

# Dunn House founder honored by state

By Myles Murphy

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Rosemary Dunn Dalton, founder of Ashland's Dunn House, has been honored by Attorney General Hardy Myers for her work to assist and empower victimized women.

"This represents an award for Southern Oregon rather than me as an individual," Dalton said. "I just really am pleased, they made their assessment based on long-term work. It's always an honor to be recognized by the Department of Justice. It says we're working together."

Dunn House, established in 1977, was the first battered women's shelter in Southern Oregon.

Dalton has organized, advocated for and administered a variety of programs for women. She also represents interests of women in legislative and educational forums.

After starting Dunn House, Dalton went into private counseling practice in 1980. In 1983, she moved to Boston where she did work on hate crimes and incarcerated women. She returned to Ashland four years ago and now teaches classes at Southern Oregon University on women's' development and violence against women as well as continuing her private practice.

She presently sits on a task force that is looking into treatment programs for women arrested

for domestic violence in Oregon, as well as separating out women who have been inappropriately arrested for defending themselves in domestic violence situations.

Maggie Jordan, director of victims services for Community Works, nominated Dalton for the award. Community Works staffs and operates Dunn House.

"We call on her for special projects freely," Jordan said. "She's a really good resource. She deserves all the credit she can get."

Dunn House serves 400 to 600 women and children a year, providing safety and support to victims of domestic violence and their children, Jordan said.

Before the Dunn House, vic-

tims of domestic violence were sheltered in a network of individual homes.

"The shelter centralized our ability to have a support system," Jordan said.

Jerry Sea of the Domestic Violence Council met Dalton in the mid-1980s when Sea went to work for Dunn House.

"She is a powerful, clear, strong woman who I think is here to inspire other women," Sea said. "She did so much for women in this community from the mid-1970s on."

Dalton was recognized along with three other Oregonians as part of the 20th anniversary of National Crime Victims Rights Week, which is April 10-14.