

Emmaus House Report June 30, 2020

As the recipient of this Community Based Organizational grant, our primary objective to keep the Emmaus House emergency shelter operations open 24/7/365 has been achieved. Emmaus House is San Benito County's only temporary shelter for women and their children that are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

We have been in operation since October 23, 2006, serving women and children who seek a safe refuge and support to escape the tragedy of domestic violence.

Our program offers a 24/7 Crisis line that offers support to women who need to assess their situation, develop a safety plan and/or determine intake into our shelter. In 2019 we answered 423 Hot Line crisis calls, this is up **46%** compared to the previous year. Our shelter offers families a safe home and provides the tools needed to begin a new life. Since opening we have sheltered over 1875 clients. Of those 1052 were children and over 75% of those children are under the age of 10.

In FY 2019/20 we served 129 sheltered clients, totaling 4030 bed nights. Our average length of stay is running at 35 days.

Our demographic breakdown is as follows:

43 women and 86 children - it is important to note we only take males up-to the age of 12. We track several categories of abuse. In FY 2019/20 we had 31% physically and or sexually abused 35% verbal abuse and 34% mental abuse.

Clientele reported ethnicity break down is: 63 % Hispanic, 8% White, 4% Black African American, 4% Asian, 21% Multi Racial.

We held 49 Weekly Wellness and Empowerment classes and 38 Parenting classes titled "My Child, My Joy". Women and their children are provided support and resources, but the difficult steps must be taken by the client to ensure that after transitioning back into our community, she is empowered to continue the challenging work to overcome the obstacles that might prevent her from continuing her transition toward a healthier life.

Wellness Planning, empowerment, consistent support and providing programs that offer education and skill building, has proven to be a powerful and effective process for our Emmaus House clients. Domestic violence can have an impact upon all areas of children and young people's lives, including health, education, the development of relationships, recreation and social activities. The effects of domestic violence on children are wide range and will differ for each child or young person. Both our Wellness Empowerment and parenting classes are given

by behavior health professionals. Additionally they provide individual one on one counseling as needed and asked for.

Our Staff Case managers met between 2 - 4 times weekly with clients reviewing progress toward their individual needs and goals. This totals over 500 sessions annually.

I am happy to report that these programs are working, and proudly in FY 2019/20 we had No clients return to their abusers! Considering that the national average states that a woman returns to her perpetrator seven times before she is able to leave for good, this is a very impressive statistic.

Additionally we provide - After Care services to clients after they depart from Emmaus House. These services include; access to on-site counseling and group meetings, House held celebrations such as Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas parties, clothing boutique, school supplies and emergency pantry items.

We utilize a varied volunteer base to help keep Emmaus house running smoothly and giving it more of a 'home feel' rather than just an overnight stay location. Our Volunteers provide: Donation & Boutique sorting, Community enrichment & educational event staffing, fundraising events, Beauty treatments for hair & nail care, maintenance, yard care & grooming, and our all important over night house monitor. We would not be able to maintain our tight budget without this vital position filled by a live-in on site volunteer. In 2019 we had over 68 active Volunteers that accounted for 4355 hours!

Without Emmaus House, families would be forced to leave San Benito County, displacing children and impacting our county's work force. Emmaus House was established to provide San Benito County residents a safe place to begin their journey free from a life of violence toward a positive and healthy life while remaining in their community. It is your vital financial support that allows us to continue this mission.

I would especially like to thank Supervisors: DeLa Cruz, Gillio, Hernandez and Medina for your current and past participation in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event. Hopefully in 2021 you can all show off your walking skills again. Your visual support for Community Awareness to the travesties of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is greatly appreciated.

The San Benito County Community Based Organizational funding allows us to remain open to serve all those that are in need of our programs and services. Thank you.

Patrice Kuerschner

Executive Director
Emmaus House