transition House provides family centered support through strong case management and supportive services.*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> District**

#### **The Glendon Association**

*For over 25 years, the Glendon Association has been dedicated to saving lives by addressing the social problems of suicide, violence, and troubled interpersonal relationships. They accomplish this through research, education, training of mental health professionals, and community outreach. They have sponsored the Suicide and Violence Prevention Forum, free to the general public, for 14 years in Santa Barbara and 10 years in Santa Maria. They also provide free materials to schools and other public agencies in the community, addressing topics ranging from understanding and preventing suicide and violence, to tips for healthy parenting. Glendon staff present workshops and trainings about these issues to professionals around the world. The Glendon Association is committed to preventing tragedies and has published assessment instruments that predict violent and suicidal behavior, enabling individuals to get help before lives are lost. Glendon is also a founding member agency of the Cold Spring Bridge Barrier Project Committee. Glendon's Director of Research & Education, Dr. Lisa Firestone, is an internationally-recognized expert on suicide and provides consulting to Cal-Trans, SBCAG and other government agencies as the bridge barrier project progresses.*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> District Recipient**

#### **People Helping People of Santa Ynez Valley**

*People Helping People is dedicated to improving the lives of men, women and children in the Santa Ynez Valley, Los Alamos and Gaviota Coast. They have a vision that all men, women and children in our community have the opportunity to attain self-sufficiency with dignity and are able to fulfill their potential. People Helping People was founded in 1992 by several government officials who saw the need for a local non profit to supply emergency and short-term social services. They offer various programs that provide a safety net for people and help them achieve independence: The Domestic and Child Abuse Prevention Program offers 24 hour, 7 days per week intervention, education, advocacy and support services. Their goal is to break the cycle of violence and child abuse by supporting individuals and families that are at risk or are involved in family violence. Their Parenting Education Workshops are offered in English and Spanish and they also offer family literacy classes to the families served. Besides providing direct services, their program, Under 1 Roof, makes available the services of other non profits and public agencies as they offer low cost space to these agencies at their premises.*

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## **2009 Service Award Recipients**

### **4<sup>th</sup> District**

#### **North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center**

*The mission of the North County Rape and Child Protection Center is to reduce the incidence of and vulnerability to sexual assault and child abuse by providing education and prevention skills to community children and adults. They provide children and adults with instruction on rape and child abuse awareness, self-defense, personal safety and prevention skills in order to decrease their vulnerability to assault and abuse. The program provides school based ChildSAFE (Safety and Awareness for Everyone) programs, which consist of 2-3 day workshops. Workshops are also provided to parents and teachers to instruct them on child abuse prevention and recognition. Classes deal with issues such as Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Elder Abuse. Community based programs include self defense workshops and volunteer training/public awareness programs. They reach approximately 12,000 children and adults each year with their education and prevention programs. Program services are available in both English and Spanish and are provided throughout Northern Santa Barbara County including Lompoc, Guadalupe and Santa Ynez Valley.*

### **5th District**

#### **Good Samaritan Services, Inc.**

*Good Samaritan Services, Inc. was first started as a temporary evening shelter in various area churches for the homeless in our community. Under the guidance of the North County Project Group, Good Samaritan Services was established in 1987. Their Emergency Shelter operates an 86 bed, 90 day facility in Santa Maria and provides shelter for men, women and children. The services provided at the shelter include: evening hot meals, case management, after school tutoring for children, showers and laundry rooms and public and private services referral. The Family Transitional Shelter was developed in response to the growing need for a program to assist families who are in limbo due to socio-economic hardships. A case manager assists families to develop a goal-oriented program that allows them to attain skills in money management, parenting and budgeting. Education is stressed and, with the assistance from the case manager, many are helped in stabilizing their lives and moving toward a productive life.*