

the gift of GRACE

Helping Central Oregon women and children realize life without violence.

by Kathy Oxborrow, for
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If you've been a victim of domestic violence or know someone who has, Saving Grace can help.

With domestic homicides rising almost 100 percent last year in Oregon, contacting Saving Grace can mean

That's why Huerta says safety planning is included in all the services victims of domestic violence receive at Saving Grace.

National statistics show that if a program like Saving Grace can talk to a victim soon after an assault, the rate of re-assault is reduced by 60 percent. So Saving Grace tries to reach the victim as soon as possible.

If law enforcement officers are involved, they immediately put the victim in contact with Saving Grace.

Saving Grace also helps victims of sexual assault.

"When we get called, we go to the hospital because the forensics exam can be very intrusive," said Huerta.

But it's necessary to collect evidence. And because all of their clothing is evidence, Saving Grace will provide new clothing and personal hygiene items along with counseling victims.



Having opened in 2006, Mary's Place is another program of Saving Grace. When couples with children are divorcing, Mary's Place in Bend provides a safe location where the non-custodial parent can visit with his or her children, or a safe place where parents can exchange their children.

"Once the court sends the family to us, our primary goal is to ensure safety," Huerta said, "Mary's Place has been able to keep families safe and avert abductions and stalking."



the difference between life and death.

The most dangerous time for a woman is when she attempts to leave an abusive relationship.

"Seventy-five percent of serious injuries and deaths occur while someone is trying to leave a relationship," said Saving Grace's executive director, Janet Huerta.



How YOU Can Help ...

Ways to Help

- Volunteer and be trained to provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Donate cash, gas cards, diapers, diaper wipes and new undergarments for both children and women, preferably in the package with tags.

Other Info

- Has a \$1.5 million annual budget and 30 staff members who provide 22 different crisis services.
- 4,500 victims of domestic violence received help last year.
- Founded in 1977 with only a hotline that received 80 calls in its first year. The hotline now gets 3,000 calls and costs \$30,000 annually to operate.



- The shelter is located in Bend, and therapy and support offices are in Madras, Prineville, Redmond, Sisters and Bend.
- Services focus in three areas: safety, healing and stopping the violence.
- The annual fundraising event, the Children's Festival, will be combined with Balloons over Bend this year and held on Wed., July 27 at Bend Riverside Park.