

Families Thrive raises awareness, shares insights and builds community-wide support for children, youth and families affected by domestic violence.

Every 10 minutes, another child in Contra Costa County sees or hears domestic violence.<sup>1</sup> Children exposed to domestic violence often face significant social and behavioral challenges as well as adverse health outcomes, which if left unaddressed can carry forward into adulthood. Since there is a strong connection between childhood exposure to domestic violence and many of the costly social issues that our community faces every day, we all pay a high price for not addressing this issue.

But what if we could significantly diminish crime and incarceration rates, reduce the demand on our mental health, unemployment and social services, and make businesses and schools more productive? And what if we could, at the same time, improve the health, well-being, safety and success of the young people in our community?

*Families Thrive*, a unique Contra Costa County partnership, is actively shaping this reality by working with dozens of diverse organizations to marshal their resources, increase capacity and build partnerships to address the specific needs of children and families impacted by domestic violence. *Families Thrive* recognizes that compromising the ability of children to reach their full potential represents a significant loss for themselves and our community. Research shows that for every dollar invested in these children today, Contra Costa County saves more than \$8 down the road in reduced demand on social and health services. This doesn't even consider the savings in reduced crime and violence rates, higher educational achievement or increased worker productivity.

*Families Thrive* is committed to linking key entities (families, neighbors, schools, courts, counselors, mental and health care providers, and youth organizations) and championing cutting-edge strategies to raise awareness, share insights and build community-wide support for families affected by domestic violence. By heightening understanding of the significant long-term impact exposure to domestic violence can have on children and offering specific ways each sector can positively intervene, Contra Costa County is leading the nation in breaking the cycle of violence, ensuring children's safety and building stronger families, while setting a positive new course for our community.