

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATES TRANSFORM VACANT BUILDING INTO PERMANENT HOME FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCES

RICHMOND, CA JUNE 25, 2012: Dozens of volunteers and community advocates are ramping up efforts at a clean-up this Saturday to transform a vacant and blighted building into a one stop resource center for domestic violence survivors. The West Contra Costa Family Justice Center (WCCFJC) and its Partner Agencies will host a clean-up day this Saturday June 30, 2012 from 9:00am-3:00pm at 256 24th Street in Richmond. Clean-up efforts will focus on the exterior of the building, removing green material and debris that has accumulated as well as cleaning up the interior of the building in anticipation of renovations.

Currently operating from an interim location, the Richmond Police Department's Northern District Substation located at the Hilltop Mall, the WCCFJC is a collaborative multi-agency, multi-service center for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, child abuse, stalking, and human trafficking. Launched as a joint project between Contra Costa County's Zero Tolerance for Domestic Initiative, STAND! For Families Free of Violence, Community Violence Solutions, Bay Area Legal Aid, and the Richmond Police Department in March of 2011, the WCCFJC offers victims of family violence a one-stop-style center with a variety of services critical for safety under one roof.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the community to come together and begin reclaiming the building for the neighborhood, for survivors of abuse and for their children. We look forward to the day when building is completely transformed and stands a beacon of hope to victims of violence in Contra Costa." Melissa Caine-Huckabay, WCCFJC Project Director.

Cleaning up the 256 24th Street property is a key step to preparing the building for renovations and ultimately, repurposing the building to be a safe, centrally-located multi-service center for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, elder abuse, child abuse, and human trafficking and their families. Currently owned by Contra Costa County, 256 24th Street is ideally located in Richmond's Civic Center area. Identified as a potential permanent home for the Family Justice Center, the building is in need of significant rehabilitation before the Family Justice Center can move in. The FJC team is actively seeking support to raise the estimated \$1.8 million needed for renovations and rehabilitation.

Additional volunteers are needed this Saturday; interested volunteers can contact the Family Justice Center at (510) 965-4949 for additional information. All volunteers are encouraged to wear work clothes, close toe shoes, and bring a sturdy pair of gloves. A healthy lunch will be provided to all volunteers.

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