



MARIN SERVICES for Women A HEALING COMMUNITY FOR WOMEN RECOVERING FROM CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY AND TRAUMA

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Marin Services for Women Challenges Community to Match Anchor Donations

Greenbrae, CA, April 27, 2006 –At Marin Services for Women (MSW), the Board and staff have been working hard to increase the agency’s service capacity while maintaining quality client care during difficult economic times. MSW community partners have stepped forward with significant support, especially during recent years, to help MSW deal with massive state funding reductions imposed during the very period of their successful expansion efforts.

Decisions at the State Capitol have continued to negatively affect MSW. Most damaging was the governor’s 2004/2005 budget, which totally eliminated a three-year contract providing \$250,000 in annual support for their intensive outpatient program for low-income pregnant and parenting women.

When evaluating this situation in early 2004, the MSW Board and staff decided to make every attempt to avoid service reductions by stepping up their funding diversification efforts. Because of support from community partners, to date MSW has *not* been forced to cut their services because of state funding reductions. But this situation continues to threaten MSW’s ability to help women and families who so urgently need their unique services. These services were available when Randi, a 37-year-old woman, desperately needed help.

“In 2003, I spent more time in jail than out. I had lost custody of my 20-month old twin sons and was estranged from my parents. I was homeless, in trouble with the law, unemployable, and my self esteem was at an all-time low. I entered MSW in a desperate attempt to turn my life around.

I spent four months in residential treatment, 10 months in one of their transitional living houses and a year-and-a-half in their outpatient program. MSW helped me get my life back. Today I have my own apartment, a fabulous job and I recently obtained joint custody of my children. I wouldn’t have been capable of achieving any of this if it weren’t for MSW; their compassionate counselors and the other clients holding my hand the whole way through.

I wouldn’t trade my life today for anything. I am so glad MSW was here for me and I hope it is here to help other women in the community for years and years to come.”

MSW is happy to announce that a group of their outstanding community partners has joined the MSW Board of Directors to establish the Spring Challenge Council, which has awarded a \$50,000 matching grant to launch the 2006 Spring Challenge Campaign. The 2006 Challenge Council includes GreenPoint

Mortgage, Integrated Archive Systems, Inc., the Morris Family Foundation, PG&E and the MSW Board of Directors.

MSW is now looking to the Marin community to help raise the matching funds of \$50,000, for a total of at least \$100,000. This is a great opportunity for people to leverage their gift to MSW and be instrumental in helping women and their families recover their lives from addiction to become empowered, participating members of the Marin community.

Donations to help Marin Services for Women meet the Spring Challenge can be mailed to 1251 South Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904 or made via their Website at www.marinservicesforwomen.org. All funds raised during the 2006 Spring Challenge campaign will go directly to providing programs and services for women struggling to overcome addictions to drugs and alcohol.

Marin Services for Women is a licensed, non-profit corporation that provides chemical dependency recovery programs for women and families. Since 1978, MSW has offered a variety of unique programs to assist women in recovering from addiction in a safe, supportive, healing environment. They are the only provider of recovery services in Marin created exclusively for women, designed to meet the special needs of women and their families. Marin Services for Women graduates a remarkable 70% of clients who enter their programs. The mission of MSW is to advance community health by providing a full continuum of superior quality chemical dependency recovery services for women and their families. MSW's philosophy links recovery from addiction with personal, relational, and economic empowerment. MSW is dedicated to meeting the community's need to understand the nature, prevention and treatment of alcohol and other drug addiction.

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