

# From destitution to success

Memoir reflects on help author received from The Women's Center

By Sharyn Alden  
Special to The Freeman

WAUKESHA — In her newly-released memoir, "I Was a Yo-Yo Wife," author Vivian Probst says The Women's Center changed her life over 30 years ago.

"I was destitute in every possible way," she said.

A former missionary, then a displaced homemaker living in poverty, Probst rose to become a national consultant to the affordable housing industry and an award-winning author. "But it wouldn't have happened without The Women's Center," she added.

The Women's Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary this month.

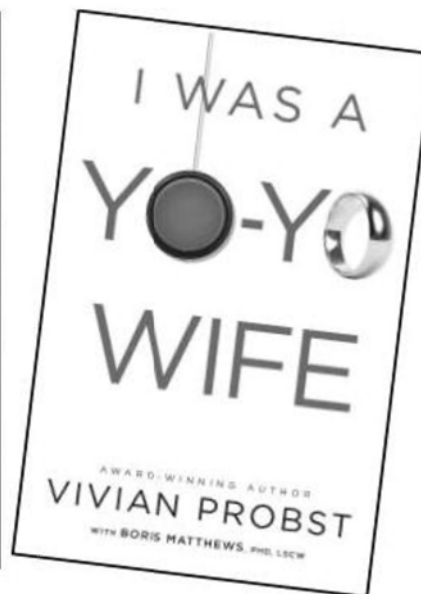
Since 2000, Probst has endowed and contributed to her "CAN-IF" Fund through her consulting business and book sales. CAN-IF's focus is on the child care needs of individuals using the services of The Women's Center.

"The number one reason single-parent families fail to thrive is inadequate child care," she said. "I am doing whatever I can to help those families succeed."

On Tuesday, Probst will talk about her life and the recent release of her memoir at Books & Company in Oconomowoc. She thought she was supposed to live as a missionary wife in Africa. Instead she had a life-changing revelation she calls THIS — a unique approach to learning how to truly love yourself, which, she claims, changed everything — including her life



Vivian Probst



work.

Probst shares her life story and tips with readers so that no matter what their life experiences may be, they too can experience a deeper sense of self-worth and love through a journey she calls "Meology."

## Nationally known consultant

With the help of The Women's Center, Probst landed her first job in the field of property management in 1981 and fell in love with the business. She has never left it — even when stories started showing up to be written. She'd done both for the past 17 years and was awarded the Publishing Trifecta from When Words Count retreat which put her first novel, "Death by Roses," into publication.

Probst is also president of her national consulting company, The TheoPRO Group. She works with strategic partners who specialize in Section 42 and other affordable housing programs. A nationally recognized consultant and trainer, her experience includes over 35 years of property management and 28 years of national train-

ing and consulting experience.

## Writing her memoir

In 2008, when Probst was writing her romantic comedy, "Death by Roses," her second marriage was falling apart. Then she discovered something so life-changing to her marriage that it compelled her to write her newly released memoir.

Her memoir starts with her life in Africa where, she begins, "Under a mosquito net in a mud-bricked African house that cooked us like an oven at night, I asked God to take my life."

Probst didn't want to write a memoir.

"It dredges up the past which isn't exactly comfortable," she said. "But I've learned a few things in my life and one of them is that resistance can be a key indicator for the right path to follow especially if it has something to do with allowing your personal dreams to be realized — taking them seriously and living them — which I intend to do for the rest of my life."

Probst is still writing and has a number of books in process. For more information, visit [vivianprobst.com](http://vivianprobst.com).