

Taos Community Foundation's Women Give - Request Summary Community Against Violence

Every minute of every hour of every day in the U.S., approximately 20 adults—nearly all of them women—are physically abused by an intimate partner, while 10 children are present and watch it happen. This represents more than 20% of all violent crime nationally and translates to approximately 10 million adult victims and 5 million child witnesses/victims each year.

This year in Taos, Community Against Violence's (CAV's) 24-hour crisis hotline will ring 1,700 times, and—just like they have been doing since 1978—CAV staff will pick up the phone every single time, to offer services, safety, or just an empathetic ear. Seventy women and fifty children will sleep safely in CAV's emergency shelter and transitional housing units. Other CAV programs will provide individual and group counseling for children, adolescent, and adult survivors; advocacy, including legal and medical advocacy and assistance with emergency needs; violence prevention services to schools, businesses, and community groups; and intervention for those who use violence in relationships. CAV's Northern New Mexico Child Advocacy Center will provide forensic interviews of children residing in Taos County and the neighboring northern counties of Colfax, Guadalupe, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, and Union, including the tribal communities of Taos and Picuris Pueblos. And CAV's thrift store will be a resource for free clothing, housewares, and other needed items for CAV clients as well as other community members in need.

CAV's mission is "to foster and support a community free from all forms of domestic and sexual violence." Our work in pursuit of this mission is informed by our convictions: We believe that given resources, time, and support, survivors will make the best decisions possible for themselves and their families, so we are committed to providing services that are client-centered and trauma-informed. We believe that oppression lies at the root of most violence, so CAV maintains a strong voice for social justice and anti-oppression and provides culturally grounded and adaptive services.

A grant award from Women Give Taos would help CAV maintain critical services to women and girls in Taos County in the aftermath of a very difficult year. Many of the ways that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on women are well-documented, as women lost jobs at a faster pace than their male counterparts and left the workforce in record numbers as schools and childcare facilities closed. The stresses of the pandemic, historic economic losses, and enforced lockdowns also resulted in a marked increase in domestic and sexual violence and child abuse (also affecting women disproportionately) as evidenced by an increase in calls to hotlines - not just in Taos but all over the country.