



Contact: Marisa Binder
2211 Palm Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94403
Tel: 650-652-0800 / **Fax:** 650-652-0808
www.corasupport.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CORA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MELISSA LUKIN, HONORED
AS ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 22'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

Speaker pro Tem Kevin Mullin presented the award at the State Capitol on March 9, 2015

San Mateo, March 9, 2015 – Melissa Lukin, Executive Director of Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA), was honored as Assembly District 22's Woman of the Year by Speaker pro Tem Kevin Mullin today at a ceremony held at the State Capitol in Sacramento. Lukin has spent nearly 12 years at CORA, working tirelessly to advocate for the prevention of domestic violence and to provide crucial services to victims and survivors of domestic violence.

"Melissa Lukin is committed to initiating a safe and healthy public dialogue around the issue of domestic violence. I am proud to highlight her work in our community, and the work she is doing at CORA is amazing," said Mullin. "San Mateo County is very fortunate to have her working in our community."

In 2003, Lukin was asked to take the helm of CORA, following her work as a consultant merging CORA's forerunners, Sor Juana Ines and Center for Domestic Violence Prevention. As Executive Director, Lukin successfully implemented cutting-edge, trauma-informed service delivery, established a \$1.8 million endowment, opened a second emergency safe house and oversaw the purchase of a community office building, ensuring CORA's longevity at a time when many non-profits are struggling with astronomical rents.

###

About CORA

CORA provides safety, support and healing for individuals who experience abuse in an intimate relationship, and educates the community to break the cycle of domestic violence. The only agency in San Mateo County with the sole purpose of serving victims and survivors of domestic abuse, CORA provides confidential emergency, intervention and prevention services, including the County's only emergency shelters, as well as a 24-hour hotline, an emergency response program, therapeutic counseling, legal services and supportive housing for survivors. Services are free of charge and are open to anyone needing help. Services are available in English and Spanish, as well as many other languages.