

## MARIPOSA COUNTY PROJECT RESPECT HISTORY

The Mariposa County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (MCDVCC), under the lead of Mountain Crisis Services (the local Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Program) was awarded a prevention grant through the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. The funding originated from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Delta Project. The goal of this funding was to mobilize the community's coordinated domestic violence response team, or the MCDVCC, to strategically plan for and implement primary prevention efforts for domestic violence. The Council explored risk factors within our community that were linked to domestic violence and decided to examine the role of bullying as a contributing factors.

A parallel process was occurring at the time the Council was exploring bullying within the School District. The Mariposa County Unified School District had established an Anti-Bullying Task Force to explore bullying and solutions to bullying within the schools. The MCDVCC's Prevention Subcommittee began meeting with the School District's Anti-Bullying Task Force to coordinate efforts within the schools and the community at large, recognizing it would take a comprehensive effort to change the cultural norms existing around the issue of bullying.

It was determined a Needs Assessment about bullying was a necessary and important first step. The needs assessment was conducted during the winter and spring of 2005 in the schools and communities of Mariposa County. As a result of an on-going planning process, we were able to develop a series of strategies that were unrolled in the 2006-07 school year.

Since 2006, many teachers and faculty in MCUSD have been applying the Project Respect Curriculum In their classrooms. In 2007, we adopted the lead teacher model. This teacher is a point person on their campus to help the other teachers begin to implement Project Respect in their classrooms. Beginning in the 2009-10 school year, there will be two demonstration schools that will receive an in-depth training about the curriculum. In these schools, every child will receive the curriculum and the schools will receive additional support through a half-time Project Respect educator and a "coach".