



May 4, 2018

Tadeo Azael De La Hoya  
City of San Luis City Manager  
1090 E Union Street  
San Luis, AZ 85349

Mr. De La Hoya,

Since Amberly's Place partnered with the City of San Luis in June of 2008, calls for services continue to take place as does the increase in services to the people who live in the City of San Luis. Many exciting things have transpired this last year that I would like to share with you that are unique to the City of San Luis. The San Luis Police Department has made it possible for one of the rooms designated for Amberly's Place to be used for therapy for children who are survivors of domestic violence with a parent who has committed suicide. The Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Institute is located in Flagstaff Arizona. However, with the use of tele-therapy and the soft room at the P.D. a child victim can now have a safe place to go and receive therapy from a Spanish speaking therapist. These children previously were the forgotten survivors of a suicide left with many problems and little help. Thanks to this partnership with the City of San Luis this gap is covered at no cost to the family.

The City of San Luis Prosecutor meets with each DV victim prior to the hearing. The prosecutor's office contacts the Amberly's Place advocate to coordinate a meeting with the victim. This is the only prosecutor in Yuma County this agency works with that takes the time to do this. The advocates have stated this step helps the victims to feel believed and stronger. Each act of kindness helps the victim to heal and move forward. The two collaborative efforts stated above are proof that the City of San Luis is vested in helping victims become survivors. However, there are other great things happening in your community.

The advocates have talked with Judge Guerrero regarding the issues with Orders of Protection and the close proximity to Mexico. Abusers know that the Orders issued in San Luis, Arizona are not recognized in San Luis, Mexico. This has made crossing into Mexico very dangerous for the victims. Judge Guerrero contacted the Courts in Mexico and set up an appointment. The Judge and an Amberly's Place Advocate went to San Luis, Mexico to see if they could get them to recognize US Orders of Protection. This is a start in a conversation which could make some huge changes for DV victims living in San Luis, Arizona and crossing to see family in San Luis, Mexico. Once again this shows the investment and partnership with the City of San Luis.

The San Luis Police Department has an agreement with US Port Authorities to notify the Police Department when a DV offender crosses the Border and the victim has an Order of Protection. The police then working with Amberly's Place notify the victim giving them time for any safety measures needed. This can help to save lives by giving this advance notice.



Amberly's Place advocates are members of the South County Domestic Violence Task Force and attend meetings and events with this group. They are also members of the South County Sexual Assault Task Force. Being part of the multi-disciplinary team in the City of San Luis is important to this agency and strengthens our relationship and services to victims.

A new Yuma County Sexual Assault Task Force has been formed. San Luis Police Department is part of this new Task Force. One of your officers received a scholarship to the training in Phoenix on new investigative methods in sexual assault cases with some Task Force members. This group will bring training to Yuma County law enforcement officers at no cost on investigating these crimes. This group is also looking at the statewide protocols to see how they can be adapted to be guidelines for Yuma County. Peer reviews are held monthly at Amberly's Place for all forensic interviewers. These will now include interviews of sexual assault victims to help strengthen this area of investigation.

Amberly's Place now has 5 full time advocates who are all bilingual and will be available for the City of San Luis calls for services. The partnership this agency has with the City of San Luis and the Mayor and Council as well as the Police Department is very important to us. The services in the City of San Luis continue to improve due to these partnerships. This agency will continue to provide training at no cost to your officers and work as a team to address issues facing victims of abuse. We are requesting the same amount of funding as we have received in the previous years, which is \$41,808.00. We hope to see some of the inroads and improvements the City of San Luis has made for victims repeated in other Yuma County cities and towns.

Thank you for your on-going support it means so very much to our success with the victims in your community. Together we are making a difference.

Respectfully;

*Diane Umphress*

Diane Umphress  
Executive Director  
Amberly's Place