



# Donor Connections

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2005

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Brought to you by The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County  
To **Enlighten, Educate and Enlist** Our Community

## **A Call for Support . . .**

Domestic violence is a major problem throughout the United States. It includes violence between spouses, individuals in dating relationships, and former partners or spouses, and can occur inside or outside the home. Domestic violence often involves a pattern of coercive behavior that includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse. Domestic violence crosses ethnic, racial, age, national origin, sexual orientation, religious and socioeconomic lines.

Sexual assault is defined as any sort of sexual activity between two or more people in which one of the people is involved against his or her will. The sexual activity involved in an assault may come in many different forms.

## **Addressing the Issue in Boulder County . . .**

Listed are three organizations working to address the physical, emotional and sexual safety of Boulder County's residents.

### **Safehouse Alliance for Progressive Nonviolence (formerly Boulder County Safehouse)**

Since opening their doors in 1979, Boulder County Safehouse has served the community by providing safety and support to victims of domestic violence. This work is continuing under their new name, Safehouse Alliance for Progressive Nonviolence, while also expanding the organization's vision to include a broader social justice agenda. Safehouse recognizes that to end domestic violence we must also work to end other forms of injustice and oppression in the lives of women and their families. Safehouse services include the emergency shelter program, a 24-hour hotline, the transitional services program, outreach counseling, the domestic abuse response teams, legal advocacy, and education on the topics that reflect our commitment to equity, social justice and violence prevention.

### **Moving to End Sexual Assault (MESA)**

MESA was founded in 1972, as a community response to the abduction, rape, and shooting of two children. Originally called "H.A.R.M.," Humans Against Rape and Molestation, the team was formed to provide victim support and address social conditions that promote violence. H.A.R.M. was later renamed The Boulder County Rape Crisis Team and then in 2001 became MESA (Moving to End Sexual Assault). The latest name change reflects MESA's commitment to responding to the occurrence of sexual violence, as well as working to prevent it before it occurs. MESA collaborates with a variety of other local organizations including the District Attorney's Office, Boulder County Safehouse, and both school districts in Boulder County. MESA's service programs include a 24-hour hotline; counseling; medical, legal, and criminal advocacy; ongoing support; and referrals. The prevention education programs are dedicated to increasing awareness about sexual violence issues to Boulder County's youth, companies, and community and civic organizations. The diversity program ensures that underserved Boulder County residents receive MESA's assistance

**Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley (formerly *Longmont Coalition for Women in Crisis*)**

The mission of Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley is to provide protection, intervention and support to women and children impacted by domestic violence. Through community education and direct services, the shelter empowers women and children, promotes equality and respect in all relationships, and advocates for the fundamental right of every individual to a life free of intimidation and violence. It is the only agency providing shelter and support services to domestic violence victims in northeast Boulder County, including Longmont, Niwot, and Hygiene. Services, available in English and Spanish, include: 24-hour SAFEShelter, 24-hour crisis line, domestic violence counseling services (individual and group), child and youth programs, legal advocacy, community and school education programs, and transitional housing case management.

*If you are interested in learning more about these programs, please contact Carly Hare, Programs Director, at 303-442-0436, ext. 111, or [carly@commfound.org](mailto:carly@commfound.org).*