

CENTERPOINT

Summer 2015

The Women's Center's mission is to provide safety, shelter and support to women and their families affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse and to facilitate their development.



THE
Women's
CENTER

United Way Merger Significant To Agencies

LIVE UNITED



Greater Milwaukee
& Waukesha County

Many of you have heard about the merger between United Way in Waukesha and United Way of Greater Milwaukee as a means to maximize efficiencies of both entities and to foster a collaborative philanthropic culture in both communities. This is significant to the donor community as well as agencies such as The Women's Center because United Way partially funds several of our programs. This "new" United Way offers its member agencies such as The Women's Center a better chance at maintaining our program allocation as well as the potential to establish new relationships with donors, volunteers, etc. The Women's Center receives about 13% of our operating budget from United Way which therefore carries great weight in our ability to fulfill our mission and provide free, comprehensive programs to survivors of family violence, sexual assault or abuse.

Our current United Way funding supports:

Domestic Abuse Advocacy, Shelter & Counseling:

Our 32 bed shelter offers temporary safe housing to women and their children who flee their homes due to domestic violence. This program, along with our 24-Hour Hotline is staffed 24/7, year round. Individual and group counseling is available for residential and nonresidential adults and children. Clients also have access to our Legal Advocates who provide support and assistance in filing and obtaining temporary restraining orders.

Transitional Living: This program provides two year subsidized housing and comprehensive support services to women and their children transitioning out of abusive relationships. The program helps clients overcome barriers to independence and self-sufficiency such as lack of support, financial concerns, and limited access to safe, affordable housing.

Family support and child abuse prevention:

Funds are used to reduce the likelihood of family violence, child abuse and neglect through programming initiatives such as emergency respite childcare, crisis counseling, short term counseling, parenting classes, and peer support groups for parents in times of stress.

Employment Counseling & Life skills: This program's primary emphasis is to address the needs of under- or unemployed clients seeking economic self-sufficiency by providing job-readiness and job-seeking skills.

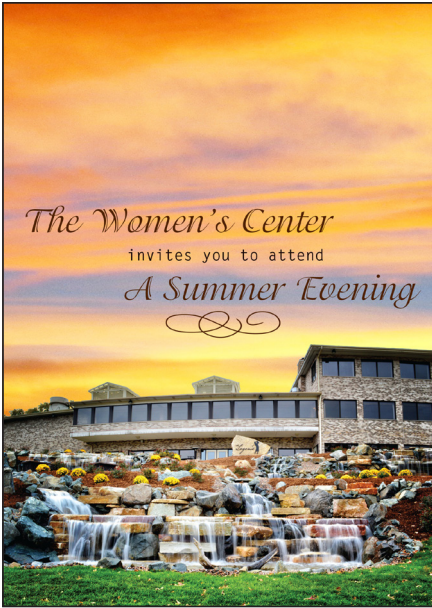
Sexual abuse and assault counseling: One of The Women's Center's oldest programs, we provide counseling, support, advocacy and outreach to adult and child survivors of sexual assault and abuse. Our goal is to provide a continuum of service inclusive of early intervention and support as well as reduce the long term trauma associated with sexual abuse.

The work we do at The Women's Center can't be done alone. Your partnership and that of United Way will carry significant impact with our clients as we must continue to provide our programs and services FREE of charge to the thousands of individuals we will work with this year alone. This coming campaign season will set the tone for how our communities come together for the higher purpose of supporting survivors of domestic abuse or sexual assault and abuse. I am very familiar with United Way and also am happy to be participating on this year's Campaign Cabinet representing the nonprofit sector. Please feel free to contact me or United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County (visit www.unitedwaygmwc.org for more) with any questions or concerns.

Angela Mancuso
Executive Director

The Women's Center's free programs and services include: Emergency Shelter, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Counseling, Transitional Living, Employment Counseling, Legal Advocacy, and a 24-Hour Hotline. Free onsite childcare is available during support groups, classes, and counseling appointments.

Join us for a Summer Evening



Please join us for our annual Summer Evening event on Saturday, July 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. This year the event will be held at The Legend at Merrill Hills in Waukesha.

The evening will be filled with delicious food, drinks, and live music from Jay Anderson. Guests have the opportunity to bid on unique live and silent auction items and to check out the gorgeous and newly renovated clubhouse at Merrill Hills. Our event chairs, Alison Holub and Nancy Lindenberg, are looking forward to seeing you there!

Tickets are \$150 each (\$85 of each ticket is tax deductible). Proceeds benefit our free programs and services that help women and children heal and break the cycle of violence. More information and registration is available by visiting www.twcwaukesha.org. For information regarding sponsorship and auction donation opportunities, please call 262-522-3805. Thank you to our sponsors, including Diamond Sponsor Nancy Lindenberg and Platinum Sponsor Orthopaedic Associates of Wisconsin!

Luncheon Keynote Entertains and Educates



Joshua Safran and Toya Washington (both seated, right) with guests including Executive Director Angela Mancuso and Board President Kristen Roche (both standing, right)

Our Anniversary Luncheon was an enjoyable and inspiring afternoon. Held at the Italian Community Center on April 24, the event raised over \$60,000 for our programs and services!

Keynote speaker Joshua Safran shared stories of his experience as a child witness to domestic violence and discussed how that experience led him to become a passionate advocate for abuse survivors. He told his story with humor and heart and provided a unique perspective on the effects that domestic abuse can have on children.

Thank you to our sponsors, emcee Toya Washington, auction donors, and guests! Check out photos from the event on our Facebook page.

Wish List and Donation Information

We are currently in need of the following items:

- African American hair care products
- Hair brushes and combs
- Pillows

The Women's Center relies on the kindness and support from the community to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our clients. We greatly appreciate donations of items such as food, personal care products, cleaning supplies, and new toys.

Due to storage limitations, we do not have the space to accommodate donations of used items such as clothing, toys, or household goods. There are several community agencies in need of such items. For example, the Hope Center (502 N East Avenue, Waukesha) accepts used clothing and Goodwill accepts clothing and household items. Our clients receive vouchers to shop at Goodwill, and can access clothing at the Hope Center as well.

We thank you for your consideration of our clients and others in need in our community!

*Cookie donations are always a fun treat!
Thanks, Emma!*



Pardon our dust! Construction is underway!

We work with over 500 children each year through individual counseling, family sessions, age-appropriate support groups, and childcare. We have outgrown our existing counseling suite; to better meet the needs of our clients, we decided to pursue a remodel of some underutilized space. Currently, our youth counselors' offices are small; children may feel confined and uncomfortable in the small space, and are unable to spread out toys, art projects, and other activities. These therapeutic play activities allow children to safely process emotions and express their thoughts and feelings so that healing can be achieved.

We have begun construction on our improved children's counseling suite. The plans include space reconfiguration, new, soothing colors, maximizing natural light, views of our natural outdoor landscape, comfortable furniture, and other design concepts and quiet, positive distractions that reduce stress and anxiety.

An additional benefit to the remodel will be an increased ability to facilitate family counseling sessions. The greatest indicator of how a child reacts and moves forward from trauma is how their caregiver responds. Our counselors help caregivers learn normal trauma reactions in children and positive ways to respond. We encourage caregivers to seek out their own care and treatment with the belief that the healthier the caregiver, the better able to attend to the child. Through family counseling sessions, we work to reestablish the bond between child and caregiver that is so often strained due to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Funding for this remodel was raised from generous donors at our 2014 Fashion Show, with additional support from Bright Horizons Foundation. Special thanks go to our volunteer carpenters and painters who have donated their time to help make this project a reality. Thank you for helping us create a safe, caring, and warm environment for children!

If you have questions or would like more information regarding our services for children, please call 262-547-4600 or visit www.twcwaukesha.org.

At right: Relaxing and creative activities like drawing can help children process their emotions and express how they are feeling.



The Women's Center Thanks These Businesses for Their Recent Support!

Ace Precision Machining Corporation

ActionCOACH of Elm Grove

Aegis Corporation

American Academy of

Matrimonial Lawyers - WI Chapter

Antigua Real Restaurant

Associated Bank

Benefit Plan Admin. of Wisconsin

Bergson Interiors LTD

BNI Pewaukee

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India Religious Center

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Shorewest Realtors

Southwest Airlines Co.

Studio Gear

Swick Technologies, LLC

Town Bank of Hartland

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Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, S.C.

Wisconsin Coach Lines, Inc.

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THE
Women's
CENTER

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Non-Profit Org.
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**Calendar of
Special Events**

Summer Evening
The Legend at
Merrill Hills
July 18, 2015

**Futures Free
From Violence**
Milwaukee Public Market
October 15, 2015

Fashion Show
Country Springs Hotel
November 13, 2015

24-Hour Hotline 262-542-3828

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Volunteer Spotlight: Sharon Wood

Sharon is a dedicated, long time supporter of The Women's Center. As a former neighbor of one of The Women's Center's founders, she developed a connection with the agency while it was in its very early days. Sharon has played a critical role in the growth of The Women's Center and continues to join us in our mission.

Sharon served two terms on our Board of Directors, participated in various committees, and was Board President in 2013. She has many fond memories of her time on the Board: "Some of the most special moments were when someone in the community approached me and shared the importance of The Women's Center, and how the free services provided helped make a difference in their lives and in the lives of their children."

Sharon says that she admires the work that is done here at The Women's Center and is impressed by the focus and dedication of the staff. She hopes that one day, "I will be able to pick up a newspaper and not see a single article about domestic violence or abuse toward women and children. Until then, we really need to continue to raise our voices about the need for volunteers and support for the mission. Our clients deserve it."



Thank you, Sharon, for all you do for The Women's Center and our clients!

Remember The Women's Center in your Will

Centerpoint is published by The Women's Center, Inc., a private, non-profit charitable organization. The mission of The Women's Center is to provide safety, shelter and support to women and their families and to facilitate their development. Comments regarding Centerpoint should be directed to Dana at 262-522-3805. As a United Way agency, The Women's Center encourages you to support the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County.

