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Green Dot Homer celebrates everyday heroes

• *Alibi named 'Green Dot Homer Workplace of 2015'*

Nichole Smith
Homer Tribune

 **HOMER TRIBUNE/Nicole Smith**
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of South Peninsula Haven House and
Mercedes Harness of Friends of the
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last Friday to present the winners of the
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“Can you tell me how to get to the Salty Dawg?”
“Do you know what time it is?”

These may seem like everyday questions, but to Green Dot Homer, they are questions meant to prevent violence before it starts.

Last Friday, Homer citizens and area businesses gathered at the Homer Public Library to announce winners of Green Dot Homer's "10-in-10" contest as well as celebrate Homer's commitment to preventing acts of violence in the community. Picture a map of Homer with red dots similar to an outbreak of disease spreading across it. In the Green Dot program, those red dots represent acts of violence like domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and stalking. In the Green Dot program, the goal is to replace those red dots with green ones.

South Peninsula Haven House's Tara Schmidt said a green dot, is 'when you notice a stressed-out mom yelling at her kids at the grocery store, and you say, 'could you please pass me the Cheerios.' Or maybe you notice somebody trying to leave the bar with someone who's too drunk and say, 'hey, I think you left your lights on.'”

Green dots in the Homer community are ways for everyone to do their part to prevent crime and let others know violence in the community isn't tolerated.

Six area businesses, the Alibi, Alice's Champagne Palace, Bulletproof Nets, the Homer Bookstore, the Homer Public Library and KBay Caffé were each given 10 days to get the most green dots.

Each business was given a checklist of simple things they could do to make it clear they don't tolerate violence in Homer; and that they expect everyone to do their part.

Each task – a Green Dot – earned points. Also, the training is not specifically focused on preventing crime, but on preventing acts of power-based personal violence such as intimate partner violence, child abuse, sexual assault and stalking. The business with the most green dots would be named Green Dot Homer Workplace of 2015 and receive a free ad in the local newspaper.

Together the six businesses collected over 500 green dots. “That's 500 conversations about violence that would normally never happen. That's 500 people talking about things they can do to make our community safer,” Schmidt said. Second runner up in the contest was Kbay Caffé with 112 green dots. The first runner up was Homer Public Library with 118 green dots. The Alibi Bar and Café received the distinction of winning Green Dot Homer Workplace of 2015 with 136 green dots.