

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
THROUGH: ROBERT G. WELLS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: BARBARA A. ROBERTS, CPRP, DIRECTOR
PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: SALEM SOCIAL SERVICE CONTRACTOR PRESENTATION:
MID-VALLEY WOMEN'S CRISIS SERVICE: PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

ISSUE

Monthly, the Social Service Advisory Board highlights one of the City's social service contractors, which provides a short presentation to the City Council on the scope of the services it provides through City General Fund dollars and City Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only.


BACKGROUND

The Social Service Advisory Board, as a part of its Council-approved work plan, highlights the work of the contractors receiving funding from the City of Salem.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service works to prevent domestic violence through a hotline, shelter home, children's programs, community education, and support groups. The contract allocation for this program is \$65,982 from CDBG funds.
2. Throughout the United States, battered women and sexual assault victims contact hotlines and shelters as they escape violence. Locally, over 10,000 callers asked for help from Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service last year and 300 battered women and their children received safety and shelter from domestic and sexual violence. In addition to crisis intervention and shelter services, callers may need:
 - Information, referral, and advocacy
 - Coordination of legal, medical, and social services
 - 24-hour access to support and protective services
 - Emotional support for informed decision-making
 - Emergency transportation
 - Networks of services which focus on victim needs
 - Community education on victimization issues
 - Individual and group services

3. The hotline and shelter are staffed 24 hours every day with staff or trained volunteers, including three bilingual and bicultural staff. In addition to language line service most written materials, as well as the program's website, are obtainable in English, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Braille, large print, and audio.
4. Through CDBG funds, over the coming year Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service will provide safe shelter for 120 victims of domestic violence residing in Salem, these individuals will receive 1,400 hours of crisis intervention, case management, peer counseling and safety planning. An additional 1,700 hours service will be provided for women and children who reside in Salem and access services through walk-ins, support groups, etc.
5. Jayne Downing, director of Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service, will provide a short presentation at the October 22 City Council meeting.



Jan Calvin, Neighborhood and Community Services Manager

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