

Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence
4786 SW Philomath Blvd.
Corvallis, OR 97333



February 16, 2010

Dear Ms. Smith:

By the time you finish reading this sentence, a woman in this country will have been battered. Rape and domestic violence are realities right here in our own community, but fortunately there is hope for survivors. Individuals and organizations are working to break the cycle of domestic violence and assist those victimized by sexual assault.

In your community, we are that organization: CARDV, the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence. But we need your help. Because our two shelters are at maximum capacity, CARDV is in danger. We need to raise the funds to build another shelter so that we can keep our promise to never turn anyone away because of lack of space or resources.

Since 1978, CARDV has worked tirelessly to uphold its mission: to provide services and support to those affected by sexual and domestic violence; and to provide education and leadership within the community to change the societal conditions that cultivate these forms of violence. We opened one of Oregon's first sexual assault hotlines in 1978 and CARDV now offers a 24-hour hotline, a 24-hour emergency shelter, support groups and an educational program designed to educate all ages of children on sexual violence and domestic abuse.

In addition to providing support services, CARDV also advocates for victims of sexual violence. With the help of lobbying efforts by CARDV, Oregon became the first state to make marital rape illegal. CARDV also participates in the annual "Take Back the Night" march at the state capitol.

With our two safe houses - one public and one confidential - at maximum capacity, CARDV needs to expand. The recession has decreased state funding for nonprofit organizations and we are now relying primarily on contributions from the community. With your help, CARDV will build a brand new, confidential shelter to provide safe and free temporary housing for 15 women, children and men who have been victimized by sexual violence; women like Hee Son.

Hee Son moved to Corvallis with her husband and their two young sons four years ago. After enduring years of abuse, she took her two sons to stay at CARDV's confidential shelter. It was the support she received at CARDV that helped her gain the strength to separate from her husband and move into an apartment. After the separation, her estranged husband became more violent, violating restraining orders and causing Son to fear for her and her young children's lives. In October, Son's husband took the two children and fled to South Korea. The community,

with CARDV at the helm, has rallied around Son as she tries to work with federal authorities to get her children back.

For a month, the shelter gave Hee Son a safe and confidential place for her and her children to stay. Many other women, children and men have faced similar circumstances. We want to make sure that no one is denied that opportunity - and turned back to face an abuser or a violent situation - because of a lack of space or beds. With this possibility all too close a reality, we are working tirelessly to raise the funds necessary to prevent this from happening.

The property on which this shelter will be built and much of the construction labor have been donated, and so CARDV needs to raise \$100,000 to pay for the materials and some labor costs. We want you to have a piece in this shelter. By contributing the following amounts, you can play a roll in helping support countless victims of sexual violence in this community.

- **\$25:** Receive a **brick** in your name. Each and every brick is crucial to the structural integrity of the shelter and to the cohesiveness of support given to victims.
- **\$100:** Receive a **window** in your name. Windows provide shelter victims a view of a life free from violence.
- **\$500:** Receive a **door** in your name. Doors open up opportunities for safety and a new start.
- **\$1000:** Receive a **wall** in your name. Walls provide the support for the shelter, and the support we must give to victims of sexual violence.
- **\$5000:** Receive a **room** in your name. Rooms are the heart and soul of the shelter, and give victims safety and protection.

By building this shelter, we can protect women like Hee Son from the cycle of violence and help victims - men, women and children - gain the support they need. No amount is too small, and we invite you to participate in the community-wide effort to build this shelter. Our deadline to raise the funds for the new shelter is April 1, 2010.

In the time it took you to read this letter, a woman in the United States will have been raped. We can work together to help combat the cycle of violence in our community. CARDV is excited to extend the reach of its support with a brand new shelter and with your help we can make it happen. Please contact me with any questions about donations, the new shelter, CARDV's services or the history and mission of the organization.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hector
Outreach Coordinator, Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence

P.S. No amount is too small. Of the 1.3 Million women living in Oregon, about 230,000 have been raped at least once in their lifetime. With your help, we can build a shelter to protect victims of sexual violence and work to end the cycle of domestic abuse.