FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This has been a very busy season with the Annual Awards Dinner and the many events planned. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors and supporters and for providing lifesaving opportunities for survivors and their children through donations and in-kind contributions. Every day we hear the voices of so many and witness their amazing resiliency skills. However, we know everyone needs support and therefore your support allows us to create many positive paths for those in challenging times.

Thank you again, please join us for upcoming events.

Barbara Kappos, LCSW
Executive Director

Thank you to all who joined on May 17th at our signature fundraising event, the Mujeres de Paz Annual Awards Dinner.

We toasted the exemplary achievements of honorees Nora Phillips, co-founder & legal director of Al Otro Lado; MARISOL, a short film written and directed by Juan Escobedo; Kaiser Permanente’s leadership in healthcare; and Antoinette “Toni” Harris trailblazing success as college football athlete and scholarship recipient.

Your generous contributions raised critical funds to enable ELAWC to continue to serve our diverse community, offering dignity, hope, and respect to women, girls, and their families.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 Mujeres de Paz SPONSORS!
SPRING Café Con NORMA BASTIDAS

Norma Bastidas is an unrelenting warrior. A mother, ultra-marathoner, human trafficking survivor, ELAWC supporter. A true inspiration.

In celebration of Women’s History Month, attendees at our 2019 spring Cafe con were wowed by a screening of the documentary Relentless. The film follows Norma’s epic journey from Cancun, Mexico to Washington DC, completing the world’s longest triathlon with one mission in mind: to combat human trafficking and empower thousands of survivors across the world.

Norma was on hand to answer questions and share stories about the individuals she has met along the way who continue to inspire her quest to change the future for survivors.

We were also honored to be joined by a group of men from the Social Model Recovery Systems who learned about Norman’s amazing strength and perseverance and wanted to hear her heroic story first-hand.

A big shout out to our friends and celebrity chef’s Jose & Shruti of Eastside Easts, who generously donated delectable Mexican cuisine, and to our talented youth group who served as event photographers.

Finally, we send a whole-hearted thank you to Norma. Your ongoing friendship and support of ELAWC’s mission is a treasure.

Violence against Women and Girls: A Human Rights Issue

“Violence against women and girls transgresses the basic human rights of all people. It violates a whole range of fundamental rights — human, civil, economic, social, and cultural. Not only does it violate the rights of individuals subjected to violence, but its repercussions impact children, families, entire communities — even nations. Violence against women takes many forms: sexual abuse, human trafficking, stalking and intimidation, physical violence and emotional abuse.”

—United Nations
Donna Huanca’s OBSIDIAN LADDER

Recognized as one of the most innovative feminist artists working today, Bolivian-American artist Donna Huanca merges paint, sculpture, performance, choreography, video and sound, creating interdisciplinary art that explores the human body and its relationship to space and identity.

In her first-ever large-scale U.S. solo show, Huanca challenges the nature of a historically male space, the former Scottish Rite Masonic temple, now home to a contemporary art space in the heart of Los Angeles, the Marciano Art Foundation. Her first-ever large-scale U.S. solo show is on display at the Marciano Art Foundation. The exhibit, titled OBSIDIAN LADDER, runs through December 1, 2019.

ELAWC is honored to be designated as one of the beneficiaries for the sale of a series of limited-edition artworks and merchandise created by the artist specifically for the show. Los Angeles-based nonprofits: the East Los Angeles Women’s Center, the Trans Wellness Center, and REACH LA.

Admission to the Marciano Art Foundation is free. Timed tickets are available online and reservations are strongly recommended.

Reserve your space at marcianoartfoundation.org

While much progress has been made in treating and preventing HIV/AIDS, the threat remains, with 1.8 million new cases reported in 2017. HIV infection disproportionately affects vulnerable & marginalized populations like those served by ELAWC.

For more than 25 years, ELAWC has delivered confidential, trauma-informed pre- and post-test counseling, and anonymous HIV testing.

This important service helps clients understand HIV risk factors, undergo testing, and implement safety and/or treatment plans. With help from ELAWC HIV Navigators, clients can access health and social services, and receive necessary medication and support for treatment compliance. Clients also participate in individual and group self-efficacy training to develop the skills required to negotiate sexual activity from a position of personal empowerment. This is important because we know women in relationships that experience intimate partner violence have four times the risk of contracting STIs, including HIV.

To learn more about ELAWC’s HIV services contact Alejandra Aguilar at alejandra@elawc.org or Karla Morales at kmorales@elawc.org

ELAWC’s HIV services were recently featured in The Body Magazine.

Read the article: In a Climate of Fear, HIV Services for Latinx Women Give Strength to Immigrant Communities

www.thebody.com/article/hiv-services-latinx-women-immigrant-communities

**AT A GLANCE**

- In 2018 over 10,000 individuals received services to prevent, protect and heal from the impacts of domestic and sexual violence, HIV/AIDS
- ELAWC Crisis Hotline responded 3,500 calls
- *Promotoras Contra la Violencia* organized 6 collectives with 250 reaching over 4,200 community members
- Of the survivors served 38% were homeless, over 86% living below poverty line and 60% were monolingual Spanish speakers.
- 75% of those served reported they had improved their quality of life
- 55 volunteers completed the certified domestic violence and sexual assault training and now serve as volunteer advocates.

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**1431 South Atlantic Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90022 | 323.526.5819 | Crisis Hotline: 800.585.6231 | HIV Info line: 800.400.7432**
MONTHLY SUPPORT MEETINGS FOR SURVIVORS AND PROVIDERS

Solidarity Gatherings: A confidential, invitation-only support group for former or current sex workers and sexually exploited individuals. We also invite individuals who rely on sex and sexual favors to sustain drug and alcohol addictions or as a means of economic support. Most importantly, women “in the life” are finding ways to empower themselves, break the isolation, and in some cases leave violent impacted lives, putting their lives on a new path. Groups meet monthly on the 3rd Friday.

Provider Mixer: An opportunity for providers, affiliates, and allies to share experiences, resources, and information when working with survivors of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, HIV, and sexual assault. Provider mixers are held on the 4th Friday of the month. To learn more about these gatherings, contact Lisa Vargas Human Trafficking Specialist, at lvargas@elawc.org

FATHERHOOD PROGRAM
A collaboration between ELAWC and National Compadres Network
Join us every Tuesday June 25th – Sept 10 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Project Fatherhood is a Family Strengthening Program. Through a guided process men/fathers are encouraged to share their lived experiences, reflections allowing for transformation and healing to take place.

CONTACT: Luis Mendoza 323.526.5819 ext 113 LMENDOZA@ELAWC.ORG

MEN’S TALKING CIRCLE*
Meets every 3rd Thursday beginning August 15 7pm - 9pm
*We invite all as their full sacred self, however they choose to identify

Critical Dance Mass Company
Critical Mass Dance Company (CMDC) supports the healing and empowerment of cis/trans girls, women, and gender non-conforming individuals in Los Angeles through dance and movement. We are happy about healing through movement.

Zen Mondays at ELAWC
ELAWC recently hosted a free 6-week yoga class for staff and clients in English and Spanish. This intentional practice focused on Grounding, Breath, Letting go, Non-Judgment, Loving Kindness, Gratitude.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHILE YOU SHOP!

Did you know can support ELAWC by simply shopping at Ralphs?

How? Login to www.ralphs.com

Search for EAST LOS ANGELES WOMEN’S CENTER either by name or WW732 and click ENROLL. It’s that easy.

BECOME A CERTIFIED ADVOCATE

Volunteer-advocates provide crisis intervention, advocacy, education, and referrals to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and those impacted by homelessness.

As an advocate, you will answer crisis calls on ELAWC’s 24-hour Crisis Hotline and respond in person to hospitals, police stations, and in court to provide one-on-one support for survivors and their significant others.

Next Training Session begins August 21, 2019

To learn more, visit elawc.org/volunteer
Or email Vanessa Marroquin, vmarroquin@elawc.org

DONATION FAQs

Do you take used clothing donations?

- New, unopened items make a great impact in the lives of those we serve. We do not take used items such as: clothing, furniture.

Where can I make a monetary donation?

- You can visit our website elawc.org/donate
- You can also Text elawc43 to number 243725 from your cell phone and follow the prompt.

What other items does the center need?

We gladly accept in-kind donations, as well. We can use:

- Gift cards or certificates to local and national businesses for our clients and to reward the hard work of our Volunteer Advocates and Clients.
- Office supplies, services, equipment, and more!

Follow us on Social Media for updates, daily news and affirmations!

Contact: Heidy Rodriguez
hrodriguez@elawc.org
SPOTLIGHT ON: ALYZA GONZALEZ

Alyza has come full circle at ELAWC. Completing the Youth Leadership training as a high school senior, she moved forward to lead monthly youth meetings and workshops focused on having healthy relationships. Taking even more initiative, she became a community organizer and multi-media producer. Now on staff full-time, she serves as a Community Engagement Specialist working to build bridges with the next generation.

We are so honored to have such an inspiring youth continuing our mission. Thank you, Alyza!

This summer, 15 youth graduated from the 40-hour Youth Leadership Training program. This training provides youth with information geared at increasing their awareness, knowledge, and understanding of sexual assault violence and its impact.

Congrats, Youth Advocates!!
A benefit for ELAWC
JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL LUNAFEST®
SHORT FILMS BY, FOR, & ABOUT WOMEN

AUGUST 31st

JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL LUNAFEST®
SHORT FILMS BY, FOR, & ABOUT WOMEN

OCTOBER 3
Join us as we honor those who have lost their lives to violence.

OCTOBER 29

Be inspired by the stories of reflection, hope and humor from women around the world.

- Special screening of ‘Soledad de Los Incendios’ by Daniel Eduvijes Carrera
- Q&A hosted by Melinna Bobadilla of the Netflix drama Orange Is The New Black (OITNB)

Tickets: $25*/$30 at the door *Includes refreshments

BECOME A SPONSOR
Contact Heidy Rodriguez at hrodriguez@elawc.org