This past spring, The Women’s Center launched its Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) pilot program. The VPI is an educational program for middle school youth designed to curtail or reduce harmful behaviors including bullying and teen dating violence.

The Women’s Center’s educational programs have historically been geared towards high school students, but experts, advocates, and victims themselves all agree prevention efforts must begin earlier, before teenagers are involved in serious dating relationships.

Through an emphasis on nonviolent conflict resolution skills, the program helps students respond to peer pressure, establish and respect boundaries, and foster healthy friendships and relationships. Students are taught how to not be perpetrators of violence.

Bystander intervention is another key component of the VPI. Participants learn how to intervene if they see somebody being mistreated and how they can be supportive to someone who is being victimized.

The pilot program took place at North Shore Middle School in the Hartland Lakeside School District. Our Violence Prevention Advocate facilitated the program, which consisted of a series of three “lunch and learns” for each grade level.

The topics addressed included Conflict Resolution, Healthy versus Unhealthy Friendships, and Unhealthy Relationships. These concepts build upon each other, so that the lessons learned in one year help to form the foundation for the next year’s topics.

Preliminary results from the pilot program are promising. Post-test results from eighth grade students in particular showed a significant increase in their understanding of healthy versus abusive relationships.

Diane Ripple, Director of Programs and Services, noted, “The Women’s Center was happy to work with the Hartland Lakeside School District on this initiative. The administrators and teachers were a tremendous source of support, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with them during the school year.”

The Women’s Center is looking to bring this program to school districts throughout Waukesha County.

A sample study of middle school aged students conducted by the Centers for Disease Control found that:

- ¾ of the students were already dating
- 1 in 3 had been victims of psychological dating abuse
- 1 in 6 had experienced physical dating violence

If you are interested in the Violence Prevention Initiative, call The Women’s Center at 262-547-4600. Our Violence Prevention Advocate is also available to speak at your business or organization.
Anne Daley Beyers, a beloved founding mother of The Women’s Center, passed away on Sunday, September 7 after a five-year struggle with cancer. Anne was an inspiring activist and advocate for all women, and especially for children. She was their voice in many ways and made certain we found a place for “the children” as part of our services. She will forever be remembered at The Women’s Center for her profound ability to ensure every person felt special, loved, and supported.

Anne’s personal calling was her enthusiasm and belief that life is in the living of it. She embraced every moment whole-heartedly. Anne accepted life’s challenges so she could pass on her lessons and enthusiasm for living in the moment with a smile, laugh, love, and a hug. We celebrate the remarkable life of Anne and will continue to further her vision of ending violence against women and creating a peaceful community.

**Holiday Wish List**

As the cold weather looms and the holiday season approaches, The Women’s Center is in need of the following gift items for our clients. **We request that items be new and unused.**

**Gift Certificates:**
- Famous Footwear, Payless, Target, Walmart, movie passes, iTunes, sporting goods stores

**Infants:**
- Nightlights, toys that play soft music for bed time, sleepers, onesies, socks, snowsuits

**Pre-School:**
- DVDs (Disney, pre-school movies), Leap Frog books, wooden blocks, baby dolls (all ethnicities)

**School Age:**
- Games (Sorry, Trouble, Monopoly, Apples to Apples, Connect 4, handheld electronic games), remote control cars, doll strollers, DVDs, Legos, headphones (not ear buds)

**High School:**
- Handheld electronics, gift cards, scarves, boys hygiene items, sketch pads, art kits, journals, athletic pants, hoodies, ear buds, larger headphones, warm gloves

**Gifts for Moms:**
- Gloves, scarves, mittens, hats, scented hand lotions

**Thank you** for your generous donations. Your contributions help to create a happy holiday for the families we serve!

**We are well-stocked with and no longer in need of:** Stuffed animals, Barbie dolls, games which require significant assembly
Futures Free From Violence was held on Thursday, October 2nd at the Milwaukee Athletic Club. The event featured a team trivia contest with prizes for the winning teams. Approximately 120 young professionals and friends of The Women’s Center teamed up against family violence and the event grossed $11,500! Thank you to our sponsors, co-chairs Alison Holub and Nancy Lindenberg! Event photos can be viewed on our Facebook page.

Summer Evening successfully raised over $74,000 to help provide free shelter, counseling and support for thousands in our community. Thank you to our sponsors, auction donors, emcee Alana Merkow, auctioneer Steve “Homer” True, event guests, and to our co-chairs Alison Holub and Nancy Lindenberg! Event photos can be viewed on our Facebook page.

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

88Nine Radio Milwaukee
Adel Korkor Photography
American Family Insurance Co.
AT&T
Beer Capitol Distributing Lake Country, LLC
Boucher Group
Brenner, Wall & Gay
Citizens Bank of Mukwonago
Colby Construction Co., Inc.
Dave Droegkamp Heating
Dedicated Computing
Drs. Shoemaker & Gilson, S.C.
EZMoney Payday Loans
First Bank Financial Centre
Liberty Mutual
Good Frenz Movement Centre
Hydrite Chemical
Investors Bank
Jack Safro Toyota
Kwik Trip, Inc.
Lake Country Women’s Club
Michael Best & Friedrich
Milwaukee Business Journal
New Berlin Junior Woman’s Club
New Berlin Lioness Club
Nu Attitude Salon
Oberlin Filter Company
Oconomowoc Women’s Club
Orthopaedic Associates of Wisconsin
Park Place Capital Management
PLM Paving & Concrete
Power Test Inc.
Radiology Waukesha S.C.
Rouldy’s Supermarkets, Inc.
Schweil & Wendt, S.C.
Shorewest Realtors
SPX Transformer Solutions
The Faye McBeath Foundation
The Woman’s Club of Pewaukee
Tri City National Bank
U.S. Cellular
Union Pacific Foundation
Waukesha Noon Kiwanis Club
Waukesha Noon Lions Club
Waukesha State Bank
Weiss Berzowski Brady L.L.P.
Weldall Manufacturing, Inc.
WHR Group
William Nordstrom Jewelers

Save the date! Our Fashion Show will take place on Friday, November 21st at the Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee. Models, including local celebrities and friends of The Women’s Center, will showcase the latest fashions. The event will include a dinner, large silent auction, and raffle. Susan Kim of Today’s TMJ4 will return as emcee. Tickets are $75 each or $750 for a table of ten.

Visit www.twcwaukesha.org for more information or to register.
Spotlight: Jessi Trauth

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Jessi Trauth, our new Shelter and Transitional Living Director. Jessi comes to The Women’s Center with years of experience from Sojourner Truth House, the domestic violence shelter of Sojourner Family Peace Center.

Jessi began her work at Sojourner as a Children’s Advocate, where she provided programming to children in shelter including support groups, after-school tutoring, and field trips. She was promoted to Children’s Program Manager, where she oversaw all children’s advocates, served as the liaison with schools, developed and implemented Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare Domestic Violence training, and designed age-appropriate programming.

Most recently, she served as Sojourner’s Associate Shelter Director, where she provided overall shelter management and supervision, ensured 24 hour Hotline coverage and training, worked with systems partners, and developed best practices for children’s programming throughout the agency. Jessi has extensive experience in developing and managing comprehensive family and child-related programs and services in a shelter setting.

Jessi holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Marquette University, a Master of Arts in Elementary Education from Cardinal Stritch University, and is a Certified Teacher.

Welcome to The Women’s Center, Jessi!