



October 27, 2006

Dear friend:

Adriana came to our Domestic Violence Support Group for Spanish Speaking Women pregnant, demoralized, and depressed after suffering from years of severe verbal and emotional abuse by her husband. Unfortunately, Adriana had suffered a lifetime of abuse, as she was sexually abused by her father and witnessed her father's violence against her mother. Caught between the struggle of trying to keep the family intact and wanting to get away from her husband, Adriana found herself constantly walking on eggshells in a futile attempt to maintain peace in the home and avoid her husband's vicious attacks.

Their 14-year-old daughter, Carina, also became a target of her father's verbal assaults. Carina had always been a good student and cooperative at home but began acting out and even threatened to run away. Adriana's son, Diego, age 6, became more quiet and hypervigilant. Adriana didn't know what to do. She was pregnant and had no way of supporting herself and her children. She did not have a support network of friends or family to whom she could turn.

After being screened in the healthcare setting for IPV and given options for help, Adriana joined a support group for Spanish-speaking women involved in abusive relationships. Her transformation was amazing. With the support of the group, Adriana's self-esteem grew. She found the strength and courage to leave her husband when her new baby was barely two months old. The social work staff in the clinic and support group helped her get into a battered women's shelter. Eventually, she got into transitional housing, enrolled in English classes, and received extensive job training.

Today Adriana is a confident and happy woman. With support and feedback from the Group, she even had the insight and strength to break off a potentially abusive relationship with a man whose attention had made her feel incredibly special for the first time in many years. Adriana's children have weathered the separation of their parents well with counseling and support, and Adriana's baby, now walking and talking, is thriving. Carina has graduated from school and enrolled in junior college, and Diego is doing well in school. Adriana now has means to support herself and feels much stronger. With the help of the Group, the healthcare system, and community services, Adriana and her children are breaking the cycle of abuse!

Luckily, Adriana was screened for IPV by the healthcare system and referred to a support group. Many people in abusive relationships may find that the one place they can ask for help is from a person they can trust and see in private—a health care provider. **LEAP** is a leader in the movement to improve the response of the healthcare system to domestic violence. Each day, countless survivors of domestic violence walk into healthcare clinics and hospitals. Most have never called a community domestic violence shelter or hotline. **LEAP teaches health care providers to treat and prevent domestic violence.**

Take a moment to help. Each safety card LEAP distributes can provide a lifeline to an isolated victim of abuse. Each time a health care provider goes to our website, www.leapsf.org, they can find tools and resources to improve the care of their patients. Each training LEAP gives improves healthcare providers' responses to patients affected by intimate partner violence. **Your donation can change the lives of domestic violence victims and their families and help to end the cycle of abuse.**

Sincerely,

Leigh Kimberg, MD, Chair

LEAP(Look to End Abuse Permanently) members:

Ann Brennan, NP
Elizabeth Carthagena-Myer, LcSW
Cathy Carr, MFT Trainee
Lorraine Tahneva Gantt, LcSW
Mary Lawrence Hicks, NP
Dana Horton, LcSW
Maureen O'Neil, LcSW

Val Robb, NP
Miko Rose
Carol Schulte, LcSW, MBA
Chris Stewart, MD
Norma Jo Waxman, MD
Stacey Wiggall, LcSW

- \$10 will pay for a training video
- \$50 will provide 500 wallet-sized safety cards
- \$100 will purchase posters and flyers for a clinic
- \$1,000 will pay for one-day training

Donations payable to the:
San Francisco Public Health Foundation-LEAP

(Tax ID: 94-3117093)

OR

Donate online at:

www.sfpbpublichealthfoundation.org

(and designate LEAP as the recipient of your donation).

LEAP, c/o Maxine Hall Health Center, 1301 Pierce Street, San Francisco, CA 94115

www.leapsf.org

LEAP (Look to End Abuse Permanently)

provides consultation, resources, and trainings in healthcare settings for the prevention and treatment of intimate partner violence. LEAP is comprised of social workers, nurse practitioners, therapists, physicians, and community volunteers. LEAP is a collaboration of the San Francisco Department of Public Health Primary Care division, the San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) Emergency Department, the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF)/SFGH Psychosocial Medicine division, and the San Francisco Trauma Recovery/Rape Treatment Center. LEAP has been a leader in the movement to improve the response of the health care system to intimate partner violence (IPV) in San Francisco.

This year, LEAP has:

Provided services:

- LEAP and the San Francisco Department of Public Health provide ongoing support, counseling, advocacy, and child care for women in a Spanish-speaking battered women's support group in the health care setting. (See letter for a group member's personal story)
- LEAP's website, www.leapsf.org, continues to be a leading resource for healthcare providers working to prevent IPV and is instrumental in helping clinics nationwide establish IPV protocols. Continued updates, including translating our resources into Spanish, and increased publicity have enabled thousands of healthcare workers to tap into LEAP's resources.
- LEAP joined the San Francisco Mayor's Office "Project Connect" to provide IPV counseling and materials to homeless people in San Francisco.

Provided public education and political outreach:

- LEAP member, Ann Brennan, was featured on KQED's Forum about sexual assault prevention. She was joined by other members of SF's Sexual Assault Crisis Team to inform the public about the danger of drug facilitated sexual assault.
- LEAP member, Leigh Kimberg, joined Lt. Don Sloan of the San Francisco Police Department and Debbie Lee of the Family Violence Prevention Fund on KALW to educate the public about IPV.

- LEAP took to the streets during this year's Carnaval celebration in San Francisco and distributed thousands of healthy relationship packets and resource lists. (see article)

- LEAP distributed educational materials at San Francisco Women Against Rape's "Walk Against Rape". (see article)

- LEAP participated in a successful letter writing campaign in support of funding for the SF Trauma Recovery / Rape Treatment Center.

Provided training and consultation:

- LEAP developed a training unit for the Family Violence Prevention Fund on "Improving Providers' Willingness to Screen and Ensuring Program Sustainability" that was presented at a national conference for the The Indian Health Service/US Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, and Tribal Health Clinics in Catoosa, Oklahoma.

- LEAP member was featured on the panel "Neighbor to Neighbor: Building a Cohesive Community Response" as part of the "Ending Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking in the 21st Century" Conference organized by the UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, the Family Violence Prevention Fund, and Partners Ending Domestic Abuse and the San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium. (see article)

- Multiple LEAP members led workshops at the annual violence prevention conference organized by the UCSF Students for Social Responsibility. (see article)

- LEAP provides ongoing training to medical students and primary care medicine residents at UCSF to ensure that the next generation is leading the way in IPV prevention.

- LEAP educated all social workers at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in San Francisco about mandatory reporting and other legal and ethical issues involved in domestic violence work.

- LEAP provides annual training on the link between sexually transmitted diseases and intimate partner violence for the California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center.

- LEAP provides ongoing training and consultation to the clinics in the San Francisco DPH.

Provided Resources:

- LEAP has begun its Adopt-A-Clinic Program with Maxine Hall Health Center and Tom Waddell Health Center to deliver prevention messages directly to patients and improve the ability of each clinic to respond effectively to patients affected by IPV.

- LEAP supplies primary care clinics in the Community Health Network (CHN) community clinics and at SFGH with multicultural, multilingual IPV posters and safety cards.

- LEAP provides copies of an award-winning video on domestic violence in the health care setting developed by the Family Violence Prevention Fund and UCSF/LINC and The California Medical Training Center to clinics in the CHN. A LEAP member participated in the video.

- LEAP collaborated with the UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women's Health, the Family Violence Prevention Fund and the Maternal-Child Health Division of the San Francisco Department of Public Health to produce and distribute a brochure for pregnant women on domestic violence and pregnancy. It is available for downloading from LEAP's website.

- LEAP member wrote a book chapter on IPV for the textbook, Medical Management of Vulnerable and Underserved Patients. (see article)

Participated in:

- LEAP is participating in a working group to prevent "Shaken Baby Syndrome" in San Francisco County. This group recently received its first grant from Kaiser Permanente.

Your generous support allows LEAP to do this life-saving work! Thank you for making such a difference in the lives of so many families and individuals affected by intimate partner violence and family violence.