

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS – OUR HISTORY

50 Years of Service to Women, Children and Families

MANY THREADS.
ONE MISSION.



Carol Council



Joyce Nower

In 1969, the grassroots efforts of a college student, **Carol Council** and a young college professor, **Joyce Nower**, helped women and children escape domestic violence by hiding them in an “underground railroad” of private homes throughout San Diego.

Along with San Diego State University’s Women’s Liberation Group, they rallied the campus to launch the Center for Women’s Studies and Services (CWSS), the first Women’s Center in Southern California and first Women’s Studies program in the country.

The Center for Women’s Studies and Services resources for women included free 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault hotline counseling, individual and group therapy, outreach to at-risk women and girls, education on career options, and opportunities for community activism.

CWSS changed its name to Center for Community Solutions (CCS) in 1995 – reflecting a philosophical shift, and framing rape and domestic violence as issues that are threats to public health caused by cultural norms that tolerate and perpetuate intimate partner and sexual violence.

Ending these forms of violence requires a community solution, embracing new cultural norms that promote equality and respect, and hold those who harm accountable.



A broader understanding of the needs of survivors has now expanded CCS’ focus to address the needs of individuals of all ages, genders, and diverse groups, and to hold a firm resolve that violence can be prevented.



KEY MILESTONES

2018 CCS launches **Access to Services Program** in partnership with Deaf Community Services and San Diego Regional Center, to serve survivors of intimate partner violence who are Deaf/deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened, or DeafBlind and/or individuals living with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

CCS launches **Domestic Abuse Forensic Exam** program by providing a victim advocate response team to accompany domestic violence victims of strangulation or choking during their forensic exam.

CCS expands our **Campus Sexual Assault Services** program to a total of nine college campus locations.



2017 CCS founders, Carol Council and Joyce Nower, are inducted into San Diego County's Women's Hall of Fame, a momentous tribute to their groundbreaking efforts to end violence against women in 1969.

2015 San Diego State University receives a grant from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to better prevent and respond to incidents of sexual assault on campus. CCS is chosen to partner with SDSU providing a **Sexual Assault Victim Advocate** to students.

2011 CCS is the coordinator for the newly launched **San Diego High Risk Team**, a multi-disciplinary team that includes the San Diego District Attorney, law enforcement, San Diego Probation Department to review and coordinate care on domestic violence cases where lethality risk is high.

2009 CCS launches HOPE (**H**elp and **O**utreach to **P**rotect the **E**lderly) Team program.

2004 CCS celebrates its **35th anniversary** and is selected to receive an **Oprah Angel Network Award** in recognition of the outstanding contributions CCS has made to San Diego.



2002 CCS adds **Teen Advocacy** to its Rape Crisis Center and begins operating San Diego County's only **Youth-to-Youth Helpline**. CCS also acquires **Hidden Valley House** Emergency shelter.

1997 CCS opens an **East County office** with services to meet growing needs in the community.

1995 Center for Women's Studies and Services **changes its name to Center for Community Solutions** to reflect more inclusive services.

1991 The **Rape Crisis Center** is formally incorporated in the County's Sexual Assault Response Team.

1988 **Project Safehouse**, a full-service shelter allowing stays of up to 28 days, is opened by CCS.

1986 CCS begins providing state-mandated training to the San Diego Police Department and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department beginning a formal **domestic violence liaison**.

1983 CCS opens the first **Temporary Restraining Order Clinic** for "battered" women in California.

1980 San Diego's only **Rape Crisis Center** is launched with state funding.

1977 San Diego's first **24-hour Hotline** for victims of domestic violence is opened by CCS.



1969 CCS is established as **Center for Women's Studies and Services**, at San Diego State University. CWSS gave rise to the first Women's Studies Department in the U.S.