



January 2014 Edition

## Reviewing the Year 2013

By Safe Passage's CEO Trish Steele

The 13th Anniversary of Safe Passage at the Montage Beverly Hills on February 23rd was a success! Our honorees; Dr. David Alessi & wife Deborah, Bruce Vafa, Kim Vo, Rafi Anteby, James Beard, and Cheryl Hiltzik all radiate with joy and still are supporters of Safe Passage. Our Sponsors Obagi, Dr. Bill Dorfman, AH! Media Solutions, and CBS2/KCAL9 made it possible to be a success. A Public Service Announcement was produced by Steve Mauldin the President of CBS2 News and aired the PSA for several months.

Post Production Party after the Montage event was hosted by Formatt 4U owners; Loredana and Aida Pascu along with Stephanie Fontana to help us bring more awareness to Safe Passage. We successfully established new partners and donors for our charity. Also we were the first charity in San Fernando Valley to be selected by the Fashion Delivers Agency to receive donated fashion accessories from Charming Charlie. We received 36 big boxes of jewelry and accessories to give out to over 200 women who are a part of Safe Passage.

On May 11, was the "Women In Bloom" Mother's Day event. There were 90 people in attendance and 47 of the women were honored for their tireless work they do as mothers. Susan Sengezer and Victoria Brahma shared their heart breaking stories that touched the everyone's heart to understand why women stay in this cycle of domestic violence. I was blessed to enjoy hosting the event on stage. I loved on everyone! A surprise check came in for \$2500 from NBC4 Community Giving; referred by Bruce Hensel. M.D.

In June our biggest grant was from Fuserna Foundation which blessed the program for 10 women and their children to receive counseling, health assessments and more to heal from their past trauma. Thank you, Ariadne Getty for your generous heart and staff. The Valley Community Legal Foundation granted our Safe Passage program \$1000 toward helping the women with their legal issues.

July was a great month for outreaches. Macy's-North Hollywood did a morning rally with staff to present to Safe Passage a \$5000 check. Thanks to VP Store Manager Armineh Petrossian and Daniel Walters. Brighton Collectibles in Sherman Oaks did a handbag collection from their clients

## Quick Links



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## Donor's Appreciation

Lynn Garcia a surgical nurse from Providence Holy Cross hospital in Mission Hills contacted us and wanted to donate to our clients for Christmas. She had organized the other surgical nurses & doctors from the Short Stay Unit, Operating Room and Recovery Room and they to give presents to ten families. They gave gifts cards to our women and the children received toys, clothes and gifts cards. Every family was given a big box of food, to help them through the holidays. Thank you to the surgical nurses at Holy Cross Hospital for their generosity and making a Merry Christmas for the clients of Safe Passage.



and collected over 90 bags for our women at Safe Passage. Thanks to Hadley Davis and her team of staff. The Valley Culture Center in Woodland Hills gave us a booth the day of their biggest concerts and we gave out over 1000 pieces of literature on "It's Not Okay", it's time to stop the cycle of domestic violence. Verizon sponsored the funds to print the materials and to produce a new PSA called "It's Not Okay" hosted by actress Sofia Milos.

In September Wells Fargo granted us a check for \$1000. Thanks to Natasha Nelson Sredni manager of the Ventura Blvd. branch in Woodland Hills. Linda Dolson and I were invited to the best event of the year, Face Forward Gala hosted by Deborah Alessi and her husband. This opportunity gave Safe Passage more awareness to her 300 guests that attended the event.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and we had our 3rd Annual Fundraiser, hosted by the wonderful CBS2 news anchor Pat Harvey. Special guests & speakers were Tanya Young Williams, author Tim Larkin, Recording Artists Jemma Louis, Kristen Commodore and Fashion Stylist Mitra Hosseini. The LA Women's Expo was held at the Convention center downtown. We had a booth for 2 days and met hundreds of business women from all walks of life. Some of the businesses give of their talents and products to Safe Passage.

The first week of November, EcoSet donated new household items and furniture from the Target television commercial to the women and children of Safe Passage for their new residence. On November 21, Bullets 4 Peace by Rafi Anteby hosted the Art of Peace Gala to honor four wonderful people that bring peace between humanity. I, founder of Safe Passage was one of them to receive this beautiful Eagle of Peace Award. This event also supported Sheriff Baca's Anti-Gun Violence Campaign and many celebrities attended to give their regards.

The whole month of December was so festive and full of joy! There were many parties to host at my home and parties to attend. All the women and children were lavish with gift cards, clothing, toys and more from all of our donors and supporters. The best Christmas Party was at Dr. David & Deborah Alessi home. It was decorated perfect for the occasion with lavish food and drinks, Carolers, live band and not to forget the snowflakes in the backyard. I want to thank everyone who made this year very special for me including my husband who I celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary with on December 11th!

This year 269 calls were answered and given emergency resources. Out of that came 30 women and 12 children who were able to get counseling and receive services from the SP program. Many have successfully moved on to a new life, new employment and a new residence. We are so proud of these women and children breaking away from the cycle of domestic violence.

## Following Yonder Star: A Night Of Holiday Festivities At Safe Passage

By Yvonne Bovee

On December 18th 2013, Safe Passage held a holiday open house; guests poured through the doors festively dressed for an evening of mingling, entertainment and a presentation of special gifts that were donated to Safe Passage by many of our generous attendees.

Safe Passage clients and their children were once again blessed with a wonderful donation of toys hand made by the San Fernando Valley Woodworkers. The SFVW was formed in 1988 and each year their members construct an array of toys which they donate during the Christmas season to shelters, domestic violence programs and social service programs.



The toys consist of cradles with a baby doll and handmade quilts, Caulks boards with markers, hand mirrors with a stand and keep sake boxes for the girls. For the boys there were cars, trucks, skip loaders and tractors and treasure boxes with lock and key. These gifts will last forever and can be handed down from generation to generation. Thanks to Jan Summers and the members of SFV Woodworkers for putting everything together and making the delivery to us.



The Food table was laden with delicious delights and drinks provided by Bernstein Financial whose office is on the same floor as Safe Passage. They have been partners and supporters of Safe Passage for three years. Many of our Board members brought snacks and goodies to add to the celebration. Our Beautiful Cameka was the stunning bartender, not only does she have a beautiful smile but she also added cheer to the refreshments served to each guest.

Our Board member, the beautiful Susan Sengezer dressed as Lady Santa; she added a beautiful touch to the spirit of the evening. Our Photographer Kelly Greene took individual photos of our guests, she went out of her way to make each person look beautiful and feel special. Stealthily moving throughout the room like a well-trained ninja, our Tony Campo graciously video-taped the evening's events; He could be found in various locations during the evening interviewing many of our guests, making memories, and connecting friends of Safe Passage.



Our Beautiful Founder Trish Steele presented Michael Bernstein with an award from our Council Woman Nury Martinez; the award was for his



## Safe Passage's 2013 Holiday Photos



commitment and tireless dedication to helping Safe Passage.

Gift cards were given to the women and children of Safe Passage by Troy Gould Law Offices and from the Doctors and Nurses of Holy Cross Providence Hospital; Holy Cross also donated cases of food and toys. Thank You So Much, We appreciate you!!!

Some of our guests and donors were Bob Yerkes, Mark Willingham, Lloyd Hamner, Dan and Julie Hillquist, John Fish, Anna Stein, Avril Jordan, Dee Cobb, Michael Peschka, Gina Cetto, and Doreen Yusufzai.



The Finale of the evening was singer Heart Hays who sang for us a beautiful rendition of Christmas songs acappella; her range of vocal notes was exquisite. Heart was born in Austin Texas, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue her singing career. Heart is a singer songwriter; her debut song was "Straight for the Heart." Heart is a new fashion girl with an old fashion heart. She epitomizes solid traditions and values of the past. Thank You Heart Hays you were a delight!

If we missed your name just know that we truly appreciate you and thank you for all that you contribute to keep the doors of Safe Passage Open. It is because of you that Safe Passage is able to continue the work of helping women and their children overcome the effects of domestic violence.





Safe Passage | 818-232-7476 | Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE | [Trish@safepassagelives.org](mailto:Trish@safepassagelives.org)  
[www.safepassagelives.org](http://www.safepassagelives.org)  
P.O. Box 40034  
Studio City, CA 91614



**Mission Statement:**

Safe Passage is compassionately transforming the lives of abused women and their children by providing hope, opportunity and empowerment.

**Our Vision:**

Our vision is to break the cycle of domestic violence by duplicating the Safe Passage program throughout the country. This will be accomplished by introducing the program to different cities and educating them on how they can utilize the community's resources to help transform the lives of their women and children. Safe Passage's goal is to fund its own Wellness Center for abused women and their children so that it can continue to effectively transform these clients into independent and healthy citizens within our communities.

Founded: April 15, 2000

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Trish Steele, CEO of Safe Passage  
Editor: Anna Stein  
Many thanks to our contributors!