



**Sojourner
Center**

Transforming Lives

Maria Garay, M.S.W., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer

"We need to shift domestic violence from a social issue to one of a public health epidemic."

Maria E. Garay, M.S.W., Ph.D., is CEO of Sojourner Center, one of the nation's largest and longest running domestic violence shelters, serving nearly 9,000 women and children impacted by domestic violence each year.

Dr. Garay's passion for understanding the roots of domestic violence and for pursuing innovative methods to prevent it inspired her to become a leader in the domestic violence field. Under her leadership, Sojourner Center is implementing a five-year strategic plan, known as the Circle of Care/Transformation Program. This plan aims to strengthen Sojourner Center's core programs and services for women while expanding its care continuum to not only treat but also end the cycle of domestic violence.

Prior to joining Sojourner Center, Dr. Garay was a senior advisor to the Good Shepard Shelter in Los Angeles, a domestic violence shelter. She has also served as president and CEO of John Tracy Clinic, and vice president and chief operating officer of Para Los Niños. Previously she was associate director of social services for the Salvation Army Southern California division, where her responsibilities included oversight of two domestic violence facilities.

Dr. Garay's studies in sociology and social work are rooted in her personal history as a child in an immigrant family from Mexico in which her father abused her mother. She was dedicated to the idea that she and her siblings could break the cycles that cause domestic violence to continue down through the generations of a family.

Dr. Garay attended Pitzer College at Claremont where she earned her undergraduate degree in sociology. Her graduate studies in social work were at University of Southern California where she earned both a master's degree and a doctorate.



SojournerCenter.org

24-Hour Crisis Support: 602.244.0089

Main: 602.244.0997