

RAPIDSOS +



RapidSOS and Domestic Violence Center of Santa Clarita Valley partner to offer improved emergency communication

- 240 million¹ 9-1-1 calls are made every year in the U.S.; over 70%² are from mobile phones, which fail to provide exact location to emergency dispatchers
- Approximately three women in this country are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends every day. Of these, most are killed within two weeks of leaving the batterer³
- Haven represents a transformation in access to emergency services – from a phone call solely dependent on voice to a robust data connection for voice, text, medical/demographic data

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Newhall, CA (August 29, 2016)

The Domestic Violence Center (DVC) of Santa Clarita Valley today announced a partnership with [RapidSOS](#), an emergency technology start-up revolutionizing personal safety and family connectivity. The partnership will offer one year of free access to the RapidSOS Haven app, providing individuals and families with enhanced access to emergency services. Haven sends important data to 9-1-1 in a discreet way that does not necessitate a spoken conversation with first responders.

With one tap on Haven, the app connects the user with the nearest dispatch center anywhere in the contiguous U.S., while providing a voice connection and a data pipeline to 9-1-1, to transmit:

- Text messages (Haven speaks the text message if the dispatch center does not have the capability to receive texts)
- GPS location
- Type of emergency
- Relevant medical and demographic data

The app's "Can't Speak" function allows users to notify 9-1-1 when they are in a situation where it is dangerous or difficult to speak. A tap on the "Can't Speak" icon transmits a user's location and relevant information to the dispatcher, without the need for an audible conversation. Additionally, a user can optionally add emergency contacts to be informed when an alert is triggered.

"RapidSOS technology connects individuals and families to the help they need during a time of crisis," said RapidSOS co-founder and CEO Michael Martin. "The Domestic Violence Center of Santa Clarita Valley is doing vital work in their community and this partnership will get Haven into that hands of individuals who urgently need it."

¹ National Emergency Number Association. <http://www.nena.org/?page=911Statistics>

² National 911 Program. *Review of Nationwide 911 Data Collection*. <http://www.911.gov/pdf/current911datacollection-072613.pdf>

³ The Domestic Violence Center of Santa Clarita Valley. <http://dvc-scv.com/index.php/mission-and-vision/>

Working together, RapidSOS and the Domestic Violence Center of Santa Clarita Valley will support the victims of domestic violence, improve personal security, and empower individuals facing emergency situations.

“People everywhere should be able to access help as quickly as possible when they are at risk of or have experienced domestic violence,” said Linda Davies, Executive Director of DVC. “The Haven app is especially valuable for people facing domestic violence because they can reach help discreetly.”

The Haven app also includes access to RapidSOS’ Family Connect feature. For the first time, people can call 9-1-1 on behalf of a loved one, transmitting their loved one’s location and relevant data directly to the dispatch center nearest them. Additionally, Family Connect allows users to share their location with loved ones, see family members’ real-time locations without the distraction of a phone call or text, and easily and discreetly ask family and friends for help. Each user can choose who can see their location and when it is shared, ensuring privacy and control.

RapidSOS is offering Haven free to those associated with DVC for a 1-year period, if they sign up for the app [here](#). The Haven app is available for iPhone and Android devices and works anywhere across the contiguous U.S. and Hawaii, with one touch emergency calling in over 250 countries and jurisdictional territories. For more information about RapidSOS and the Haven app, visit www.rapidsos.com.

About RapidSOS

RapidSOS was formed in 2012 by a team of M.I.T., Harvard, and Stanford grad students who had personal experiences with the challenges of the existing emergency communication infrastructure. Working closely with the 9-1-1 community, tech and telecom companies, and leading investors, RapidSOS is developing technology to predict and preempt emergencies before they occur, dynamically warn people in harm’s way, and ensure that first responders are one touch away globally. Learn more at www.RapidSOS.com

Contact:

Regina Jaslow
rjaslow@rapidsos.com
(347) 879-0024

About the Domestic Violence Center of Santa Clarita Valley

The Domestic Violence Center (DVC) of Santa Clarita Valley provides safety and support to victims of domestic violence while working to break the cycle of abuse. We primarily offer shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, and activities to support increased economic opportunities for victims. We endeavor to increase community awareness about domestic violence issues and bring about societal change through education and public policy advocacy. Our vision is that all people will take personal responsibility to eradicate domestic violence in their own relationships and families and in the community at large.

Contact:

Linda Davies
(661) 259-8175

###