

# Monterey County Board of Supervisors

## Resolution

Resolution No. 04-378

Supporting the efforts of the *SPIRITUAL ALLIANCE TO STOP INTIMATE VIOLENCE* )  
in Monterey County.....)

WHEREAS, the 1999 World Health Organization (WHO) Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention reports that every year around the globe 40 million children under the age of 15 are victims of family abuse or neglect serious enough to require medical attention; and,

WHEREAS, the 2000 WHO World Report on Violence and Health reports that approximately 20 percent of women and 5-10 percent of men suffered sexual abuse as children, and that 38 percent of low-income teenage mothers in the United States have been physically or sexually abused during pregnancy, usually by their partners; and,

WHEREAS, the 2004 WHO report, *Violence Creates Huge Economic Cost for Countries*, estimates the huge financial toll violence against women and children exacts on our economy above and beyond the physical and emotional devastation it causes - child abuse alone costs the United States economy as much as \$94 billion a year; and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that in the United States approximately 1.5 million women and 834,700 men are raped and/or physically assaulted by an intimate partner each year, and each year, more than 500,000 women injured as a result of intimate partner violence require medical treatment and as many as 324,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during their pregnancy; and,

WHEREAS, the CDC estimates the health care costs of intimate partner rape, physical assault, and stalking exceed \$5.8 billion each year, nearly \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health care services and the American Institute of Domestic Violence estimates the total costs to our economy from domestic violence to be \$67 billion annually; and,

WHEREAS, in 2003 there were 2,484 Domestic Violence related calls for assistance to our local law enforcement agencies and 683 arrests for domestic violence related offenses in Monterey County; and,

WHEREAS, national and international statistics shows that violence against women and children is the most ubiquitous human rights violation worldwide; and,

WHEREAS, it is in intimate relationships that we first learn and continue to practice either respect for human rights or the acceptance of abuse as "just the way things are"; and,

WHEREAS, each year, thousands of American children witness intimate partner violence within their families - which is a risk factor for long-term physical and mental health problems, including alcohol and substance abuse, being a victim of abuse, and perpetrating intimate partner violence; and,

WHEREAS, intimate violence and overall violence in our society are inextricably interconnected; and

WHEREAS, reducing and eliminating the global and local prevalence of domestic violence through better education, changed customs, and responsive policies is essential to promoting healthier and more productive communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Spiritual Alliance to Stop Intimate Violence (SAIV) Monterey County is a network of many key community organizations and individuals with the mission of stopping intimate violence - the seed for an ongoing cycle of violence in families and communities; and,

WHEREAS, SAIV Monterey County works with community partners to build momentum for preventing intimate violence and offers education and information to foster personal growth and policy change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County supports the efforts of SAIV to prevent intimate violence as well as to educate the public to prevent intimate violence in families, schools, and public life.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of November 2004, by the following vote, to-wit:



*Louis R. Calcagno*  
Chair Louis R. Calcagno

*Fernando Armenta*  
Supervisor Fernando Armenta

*W. B. "Butch" Lindley*  
Supervisor W. B. "Butch" Lindley

*Edith Johnson*  
Supervisor Edith Johnson

*Dave Potter*  
Supervisor Dave Potter