



Honor – Empower - Restart

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WTLC Executive Assistant Contributes to Domestic Violence Awareness Quilt



Shanti Harris at work.
**Photos courtesy of
Shanti Harris**

March 14, 2014 – In the quiet shade of the Garden Café at Cal State Fullerton, Shanti Harris, spent Saturday afternoon, March 8 – Woman’s Day – creating an eight by eight inch quilted square. The square is destined to be one of 65 that when sewn together will become a quilt bringing awareness to the ongoing menace of domestic violence.

Harris is the executive assistant for the Women’s Transitional Living Center (WTLC) a non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals and families escape the depths of domestic violence and exploitation. WTLC provides the tools and resources to build self-esteem and empower people for independent living.

The quilt project was organized by Jessica Rodriguez, a photography major at Cal State Fullerton, in conjunction with the Cal State Fullerton’s Woman’s Club. As a freshman,

Rodriguez did an art project on unhealthy relationships. “As I did more research into domestic violence, the statistics were terrifying,” she said.

She learned that one in every four women and one in every seven men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime, and that there are an estimated 1.3 million victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. Most of those cases are never reported.



So, for one of her last projects at school, Rodriguez organized the quilting project. Each participant was given an eight-inch square of fabric and asked to reflect on a message to deliver using beads, markers, and colored ribbons.

“I created a quilted square with the WTLC Logo and Hotline phone number,” Harris said.

The quilt, which will be sewn together by Rodriguez, will go on public display on the second floor of Visual Arts Building E beginning around the first of April. After about a month, Rodriguez says she plans on donating the finished project to WTLC.

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