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.

Hispanic Outreach: Overcoming Barriers to Services

According to 2010 Census data, the City of Waukesha has a 12.1% Hispanic population with that number expected to grow. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services notes, “Hispanic/Latinos are the second largest and fastest growing minority racial and ethnic population in Wisconsin.”

The Women’s Center offers free and comprehensive services, including domestic violence and employment counseling, which are sensitive to the needs of our Hispanic clients.

Our clients face a unique set of barriers and circumstances, which might include limited English proficiency or a lack of knowledge of legal rights and protections. Women may be reluctant to seek out supportive services because they fear being judged, or worry that an agency may not have bilingual staff.

The Women’s Center has earned the trust of our Hispanic clients through our bilingual staff members, making our program materials and website available in Spanish, and building connections with supportive community agencies through membership in the Waukesha Hispanic Collaborative Network.

Offering a full spectrum of employment and counseling services is essential. Abusive partners may use economic power to control their victim by limiting their ability to get or keep a job. This leaves women financially dependent on their abusive partners. Overcoming this dependency can be a significant hardship for a woman attempting to leave a relationship.

After finding employment, women with limited work experience may find it challenging to navigate a workplace environment, or to advance their careers beyond entry-level or low-wage work.

To address this problem, The Women’s Center’s employment program emphasizes skills such as time management, self esteem, and communication in order to help women build a foundation for success.

Our counselors understand that Hispanic clients are faced with a unique set of cultural expectations and challenges. Concerns cited by our clients include the responsibility of holding the family together and the pressure to have their children grow up with a father in the house. To address these challenges, counselors work with clients to increase self-confidence and develop goals and safety plans. Legal advocates offer support and information on the legal process.

The Women’s Center makes every effort to serve all diverse populations and to be a place of welcome, respect and healing. For our Hispanic clients, accessing services can be the first step toward a brighter future.

The support group “Abriendo Puerta Para Mujeres” (“Opening Doors for Women”) meets on Tuesdays from 6:30-8pm. The group focuses on building employment readiness skills.

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 Crisis Line. Free onsite childcare is available during support groups, classes, and counseling appointments.
Senhoa Foundation supports vulnerable persons and survivors of human trafficking by providing income-generating opportunities, social reintegration and programs for self-empowerment. Outside of her work with Senhoa, Lisa T. D. Nguyen is the emcee for Asia Entertainment, Inc., a variety musical production company with over 4 million viewers worldwide. For more information, call Dana at 262.522.3805. Reserve your seats in April!

“My Style, My Life, Believing in Me!” a Fashionable Evening

Friends of The Women’s Center gathered at the Country Springs Hotel on Friday, Nov. 15th for our annual Fashion Show. Models, including members of The Women’s Center’s board and staff, presented fashions from A.J. Ugent Furs, Boutique B’lu, Faye’s, Nextdoor, Picardy Shoe Parlour, and Squire Fine Men’s Apparel, with hair and makeup styled by Studio 890. Emcee Susan Kim from TODAY’S TMJ4 presided over the event. Net proceeds were over $57,000! Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Legends of the Field/Lindy Enterprises, and to all of our event sponsors, donors and guests!
Holiday Donations Help Warm Hearts

Thank you to our generous donors! With your help, our clients were able to have a happy holiday season!

Match Day Makes Contributions Go Even Further

Organized by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Match Day is a one-day online donation opportunity to increase support and awareness for community agencies that provide basic needs of food and shelter. For 24 hours on March 13, 2014, beginning at 12:00 a.m., donors can give to The Women’s Center online at www.MatchDayMKE.org. All gifts made during this specific time will be matched proportionately, based on a pool of matching funds and the total amount raised by each organization during the Match Day period. The website is secure, credit card numbers will not be stored and donors aren’t required to log in or register.

Last year The Women’s Center received over $152,805, which was proportionately matched with an additional $57,068 from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. This early giving challenge provides The Women’s Center a positive, supportive foundation for the year ahead. The pie chart at left shows TWC’s Operating and Program Expenses from 2012, detailing how cash-donations support our clients.

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

- A. J. Ugent Furs & Fashions, Inc.
- Ace Precision Machining Corporation
- American Paper & Packaging
- Anton’s Salon and Spa
- Ascent Private Capital Management of U.S. Bank
- Boston Store
- California Closets
- Century Fence Company
- Clean Air and Water Systems, LLC
- Country Springs Hotel
- Craig Berns Salon Spa
- Foley & Lardner LLP
- Galleria West Shopping Center
- Gold’s Gym
- Good Harvest Market
- Hays Companies
- Jack Safro Toyota
- JCPenney
- Kalmbach Publishing Company
- KKL M Properties, LLC
- Marine Bank - CIBM Bank
- Michael, Best & Friedrich
- Milton Family Law
- Molly Maid of Lake Country
- North Shore Bank
- Personnel Specialist, Ltd
- Picardy Shoe Parlour
- PJK Finishing Company, Inc.
- Power Test Inc.
- ProHealth Care Medical Associates
- Purity Dialysis Centers
- Reneu Women’s Health/Medispa
- Shorewest Realtors
- Straight-Up, Inc.
- Studio Gear
- Sugar Plum Properties
- The Business Journal
- The Legend at Brandybrook
- Time, Inc
- U.S. Cellular
- Visu-Sewer, Inc.
- Waukesha Floral and Greenhouses, Inc.
- Waukesha State Bank
- Weiss Berzowski Brady L.L.P.
- Wells Fargo
- WHR Group
- Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, S.C.
- Zorn Compressor & Equipment Inc.

New for 2014!
Schedule a donation online in advance to be processed on March 13.
“Thank you for everything you have done to support me. It has been a long time since anyone has been there for me. The Women’s Center has shown me great compassion and I thank you for that.”

Spotlight: Angela Mancuso

The Women’s Center is pleased to introduce our new Executive Director, Angela Mancuso. Angela joined The Women’s Center in November of 2013 following the retirement of Marie Kingsbury, the long-standing Director of twenty-five years.

Angela has over ten years of professional experience serving in the domestic violence field. In her previous roles, she served as Executive Director of Sojourner Truth House and Co-Executive Director for Sojourner Family Peace Center.

Angela is the past co-chair of the City of Milwaukee’s Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and is currently a Commissioner. She was given a Mayoral Proclamation from the City of Milwaukee on September 12th as “Angela Mancuso Day” for outstanding service to victims of domestic violence.

She was also acknowledged as a “Women of Influence” in 2012 from the Milwaukee Business Journal.

Angela holds a Business Administration degree from Mount Mary University and serves on the Mount Mary University Justice Advisory Council, the President’s Advisory Council of Carroll University, and on the board of Ex Fabula.

“The Women’s Center is a remarkable agency. From the absolutely dedicated staff to the committed volunteers and donors to the supportive community, this agency has transformed lives for three decades. I am proud to be a part of The Women’s Center and am committed to meeting the needs of those in our community experiencing the trauma of family violence, sexual assault and abuse. There is hope and it can be found at The Women’s Center.”

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 Waukesha County.