

Marcy Lynn Gross



The Violence Prevention field pays tribute to and remembers Marcy Lynn Gross, a powerful advocate who worked tirelessly to improve women's health and end violence against women and the elderly. Gross died on June 19th, 2005.

She was an expert on health policy and medical training who most recently helped draft initiatives that are part of the *Violence Against Women Act of 2005*, now being considered by Congress. She was widely published on women's health issues, and served on the editorial board of the FVPF's new online journal, *Family Violence Prevention and Health Practice*. Recently, she worked with the FVPF and the Association of American Medical Colleges to learn how medical schools do and do not address family violence, with the goal of creating an online library that will train the next generation of health care providers to do more to help victims. She helped coordinate research and other meetings to bring together leading minds to convince health leaders to recognize family violence as the public health issue it is.

"Marcy Gross was a creative and strategic expert who gave her time and enormous talent to efforts to improve the health care response to abuse," said FVPF Managing Director Debbie Lee. "Her deep understanding of the intricacies of health care policy and financing helped us overcome numerous obstacles. Because of her work, countless women and children will get the support and intervention that allow them to find alternatives to the violence in their homes. Her grace, optimism and humor will be missed."

Marcy was a longtime advocate for women's health, working for years to prevent heart disease, breast cancer and depression in women as well as family violence and sexual assault. She established the women's health program at the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, where she developed a visiting scholar program on family violence. She also held positions with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health at HHS, the Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Graduate Medical Education and Area Health Education Center Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Marcy was a valued and trusted advisor to the FVPPF, contributing significantly to its health program's work. She was a warm, energetic and vibrant person and a dear friend to many. She brought an infectious energy to her work and to her life, and shared her wisdom graciously and with generosity. She will be sorely missed. She is survived by her long time companion, John Drabek, and her two children, Alexandra Drees-Gross and Julian Gross and her grandchildren Katherine and Klara. A small private funeral will be held this Saturday (family and close friends only).

If you wish to send cards or expressions of condolence, the please send to: The Family Violence Prevention Fund, 383 Rhode Island Street, Suite 304, San Francisco, CA 94103
Attn: Lisa James – who will send them on to the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made in her memory to:
The Family Violence Prevention Fund. Please send contributions to the address above (attn: Lisa James). We will put these funds aside and determine how we will honor Marcy with the help from some of her close colleagues in the field. If you have questions, please contact 415 252 8900 ext. 27. or lisa@endabuse.org.