



NEXT DOOR

Neighbor

*Ending Domestic Violence in the Moment
and for All Time*



Finding a Path to a New Career and Healthier Life



Can someone pursue a college education after the age of thirty? Is it possible for a single mom to study full-time, work part-time, and spend quality time with her three-year-old child, all at the same time? The answer is YES.

I am a single mom with a three-year-old daughter, Anh. It was a huge challenge to balance my studies, the care for my daughter, and my part-time jobs. However, I finished many undergraduate units at San Jose State University with a GPA of 3.77.

I am the first in my family, who are all in Vietnam, to live abroad and pursue a college education. I came to the U.S. in 2003 and got married, but the marriage turned into an abusive relationship. It ended in restraining orders and a painful divorce. I left my husband when I was pregnant and stayed at Next Door's Emergency Shelter. At the shelter I had food, clothes, and legal help for my immigration paperwork and medical care for my pregnancy.

In May 2005, I received my green card. That was the turning point in my life, an opportunity

to gain freedom, independence and a better education. From a victim, I became a survivor, and now I am passionate about working to prevent domestic violence and child abuse.

My ultimate educational goal is to obtain a Masters degree in Social Work. I'd like to help victims escape domestic violence and start new lives. I have a long way to go and even though I am working very hard, I couldn't have gone this far without the help and support from Next Door.



"Thank you for offering me an opportunity to hope, to dream and to gain courage to continue my life's journey in education."

—Kim-Ly,
Next Door Client

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Domestic Violence and the Workplace



Dear Next Door Neighbors,

This issue of our newsletter examines domestic violence and the workplace. Domestic violence doesn't stay home when its victims go to work. A study of domestic violence survivors found that 74 percent of employed battered women were harassed by their partner while they were at work and it has been estimated that the annual cost of lost productivity due

to domestic violence is \$727.8 million, with over \$7.9 million in paid workdays lost each year.

In response, Next Door conducts risk assessments and develops safety plans for victims; this is one of our many areas of expertise. However, without the aid of the workplace, safety planning is relatively ineffective. After all, it is where we spend most of our time. It is the most predictable area of our life. We can be monitored, stalked and harassed most easily at work. Our livelihood is dependent on our work and our performance determines our employment status. If we are battered and need to leave the relationship, keeping our job is essential.

Imagine yourself as a victim. Your batterer calls you at work constantly. You can't go out with colleagues after work because you feel threatened. Your batterer sits in front of the workplace at different times of the day to "catch you" doing something "wrong." Your batterer

keeps you up all night to harass you. You find your work clothes destroyed. Your batterer is your childcare and, at the last moment, retracts the promise to care for your children. Batterers routinely use these kinds of behaviors and tactics. Imagine what might happen to your work performance under these conditions.

Now imagine a workplace fully informed and ready to help. Toward this goal, Next Door is planning an exciting new collaboration that will target small and medium size businesses to train and assess "danger points" within the workplace. Next Door will provide information and support to companies wishing to improve practices and assist workers. For more information e-mail me at kkrenek@nextdoor.org.

I like to think big! Someday through efforts such as this, the world will become a safer place for victims of domestic violence and their children. The entire community will realize this is everyone's responsibility. And a little further down the line, we won't be needed to protect victims because there will be no victims. Please know that your support increases our chances for that reality. For that, we thank you again for being such wonderful neighbors.

Peace,

*Kathleen Krenek
Executive Director*

Next Door Helps Employer and Employee Create a Safe Solution

"I called the Next Door Hotline because I was very worried about one of my employees; she was being stalked and harassed here at work by her abuser. I called the Hotline to get some general information about Next Door. Being experts about abusers, they immediately became proactive. First, my employee gave me permission to give them a statement about what had happened that day on the job site. My employee was understandably pretty upset, but the professionals at Next Door calmed her down. My employee agreed that it was not safe for her and her daughter to return home to the abuser that day. So they did an intake, which allowed her to go to the Next Door shelter for services. I am so grateful to Next Door for taking care of valuable people like my employee."



—Julio, Local Business Owner

Next Door Clients Succeed in the Workplace

Amanda is a 23 year old single mother with two children. After being homeless and struggling with substance abuse for many years, Amanda is finally able to provide her children the stability they need. This month, Amanda began attending classes with JobCorps. She has been doing extremely well and after she receives her GED she plans to attend classes for culinary training. She is working very hard and determined to create a healthy future for herself and her children.

“Now I know I can create a future for me and give my children a chance to succeed.”

—Amanda, Next Door Client



Chenguang is a Chinese immigrant who spoke virtually no English when she first came to HomeSafe two years ago. Her ex-husband had kept her completely isolated and shut off from the outside world.

Chenguang now has three part time jobs, her son is excelling in pre-school, and she just passed her interview for U.S. Citizenship. In addition, Chenguang has been studying U.S. History and brushing up on her English skills for the past several months.

“I’m working hard and studying. I’m glad I came to HomeSafe two years ago.”

—Chenguang, Next Door Client

Domestic Violence Facts and the Workplace

Domestic Violence has a strong impact on business:

- Annually, domestic violence costs businesses \$727.8 million in productivity, \$7.9 million in paid workdays, and nearly \$4.1 billion in healthcare costs.
- 94% of corporate security directors rank domestic violence as a top security problem at their firm.
- 91% of senior corporate executives said that domestic violence affects both the private and working lives of their employees.
- The cost of domestic violence in the workplace includes low productivity, healthcare expenses, sick leave, absenteeism, and staff turnover.

Your business can be part of the solution:

- Learn how to recognize domestic violence warning signs.
- Help protect your employees, colleagues and workplace.
- Create a safe workplace environment for everyone.
- Learn what to do if you suspect a co-worker, employee, friend, or relative is in danger.

What you can do to help:

- Listen without judging. Don’t rush into providing answers.
- Make sure she knows that she is not alone.
- Let her know that you support her and that the violence is not her fault.
- Tell her that free, confidential help is available.
- Call Next Door’s Hotline at [408.279.2962](tel:408.279.2962)

Ways Families Give to Next Door

Next Door graciously benefits from many family-inspired acts of generosity. Family foundations donate financial gifts, couples volunteer together as a team, mothers and daughters attend events together, and clients and their children volunteer their help to other clients.

The Borgman Family

One family that has been a consistent supporter of Next Door's programs and services is the Borgman Family. Peggy Wynne Borgman joined Next Door's Board of Directors when Next Door merged with WATCH in November of 2003. She is the inspiration behind Next Door's signature event, Healing Touch. She and other event creators envisioned a night of pampering for women while supporting Next Door. Peggy is the owner and founder of a leading Silicon Valley spa, Preston-Wynne Spa, located in Saratoga. She has led the Preston Wynne Spa (www.prestonwynnespa.com) professionals annually to team with Next Door staff and volunteers to make Healing Touch a spectacular success. Her commitment doesn't end here; Peggy served as board chair in 2006 and as a spokeswoman for Preston-Wynne Spa, she promotes awareness of domestic violence in the workplace.



Next Door is pleased to announce that Peggy Wynne Borgman will be honored

as a Distinguished Volunteer Fundraiser at the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Silicon Valley Chapter's 2008 Philanthropy Day event on Monday, November 17.

David Victor, son of Ron Borgman and brother of Peggy Borgman, has been a Next Door volunteer for three years. His company, Accelerator Enterprise Technology, www.acceleratoret.com, offers programming, web design, and search engine optimization services. David donates his time and resources by acting as Next Door's Webmaster, helping to update the website, add new pages, and make other enhancements. The cost of this professional service is prohibitive to most nonprofits but thanks to David Victor, Next Door is able to provide important information to clients and donors about its services.

The Borgman Family tradition of giving and community involvement began with Ron Borgman and continues with his son, David Victor, and daughter, Peggy Wynne Borgman. Ron spent his professional career leading an organization that provided Human Resources training to corporations. Ron knows firsthand the importance of training and so at retirement, established the Borgman Family Foundation. The Borgman Family Foundation funds training for Next Door staff and three other grantees so that they may increase their organizational capacity and resultant impact on the communities they serve.

Borgman Family Foundation support is not limited to only financial donations, technical assistance and valuable time; they also provide great energy, dedication, and community and business leadership that are all directly felt by the 9,000 clients that Next Door serves each year.

"The work is satisfying and is important beyond our family."

—David Victor

The Cassen Family

Support from the Cassen family exemplifies the act of giving from the heart. David and Susan Cassen began their long history of supporting Next Door in 1994. Susan, a dedicated volunteer in a local high school, had a position created specifically for her there as a Parent Volunteer Coordinator. David and Susan have given to Next Door every year for 14 years, sometimes several times each year, through

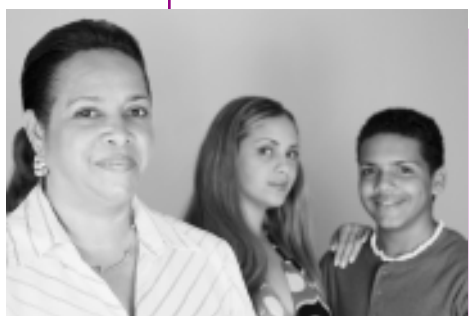
both good and hard economic times. When David and Susan made a three-year pledge, they kept their three year pledge despite David losing his job during that first year. Even though their family financial circumstances changed, they kept their pledge to Next Door and even extended their pledge for several more years. When Susan was asked about this commitment, Susan said, "I just trust what Next Door does."

"I just trust what Next Door does."



Holiday Boutique Families Giving and Receiving

Each year Next Door hosts a Holiday Boutique for its clients. Mothers choose gifts for their children and children select gifts for their parents—free of charge. These gifts are often the only presents these families will exchange.



"One night during the Holiday Boutique, a client checked in for her appointment to "shop" with a Holiday Boutique volunteer. Her two teenage children accompanied her and also waited for their assigned volunteer to take them through the gift selection process. While they waited in the lobby, a carload of presents arrived. The mother immediately asked if she and her kids could help unload the presents and take them upstairs. After doing that, the mother noticed volunteers checking in to help wrap gifts. She asked if she and her kids could volunteer for the following night. She had a true look of happiness in her eyes that showed the joy of giving and receiving, knowing that she could help others."

—Sandra Daniels
Next Door's Volunteer Coordinator

Leaving a Charitable Legacy is Easy

When you think about supporting victims of domestic violence, consider making Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence a part of your estate plan. Making a planned gift to Next Door is an excellent way to support a cause you care about while receiving financial, tax, and estate planning benefits. Gifts that leave a legacy provide exceptional personal and financial benefits and can support a family's current philanthropy efforts now and in the future. Learn more about leaving a charitable legacy by contacting Dori Ives at dives@nextdoor.org or 408.501.7558.

Note from a Donor

We hope that this donation will continue to help all that you do. Thank you for helping the women in our community. We have seen the wonderful things that Next Door Solutions does to pull women out of violence and we hope that you never stop these efforts.

Love and Blessings,
Rama Marwis and Murat Salder

S T A F F S P O T L I G H T

Next Door is saddened to announce the retirement of one of its most cherished employees. Shawne Smith, Next Door's Associate Executive Director, will retire from her position at the end of September. Shawne joined Next Door 14 years ago as our Social Work Intern and has since become a great leader and a mentor to many. Shawne will continue to support Next Door as a consultant providing supervision to the social work interns and providing support around training, but she will be very hard to replace. Those she has inspired best sum up her leadership:

"Shawne has been a great mentor to me, giving me the opportunity to develop my skills as a new manager with the housing program. I will miss her presence at Next Door, her commitment to the agency, and the strength that she has brought to the management team. She will leave a void in this agency, but I will cherish the memories that she has given me."

—Patricia Nanez
Next Door's Residential
Services Manager



"Shawne and I are two of the longest standing employees at Next Door and have seen the growing pains and changes that have made this agency as great as it is today. Shawne has been vital to this growth and has been integral to addressing the many challenges that have made Next Door what it is today. She will be greatly missed."

—Patti Bennett
Next Door's Advocacy Manager

"Words can hardly describe Shawne's commitment to Next Door and to victims of domestic violence throughout the county. She has been an essential and vital seed to the growth and stability of Next Door. She is Next Door's historian—incredibly knowing and wise—and has defined Next Door's direction and inspiration for the whole of this past decade."

—Kathleen Krenek
Next Door's Executive Director

Next Door Volunteer Wins Unsung Heroes 2008 Award

Mayra Edith Ramirez, one of Next Door's most prized volunteers, has been honored with an Unsung Hero Award 2008. This award, given by the Victim Support Network for Santa Clara County, honors those "unsung heroes" who have, through their direct and indirect efforts, provided assistance and support to victims of crime in Santa Clara County. For Next Door, Mayra has dedicated herself to supporting the well-being of children for several years and this past April became Next Door's HomeSafe Children's Assistant. We are all so proud of the work Mayra does for the community and for Next Door.





The Perfect Gift

I was so moved when I heard this touching story: A little five-year old boy was shopping at the Next Door Holiday Boutique for the “perfect” gift for his mom. He found a pair of cubic zirconium earrings and was so proud as he carried out his holiday wrapped treasure. His older siblings cautioned him, “Don’t tell mom until she opens it at Christmas!” However, his enthusiasm got the best of him. Seeing his mom as they got ready to leave, he shouted out “Mom, Mom, we got you diamond earrings!”

This story prompted several friends and me to volunteer one evening of the week-long boutique. I chose to work with the kids by helping them wrap their gifts for their mothers. Each child proudly chose her or his mom’s favorite color for the gift paper.

Much thought went into it, each child choosing the “perfect” gift for mom, just like that pair of “diamond” earrings.

Almost a thousand mothers and children go through the boutique to shop for one another. The Next Door team works very hard to coordinate the event.

I am volunteering again this year and am going to focus on getting new items for the boutique well ahead of the holidays. This advance giving helps Becky Black, Development Associate, and her team to better plan for the event and prevents that last minute rush. If you would like to help with advance giving or at the boutique, please contact Becky Black at 408.501.7571 or bblack@nextdoor.org.

“The team does a fantastic job putting together an event that lets us see first-hand how Next Door touches so many at the holidays.”

*—Marianne Adoradio,
Next Door Board Member*



D.A.T.E. @ Oak Grove

On March 14, a dozen Oak Grove High School students participated in an innovative, psycho-educational Next Door program called D.A.T.E. (Dating Abuse Teen Educa-



tion) designed to help teens educate other teens about teen-dating violence. Bravely performing five skits for more than 1,500 Oak Grove students

and teachers, they dramatized unhealthy relationships and helped raise awareness about this controversial issue.

Next Door staff directed and rehearsed the student “actors,” introducing them to the D.A.T.E. curriculum over a six-week period. The curriculum covered power-and-control dynamics, the difference between appropriate and inappropriate relationships, and warning signs of physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual and financial abuse.

The project helped the students develop peer-educator skills that allowed them to educate their classmates on the risks of unhealthy dating relationships. They expressed pride in their performance and commitment, learning about themselves and how theatre can educate and transform perspectives. Some audience members found the performance hard to swallow, but many others gave it their undivided attention, later expressing their appreciation of the performance, which further empowered the student-actors for future success.

Christmas in August?!

Yes! Next Door's Holiday Boutique is just around the corner

For more than two decades, generous individuals, families, community groups and businesses have all helped Next Door collect and distribute thousands of holiday gifts to our clients free-of-charge.

Turn your next family gathering, business meeting or social event into a "gift-collection" for the Next Door Holiday Boutique in December. Kids and teenagers love \$25 gift cards from major retailers, stuffed animals, sleeping bags, violence-free toys, electronics, board games, and sporting equipment. Help us fill our room just for moms and other women in need with a special display of new clothing, beauty products, jewelry, household items and bedding as well as other pampering items.

Gift cards from major department, grocery and drug stores as well as entertainment outlets are especially welcome!

Next Door's Holiday Boutique also needs supplies to wrap over 1,000 presents—rolls of gift wrapping paper, labels, scotch tape, scissors, gift bags of all sizes, and decorative tissue paper—as well as cheerful volunteers to be Santa's Helpers!

For more information, contact holidaygiving@nextdoor.org

This event is generously sponsored by Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati Foundation.



Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
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NEXT DOOR

Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence, founded in 1971, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit multicultural agency dedicated to providing proactive and progressive solutions to domestic violence. The Next Door Neighbor is published two times each year.

Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence
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Next Door

234 E. Gish Road, Ste. 200
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Next Door's 24-hour hotline:

408.279.2962

Double Your Gift to Next Door

Did you know that you can easily double your gift if you work with your employer's matching gift program? Inquire at your workplace to find out if they have an employee matching gift program.

We're going green!

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E-mail jmarcus@nextdoor.org.

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