



## **A Safe Options for Seniors Client Reacts**

As I sat on my patio last Thursday enjoying my first newspaper in my new, undisclosed location, I read with horror and disbelief the actions of Governor Schwarzenegger relative to assisting victims like myself.

I cannot believe that a man who is supposed to have a high, moral center actually cut all funding for the Domestic Violence Program. Does he not realize that by doing so, victims like myself will have no lifeline to the future? Does he not understand that programs like Human Options are imperative to the physical and psychological welfare of victims? Moreover, by eliminating this program, does Mr. Schwarzenegger actually understand that he is sending a clear signal to all abusers that what they're doing is acceptable? I dare say he has no clue.

After I was assaulted on June 9th resulting in multiple abrasions and contusions and a fractured wrist that required surgery, I tried to do necessary paperwork and understand court proceedings on my own. I failed miserably. My contacts with the Adult Reentry Center got me hooked up with a counselor at Human Options who went to court with me, knew everyone on a first-name basis, and gave me the support I so desperately needed. Without the encouragement and understanding of these fantastic folks, I would still be a broken person, struggling to survive completely on my own in an environment that is foreign and certainly unwanted.

My next correspondence is to Mr. Schwarzenegger and I encourage all victims to write to him and advise him of the mass error in judgment he has made. And I genuinely hope that he does not have to wait for his wife or daughter to become a victim in order to make a better choice.

Kathy  
Human Options graduate