



Sister Rosina Conrotto (Founder and Board Member) and Rev. Glenda Hope (Founder)

Kick Off Event for 20 Years of Empowering Women

By Betsy Dodd, Board President

On March 8, SafeHouse started our 20th anniversary year with a festive wine and cheese event at the chic SOMA furniture store Room & Board. Over 50 friends - old and new - gathered to celebrate clients, our work, our terrific staff, board, and supporters. Founders Glenda Hope and Sister Rosina Conrotto were on hand to share inspiring words about the history of SafeHouse – how the program came into being and the way it has changed the lives of hundreds of women. Toni Eby, Outreach and Training Manager, spoke about the challenges and successes of our women, and how a cluster of them are getting ready to “graduate” and move on to stable housing and jobs – an exciting time at the house! Another highlight of the evening was raffling two tickets to see the Warriors and attend their pre-game “shoot-around,” getting “up close and personal” with our championship team. Special thanks to supporter Lois Peacock for generously donating delicious wine from her family’s winery, and to Room & Board for the use of their space and the help of their energetic and friendly staff. Please mark your calendars NOW for our big 20th Anniversary Gala, October 18 at St. Mary’s Cathedral. It will be an exciting celebration of our 20-year history and the wonderful women we serve. We’ll see you there!



Harry Chuck and Doreen Der-McLeod (Board Member)

Please mark your calendars NOW for our big 20th Anniversary Gala, October 18



Susie Wong (Board Member) and Karen Minnis



Betsy Dodd (Board Chair), Janice Lee, Wayne Barcelon and Jim Fagler (Board Member)

Homeless Women Say #MeToo

By Toni Eby
Outreach & Training Manager



In the age of “MeToo” and “Times Up” there has been a profound shift in the national discourse around sexual violence. Sadly, there is still one population that has been largely ignored and distanced from the main stream narrative: homeless women. Homeless individuals, particularly homeless women, are among the most vulnerable when it comes to sexual harm, and yet their stories are largely ignored by main stream media.

San Francisco SafeHouse has been serving homeless women for over twenty years, and in that time we have found that in addition to sexual exploitation the women we serve have experienced high rates of sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, stalking, and hate crimes.

It is estimated that one in five of those who are homeless have experienced violence personally, and that one-third have witnessed an attack on another homeless person. This is in comparison to the approximately 2% of the general population who have reported experiencing or witnessing a violent crime.

Homeless women are much more vulnerable to violence than their male counterparts. One study of homeless shelter residents in New York City found that homeless women were 106 times more likely to experience sexual assault than poor women who were housed. In San Francisco, while there is a need for additional research to get a more accurate look on the exact percentage of homeless women who experience sexual harm -- most service providers agree that the number is high. Homeless women of color, transgender women, queer women, immigrant women, and disabled women are at an even higher risk of sexual harm.

At SafeHouse, we recognize the importance of broadening the reach of the MeToo and Times Up movements to include the voices and stories of homeless women who have survived sexual violence. Too often their stories are ignored or discarded. So while it is important that women across the country are speaking out against sexual assault and sexual harassment, it is imperative that we start to listen when homeless women say #MeToo.

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