SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN AGAINST RAPE
Newsletter & Annual Report 2012-2013

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Letter to the Community ............ 3
New Staff ......................... 4
SFWAR's 40th Anniversary .... 5-7
2012-2013 Annual Report ....... 8-10
Thank You Supporters ............ 11-13
Calendar of Events ............... 16

3543 18th Street #7, San Francisco, CA 94110, phone: (415) 861-2024 www.sfwar.org
San Francisco Women Against Rape
3543 18th Street #7
San Francisco, CA 94110
Tel. (415) 861-2024
Fax (415) 861-2092
24-hour crisis line (415) 647-7273 (RAPE)
(collect calls accepted)
www.sfwar.org

BOARD
Alma Alfie
Nicole Blake
Laurene Francois
Nadia Khastagir
Heidi Li
Tanya Reyes

STAFF
Zully Batres
Case Manager

Layel Camargo
Volunteers & Hotline Associate

Kristie Chan
Office Manager

Evelyn García
Director of Volunteers & Hotline

Alicia Maldonado
Community Educator

Bhavana Manchanda
Director of Development

Melanie Pace
Development Associate

Sandra Sandoval
Director of Community Initiatives

Tabitha Sisson
Director of Counseling

Janelle White
Executive Director

Rape Crisis Counselor Training Graduates (April 2013). Photo by Sandra Ramirez.

Rupa and the April Fishes performing at Walk Against Rape (April 2013). Photo by Sandra Ramirez.

Front Cover: Both photos were taken at the 40th Anniversary event.
Top: Kitchen Table Discussants Andrea Smith, Loretta Ross, and Patty Berne.
Bottom: Maria Jiménez (center) and Maria Hernandez (center background) on stage accepting the Community in Solidarity Award with Director of Volunteers & Hotline Evelyn Garcia (left) and other member of Mujeres Unidas y Activas (right).
(October, 2013). Photos by Alina Muñoz.

Design and Layout by Kristie Chan.
Remembering our Past and Visioning the Future
A Letter from the Executive Director

San Francisco Women Against Rape (SWAR) marked its 40th anniversary on October 24, 2013 with Beyond Resistance Toward Liberation, a celebratory night of remembering our past and visioning the future. A monumental achievement, like sustaining for 40 years, tends to spur significant reflection about where you've been and where you are going. This has definitely been true for us at SWAR.

Our History Defines our Present
Created in 1973 as a survivor-led feminist collective, SWAR remains grounded in many of its original guiding principles. We continue to believe strongly in the resilience of sexual assault survivors and supporting them in exercising their agency. We also believe just as strongly in working to end rape. It's our goal to be able to one day close our doors, because rape is no more. We understand sexual assault to be a weapon of oppression used to subordinate marginalized communities.

Therefore, it becomes our task to challenge abuses of power based on gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, ability, and other characteristics. SWAR has also dedicated itself to women of color leadership, recognizing the critical importance of challenging historical legacies of racial inequality within the anti-rape and women's movements. These first commitments continue to fundamentally shape our work today.

Where is SWAR Heading?
Considering the current social, political, and economic context is vital in order to map our future direction. We are facing a number of troubling circumstances. For example, a recently passed Ohio state law prohibits rape crisis counselors from telling a woman who becomes pregnant through rape that she can legally terminate her pregnancy.1 Sharing a full range of options with survivors of violence, so they are able to make informed decisions, has long been embraced by rape crisis advocates as an ethical practice. The new Ohio law impedes this. With respect to our local context, changing population demographics raise serious concerns. As affordable housing becomes less accessible in San Francisco City and County, we recognize that poor women and girls become even more vulnerable to sexual violence.2

Perhaps now more than ever we must focus on and enhance our work with communities who are the most vulnerable to sexual violence. This includes young women; women with physical, mental, and development disabilities; immigrant women, particularly those who are limited English proficient; lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women of color; incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women; and, as previously noted, women who are marginally housed or homeless.

Also, we must not shy away from speaking out against reproductive oppression.3 It is undeniably clear that attacks on women's reproductive rights adversely impact sexual assault survivors. SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective maintains that every woman should have the right to have a child or not to have a child and to parent children in an environment that is healthy. The right to make reproductive decisions is analogous to the sovereignty over one's body the anti-rape movement so fiercely advocates. Our success is not only predicated on linking the struggle to end rape with the reproductive justice movement, but also with other progressive social movements for immigrant rights, housing justice, prison abolition, and disability rights.

Our Future is Entwined with You, Our Community
SWAR has touched the lives of countless individuals and communities over the past 40 years and in turn has been shaped by these same individuals and communities. This impact is considerable and it has been transformative for so many of us who are survivors and/or dedicated to justice and peace.

SWAR thanks all of you who have sustained us over these four decades. We hope you will continue to support and stand with SWAR during the next four decades (or as long as it takes) to bring about our shared vision of a world without rape and violence.

Yours in community,
Janelle L. White, Ph.D.

2. The link between homelessness and increased risk of sexual assault is well documented. One of the largest and most in-depth studies of this topic found that 92% of a racially diverse sample of homeless mothers had experienced severe physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lives (Browne & Bassuk, 1997).
3. SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective defines reproductive oppression as the control and exploitation of women and girls through their bodies, sexuality, labor, and reproduction.
**SFWAR WELCOMES NEW STAFF!**

**Thank You**

Former SFWAR Staff and Board Members Nisha Anand, Christina Arguello, Julie Baltzley, Alma Muñoz, Briana Shewan, and A. Sparks for your dedication, strength and humility in the movement to end rape.

We wish you all the best!

---

Tabitha Sisson,
**Director of Counseling Services**

As the Director of Counseling, Tabitha coordinates all aspects of the Counseling Services Program, which includes conducting intakes and counseling sessions with survivors, supervising peer counselors, planning and facilitating support groups, and networking with community agencies and local therapists in order to provide appropriate referrals.

Tabitha started volunteering with SFWAR in 2007 and was hired as the Director of Counseling in 2013. She graduated with a BA in Psychology from San Francisco State University and continued her studies in graduate school at Notre Dame de Namur University majoring in Marital Family Therapy with an emphasis in Art Therapy.

---

Melanie Pace,
**Development Associate**

Melanie brings five years of experience in non-profit development and direct services to SFWAR. She is passionate about engaging communities to invest in the work of ending sexual violence and committed to grassroots fundraising.

Melanie has a Masters of Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has worked as an advocate for LGBTQ youth and in animal welfare and rescue. She came to the Bay Area in 2012 and joined SFWAR in August 2013.

---

Layel Camargo,
**Volunteers & Hotline Associate**

Layel Camargo is a Chican@, gender queer, trans-identified person. Born and raised along the Mexican border in San Diego, they moved to northern California in 2006 to pursue a degree in Feminist Studies and Legal Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Layel was mentored through organizations such as Engaging Education and Public Allies. They have supported the anti-violence movement through working at the YWCA of Silicon Valley, and Community Violence Solutions in Contra Costa County.

---

Zully Batres,
**Case Manager**

As the Case Manager, Zully facilitates sexual assault survivors’ access to community resources, including criminal and civil legal services, medical care, housing, food, and clothing. She also assists survivors in developing personalized healing plans.

---


*New staff, continued on page 14*
On October 24, 2013, San Francisco Women Against Rape (SFWAR) marked 40 years of supporting survivors and working to end rape with our Beyond Resistance Toward Liberation gala. The event was held at 111 Minna Gallery and included a pre-event wine tasting hosted by Dashe Winery, Roland Rosario Cellars, and Highway 12 Vineyards & Winery, a reception featuring food by Chef Yulanda of Simply Bliss Catering; a video history of SFWAR produced by the Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project; a Kitchen Table discussion featuring prominent anti-violence movement leaders Andrea Smith, Loretta Ross, and Patty Berne; poetry by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha; and music by Gloria Amaral and the Sueños de Mujer Project.

Awards were given to current volunteer Paola Souta and former volunteer Kate Raphael for their significant contributions to SFWAR, to Maria Hernandez and Maria de Jesús Jiménez for their agency work with Mujeres Unidas y Activas supporting sexual assault survivors; and to Kata Issari for her long-standing commitment to an anti-oppression framework, survivor advocacy, and community healing. The 40th anniversary event was emceed by comedian, actress, educator, and long-time SFWAR donor Micia Mosely.

We thank all who attended and made the SFWAR 40th anniversary event a success!

Community in Solidarity Awardees: Maria Jiménez (center) and Maria Hernandez (far right) of Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA) with Director of Volunteers & Hotline Evelyn Garcia (far left) and members of MUA
40th Anniversary Photos

(L to R): Volunteers Paulina Maldonado and Julia Arroyo with Director of Community Initiatives Sandra Sandoval

Kata Issari (middle) speaks with former Executive Director Rebecca Rolfe (left) and Susan Mooney (right)

(L to R): Renato Almanzor, former volunteer Kebo Drew, & former Director of Counseling Lisa Thomas-Adeyemo

(L to R): Lisa Thomas-Adeyemo, Kitchen Table discussant Loretta Ross, & Emcee Micia Mosely

Design Action Women (L to R): Poonam Whabi, Ivy Climacosa, and Nadia Khastagir (Board Chair)

Finance Consultant Eve Levine (left) and Forest Franken (right)

Board Member Laurene Francois (left) and Executive Director Janelle White (right)

Former volunteer and Self-defense Instructor Janet Gee (right)
Board Member Heidi Li (far left) serving drinks during pre-event wine tasting

Volunteer Anjali Ruvalcaba setting up silent auction

Left: Founding member of SFWAR Diana Block (right)
Right: Gloria Amaral and the Sueños de Mujer Project, all women Latin Jazz ensemble

Bottom Left: Attendees listening to Kitchen Table discussion
Bottom Right: Attendees enjoying food, silent auction, and music

Chef Yulanda from Simply Bliss Catering

Supervisor David Campos shaking hands with Kitchen Table discussants
SFWAR reached over 8,548 people through our Annual Events, Direct Services, and Prevention Education Programs.

24-hour Crisis Line
SFWAR served 2,807 people on the crisis line during the 2012-2013 fiscal year, providing crisis intervention support to 548 survivors of sexual assault and 159 family members and friends of survivors. Certified counselors are available 24-hours a day to offer crisis counseling and community referrals. Multi-lingual counselors are also available to provide services in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hindi, Arabic, Farsi, and Russian.

Volunteers and Interns
SFWAR is alive and thriving because of the active commitment of 88 certified volunteers and interns. Volunteers and interns staff the sexual assault crisis line, provide medical accompaniment to survivors at San Francisco General Hospital, offer in-person peer counseling, support prevention education initiatives, join committees to assist with special events like WALK Against Rape, and provide office administrative support.

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, 34 volunteers graduated and became state-certified sexual assault counselors. Among these certified counselors, 14 were young women from the Center for Young Women’s Development (CYWD). As part of a Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women grant subcontract with CYWD, SFWAR trains young women to provide direct services to their peer who are survivors of stalking, sexual assault, and dating/domestic violence.

After an intensive 84-hour sexual assault certification training, volunteers are required to participate in continuing education via counselor support meetings held monthly.

In 2012-2013, SFWAR offered 12 counselor support continuing education meetings.

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, SFWAR provided state-certified sexual assault counselor training to 20 Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA) members and staff, all of whom completed the two month long training in August 2012 and are now providing ALMA (Ahora! Llame a Mujeres contra el Abuso) Spanish language rape crisis services with MUA.

Counseling
The SFWAR Counseling Program provides free and confidential short term in-person peer counseling to survivors, their friends, and family members. In 2012-2013, 77 survivors received in-person counseling. We also offered 3 series of multi-week support groups to a total of 22 survivors. One support group was an 8-week community specific healing group comprised of 9 young women of Latin descent who are clients of Mission Girls Services; this group focused on healthy relationships in dating, family and community violence, resiliency practices, story-sharing, and building sisterhood. Another support group for 6 female-identified survivors utilized an expressive arts counseling approach. In addition, SFWAR provides survivors referrals for long-term clinical counseling and support groups.

Case Management/Advocacy
SFWAR advocates act as a liaison between survivors and medical, legal and social service systems, with the goal of supporting and empowering survivors of sexual assault. We provide community resources and advocacy related to sexual assault and offer accompaniments to legal proceedings, medical appointments, and meetings with social service providers. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, SFWAR also had medical advocates on-call 24-hours to provide medical accompaniment to survivors at San Francisco General Hospital.
Our advocacy supported 19 survivors at the hospital and helped 81 survivors navigate complex legal and social service systems.

Community Initiatives
The Community Initiatives (CI) Program encompasses both our adult and youth rape prevention education efforts and adds the component of supporting communities in mobilizing to confront (and ultimately end) rape.

Based on an extensive community mapping process conducted in 2006, we have focused community organizing efforts in the Mission District. Moreover, we prioritized five identity-based groups; these groups were prioritized based on both the significantly high rates of sexual violence they experience and because, so often, they are underserved. These groups are youth, immigrants of Latin descent, women who are marginally housed or homeless, queer/LBT women of color, and formerly incarcerated women.

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, 3 marginally housed women worked as organizers with the SFWAR Peer-2-Peer Outreach & Organizing Project (P2P). Through this effort, SFWAR recruits women who are homeless and marginally housed and then trains and supports them in engaging in sexual assault prevention outreach and organizing efforts with their peers.

P2P organizers conduct outreach and facilitate popular education sessions in SRO (single room occupancy) hotels, emergency shelters, and on the streets making the link between rape, poverty, and other social problems; provide information on risk reduction, post-assault medical care, legal resources, counseling, and other needed social services; assist in developing bystander intervention strategies to sexual assault; and stand with their communities in advocating for policy change to increase safety on the streets, in shelters, and SROs.

During the 12–13 fiscal year, P2P organizers, in partnership with the Women’s Community Clinic, provided outreach in Mission District SROs on 18 occasions—visiting the Prita, Star, Westman, Radha, Eula, Krishna, Frances, and Yug hotels—and reaching approximately 450 individuals. P2P organizers also provided outreach at Ladies Night on 15 occasions reaching approximately 300 women.

Ladies Night is a weekly drop-in event hosted by the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center providing a range of services and support for women who are homeless or marginally housed.

Adult and Youth Education
Our CI Program provided prevention education to over 4,273 people last year. We organized 27 rape prevention presentations reaching 329 people; provided 2 self-defense classes for 42 people, with 1 self-defense class taught in Spanish to 23 Latina immigrants; tabled at 31 festivals, fairs and community events reaching over 1,730 people; and conducted 11 presentations for 82 professionals serving diverse communities.

Through STAND (Student Talking about Non-violent Dating), SFWAR conducted 80 classroom presentations to 1,666 youth and 88 adults; trained 19 youth violence against women peer educators; and held 4 multi-week support groups at Mission High School, Phillip Burton High School, and Everett Middle School Summer Beacon Program for 59 young women and 12 young men.

Additionally, technical assistance was provided to 7 schools and community based organizations serving youth and was attended by 265 total students, school staff, and service providers.
Over half of all SFWAR rape prevention education presentations continue to be conducted in Mission District, Tenderloin, and Bay View schools; these three San Francisco neighborhoods experience the highest rates of violent crime. The schools from these three neighborhoods where SFWAR provided prevention education include Burton, Marshall, Mission, and O’Connell High Schools.

Coalition and Community Building
In order to address all aspects of sexual violence, SFWAR works in collaboration with multi-disciplinary organizations. Examples include the San Francisco Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), Expect Respect San Francisco (ERSF), and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA).

Toward our goal of organizing to end sexual violence with prioritized communities of the Mission District, we continue to strengthen our collaborations with communities of Latin descent, queer/LBT women of color, organizations serving homeless/marginally housed women, advocates of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women, along with expanding vital rape prevention education provided to youth. We maintain our collaboration with Mujeres Unidas y Activas to provide Spanish language rape crisis hotline services to Latina immigrants and with the Center for Young Women’s Development and Mission Girls Services to expand and enhance direct services to ‘high risk’ young women of African and Latin descent who are survivors of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. These two collaborations have received federal funding through the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women.

In addition, 6 series of specialized multi-session rape prevention education focusing on healthy relationships were provided to the male and female clients of the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center, Holy Family Day Home, Glide, and Instituto Familiar de la Raza. SFWAR also provided rape prevention education to El/La Programa para TransLatina. Mujeres Unidas y Activas, and Poor News Network/Poor Magazine. All of these agencies have sustained connections to the aforementioned SFWAR prioritized communities.

Fundraising
In 2012 – 2013, SFWAR Government Grants totaled $655,654 and Private Foundations donated $6,000. SFWAR continued working to expand our grassroots fundraising. We raised $8,267 through our annual Phone Bank. In December 2012, we sent our Holiday Mailing to a over 3,500 individuals. This effort, coupled with the mailing of our Newsletter and Annual Report, raised $14,585. SFWAR’s 14th Artists Against Rape, a night of healing through the cultural arts, raised $3,805 through entrance donations and a silent auction. Website contributions totaled $3,043. Our newly launched Raising Change “House Party” Benefit Campaign, along with our long-standing Major Donor Campaign and Work Place Giving, raised $10,489.

SFWAR held our 8th Annual WALK Against Rape in April 2013, which raised $51,354. Over $7,342 was donated by individuals and groups who held Special Events benefiting SFWAR.

Finally, we want to thank our faithful Volunteers who contributed $3,923 and Monthly Sustainers who donated $9,859 this year. SFWAR thanks everyone who has given so generously this year. Your support allows us to provide critical services to survivors of rape and sexual assault, while we simultaneously work to end sexual violence through education and community mobilization.
SFWAR would like to acknowledge the Volunteers, Interns, Foundations, Businesses, Organizations, Donors & Grantors who supported us during the July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013 fiscal year.

Certified Volunteers & Interns


Donors

New staff bios, continued

Dulce García
Bilingual Community Education Consultant
Community Initiatives Program

Dulce is a fierce Queer Xicana Femme born in Mexico City and raised in East Los Angeles, where she evolved from a high risk youth to an outspoken community activist. She graduated from UC Irvine with two Bachelors degrees, and received her Masters in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University.

As SFWAR’s Bilingual Community Education Consultant, Dulce provides rape prevention and education programs, as well as supports communities in identifying and initiating models of mobilization to confront and end sexual violence.

She’s been a sexual health educator for over a decade and she advocates self-empowerment through education that is fun, non-judgmental, and accessible to her audiences—regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or ability status.

For over 40 years, SFWAR has been providing services to survivors of sexual violence and working to end rape.

Become a CA Certified Rape Crisis Counselor!

Volunteer Opportunities:
• Hotline
• Medical Accompaniment
• Peer Counseling
• Community Outreach
"Stipends available for multilingual advocates"

Walk Against Rape
A Tribute to Sexual Assault Awareness Month
START LINE

For more information:
(415) 861-2024 ext.312
Download volunteer application at:
www.sfwar.org/volunteers.html

Dulce García, Bilingual Community Education Consultant. Photo by Meg Allen

Contact Melanie Pace at melaniepace@sfwar.org or (415) 861-2024 ext.301 about Benefit Parties!

Host a Party to Benefit San Francisco Women Against Rape!
SAND FRANCISCO’S 9TH ANNUAL
WALK AGAINST RAPE
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014
www.SFWAR.org | 415.861.2024
Register NOW at www.sfwar.org/walk and join the movement to end sexual violence

10AM Registration
The Women’s Building
3543 18th Street
between Valencia St. & Guerrero St.

1PM Finish Line & Festival
La Raza Park/Potrero del Sol Park
Potrero Avenue & 25th Street
5.6 Kilometers - 3.5 miles

Organized by SFWAR as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Proceeds benefit SFWAR services.
San Francisco Women Against Rape
3543 18th Street #7
San Francisco, CA 94110

Return Service Requested

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2014
Saturday, April 26  10AM
9TH ANNUAL WALK AGAINST RAPE
START: The SF Women’s Building, 3543 18th St.
FINISH: Potrero del Sol Park, Potrero Ave & 25th St.
3.5 mile walk, with rally and festival at finish!
More info: www.sfwar.org/walk
Contact: Bhavana Manchanda,
bhavanamanchanda@sfwar.org

Volunteer Training 2014
July/August
October/November
For more information:
www.sfwar.org/volunteers.html

OCTOBER 2014
15th Artists Against Rape
For more SFWAR events:
www.sfwar.org/events.html

SFWAR’s 40th Anniversary Event (October, 2013). Photo by Alma Muñoz.