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Month shed light on domestic violence

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By Michelle Ma

Triuplicate staff writer

October was a colorful month in Del Norte County.

Homecoming and awareness campaigns splashed blue, gold, pink and purple across store windows throughout the area.

For domestic violence awareness month, more than 1,300 purple cut-out bears were sold and placed on the walls and windows of area businesses. The bears—along with other fundraising efforts this month—raised more than \$2,000 for Harrington House, a program of Rural Human Services.

But aside from fundraising, the month-long campaign was successful in raising awareness about domestic violence, said DJ Ramsey, operations manager for Harrington House.

"The main idea of October is the outreach and letting everyone know we're here for you," she said. "A lot of people came up and thanked us. The Harrington House has touched a lot of people here."

October is when all of the fundraising takes place for Harrington House, a resource center and shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children.

More than 270 purple bears were sold at Pizza King this month, covering



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Almost 300 purple cut-outs hang around Pizza King, which sold the most bears in the county for domestic violence awareness month. Customers donated \$1 for each bear.

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• 150 Years

window, counters and menu boards. Employees are still trying to collect enough donations to hang the restaurant's remaining supply, said Laura Hege, a cashier.

"It's a really good cause, and I believe in it," she said. "I just got real serious and I asked everyone who came in."

Harrington House staff plan to continue awareness efforts with another training session for hairstylists to recognize signs of abuse.

Teri McCune-Oostra, senior manager for Harrington House, has worked in the field of domestic violence in Del Norte County for more than 20 years. She recently was honored for her service through the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence.

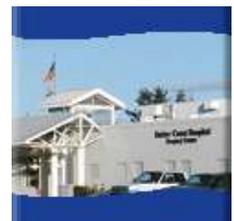
McCune-Oostra sits on the organization's board of directors, which was recognized at the annual membership meeting this fall.

"I was really surprised and honored to have the recognition from my peers," she said.

McCune-Oostra has completed a year of service on the state-wide organization's board, which meets monthly in Sacramento.

"The California Partnership to End Domestic is proud to have Teri on our board of directors because of her many years of distinguished service to domestic violence victims and their families, and to her community as a whole," said Camille Hayes with the organization.

Reach Michelle Ma at mma@triuplicate.com.





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