

Crisis center helps find solutions

By Rebecca Haynes
staff writer

LOOKS CAN BE deceiving — and the clients at the Women's Survival Center in Pontiac prove the point.

The Pontiac-based agency that provides crisis intervention, information, education and other services for women and their families, receives a lot of telephone calls and requests for help from women who live in some wealthy neighborhoods.

"People look to places where there is apparent affluence and ask why we need a place like this," said WSC executive director and Farmington Hills resident Anne Borg. "People think how could these women possibly need anything."

Borg said the agency's primary target is to serve poor women, but she defined those women on two different terms.

"The obvious is a woman on a limited or minimal income," she said. "But the other poor woman is one who's chafing, a woman who lives very affluent but lacks control of

any money and may live in an abusive situation. "She doesn't want to tell her neighbors or her minister because she's very embarrassed," Borg said. "She just doesn't know where to turn, and we hope she'll know to turn to us."

SUPPORT GROUPS, counselors, staff knowledgeable enough to provide information and referrals as well as a popular legal clinic are some of the WSC services most used by area women. The center also provides a supervised living program for teen mothers and a licensed child care program for children age infant through six.

Often a woman in a bad marriage is afraid to leave because she doesn't understand the legal and financial implications.

"If a woman loses her main financial support either through death or divorce, statistics have shown that on average her income will decline by 70 percent," Borg said. "This woman is sometimes much more difficult to help than the woman who's

been struggling all along, because that woman is used to doing without. "That's one of the reasons why a woman will stay in a bad situation," she said. "When your whole existence depends on staying, your decision becomes much more difficult." Although the center does receive telephone calls from women who are in physical danger and need immediate shelter, they are referred to HAVEN, the domestic violence shelter.

SINCE THE center's name includes the word survival, Borg said many people incorrectly assume that these types of services are offered by a public recognition problem they've been trying to correct.

The center opened in 1977 through the efforts of several area women who were involved with the Light-house, Borg said.

"Women's centers were really just beginning and they decided to establish one here," she said.

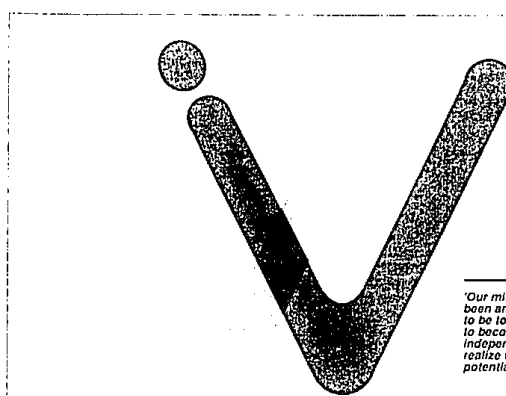
The center grew from the basement of All Saint's Episcopal Church to an adjacent building, given rent-free to the organization, to include the residential program for teenage mothers and the child care center, operated at Pontiac's Baldwin Avenue United Methodist Church.

"We went from serving 500 women, most in some type of crisis, the first year, to having four facilities and serving about 4,500 people per year," she said.

In 1989 WSC merged with the Birmingham Community Women's Center.

"There were several (women's centers) in the tri-county area and many had difficulty maintaining ongoing financial or volunteer support," Borg said, adding that the Birmingham center also had to fight the image that women in the area didn't need assistance.

"OUR MISSIONS were so closely related it was a natural merger," she said. "Also, we needed a site or a presence south of Square Lake Road. They (BCWC) came to us with many committed women. Many of our group leaders came from the



"Our mission always has been and will continue to be to assist women to become economically independent and to realize whatever potential they have."

Anne Borg
Executive Director

Women's Survival Center

Volunteers needed to staff crisis line

The Women's Survival Center is in need of peer counselors to spend four hours per week staffing the agency's crisis line.

Volunteers would sign up for one four-hour shift, any time from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"We provide all the intervention training, but we need women with the time and the desire to make a commitment and who are capable of talking with women who are in crisis situations," said the center's executive director, Anne Borg. "We also need volunteers to help out at

the child care program, holding, cuddling and feeding the infants."

WSC offers several services to women in need, including the crisis line at 335-1520.

A free legal clinic staffed by area attorneys is open every Thursday from 6:30-9 p.m. at the center, 167 W. Pike St., Pontiac. Day and evening hours for individual counseling as well as the center's many support groups, which are offered in varied locations, also are available.

Call the center's business line at 335-2683 for more information.

Tropical cruise leaves Community Center

The Community Center can be your cruise ship to the tropics, leaving 7 p.m. Friday, April 20. It's bon voyage when you enter the Community Center's Calypso cruise, which stops at the sunny hotspots of the Caribbean.

Hors d'oeuvres are followed by a tropical drink and cruise-style buffet dinner. Guests decide who is dressed in the wildest cruise attire and help

judge who can limbo the lowest.

Entertainment will be provided by the Motor City Samba, playing rhythmic music of the Caribbean and some jazz. The Motor City Samba has performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival and the Riverfest in Flint. Guests will end the evening by dancing into the sunset. For information call the Community Center, 477-8464.

Earth Day observed

In recognition of Earth Day, The Community Center of Farmington, Farmington Hills has planned a fun, informational event for the entire family. The program is called "What on Earth Are We Doing?" and is scheduled 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21.

Joe Derek, well-known naturalist and outdoor educator, will show how the environment is affected by the '90s lifestyle. With demonstrations, exhibits and lively talks, Derek presents a serious subject in a fun and entertaining manner.

He tells about wetlands, green spaces, streams, lakes, woods, pesti-

cides and fertilizers; habitat for wildlife and how the lack of it does affect the planet; back yard habitat, bird houses; recycling — how it works, why it's important and ways that major corporations are recycling.

A display by "Friends of the Rouge" and a chance to design an environmental T-shirt will be part of the event. Each family will leave with their own tree to plant.

Admission fee is \$2 per child, \$4 per adult or \$10 per family. Call The Community Center at 477-8464 for registration.

'Quest for Quality' is conference topic

Goldie Bober Kweller, past national president and president of MERCAZ will be the consultant speaker at the Michigan Branch Women's League for Conservative Judaism 32nd annual Spring Conference Sunday and Monday, April 29-30 in Congregation Adat Shalom, Farmington Hills.

Programs and workshops on social action, adult education, programming and membership will be based on the theme "Quest for Quality — Shaping Our Environment."

Workshops will be led by Libby Ben-Moche, Judy Joseph, Martha Oleinick, Shirley Ruzumna, and Sharlene Unger. Florence Gerber is conference chairwoman, Judy Leder

is president of the host sisterhood, and Charlotte Nussbaum is president of Michigan Branch.

Kweller is a member of the board of directors of the United Synagogue of America; vice president of the World Council of Synagogues; board member of World Jewish Congress, American Section; a member of the executive committee of the Foundation for Conservative (Masorti) Judaism; Theological Seminary of America; and secretary of the National Association Solomon Schechter Day Schools.

New Michigan branch officers who will be installed at a dinner Sunday are: Ruth Marcus, president; Shirley Wine, Florence Gerber, Shir-

ley Huzumna, Diane Voight, vice-presidents; Pauline Norman, treasurer; Lillian Trumper, Judy Leder, Judy Davis Rosenthal, Frieda Davidoff, secretaries; and Charlotte Nussbaum, immediate past president.

"We found that more and more women in crisis were also facing some type of legal proceeding, like resolving a child custody situation," she said. "All of us can be intimidated by the judicial system. We need to know what are rights are and how we can protect ourselves."

Borg said the typical WSC client is 35 years old, has two or more children and is probably not a member of a minority. She is also a single parent.

"THE TYPICAL crisis situation

usually involves some type of a relationship problem," she said. "Usually the woman is overwhelmed by the situation and there can be a number of problems involved."

Although Borg said she'd like to see the center closed because of lack of need in 10 years, she's a bit more realistic.

"Each year we're serving more and more. This year we served 20 percent more women than last year offering the same services, with nothing new," she said. "Our mission always has been and will continue to be to assist women to become economically independent and to realize whatever potential they have."



Goldie Kweller

Tribute to all immigrants

As part of the current historical preservation effort at Ellis Island, formerly one of the nation's leading immigration centers, a special tribute to all immigrants to the U.S. is being established. The American Im-

migrant Wall of Honor focuses on the multi-national family heritages that helped shape America. The Quakerstown Chapter, DAR honors the immigrants who came to America and helped forge its history.

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.

Taking Care of an Elderly Parent and Need To Get Away On Vacation?



Consider Bedford Villa — a small, intimate, nursing care and rehabilitation center. Here the warmth of care is matched by the warmth of surroundings. Short term private or semi-private accommodations are available. Please call to arrange for a visit and more information.

Bedford Villa Nursing Care Center

.....where the warmth of care is matched by the warmth of surroundings.

16240 W. 12 Mile Rd., Southfield, MI 48076 557-3333

Frank H. Boos Gallery
AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS

HUNT FOR YOUR VERY OWN TREASURE
DISCOVER THE EXCITING WORLD OF AUCTIONS
AT THE FRANK BOOS GALLERY

Some highlights are Art Deco garden statuary by Wheeler Williams, an 18th century Chipendale walnut side chair, a pair of American Federal brass andirons with matching tools, a seven piece Theodore D. Starr sterling tea and coffee service, a Francis DeZurely pencil drawing, a painted pine dowry chest, a set of ten American Empire tiger and bird's-eye maple dining chairs, Victorian iron animals, Staffordshire animals, a ninety-one piece Towle sterling flatware set in the "King Richard" pattern, a John Lennon ink drawing, a Dil-bao mirror, American crocks, porcelains, carpets, lighting devices, furniture, garden furniture, cloisonne, jewelry, bronzes and so much more.

A partial artist's list includes works by G. Auli, H.C. Christy, A. DeBrenski, Jr., F. DeZurely, A. Dehn, G. Grant, J. Yeend, King, J.N. Marchand, E. Percy Moran, W. Kuhn, L. Neogady, E. Paxton Oliver, H.D. Richter, F. Grayson Sayre, D. Somogyi, M. Sever, R.L. Tyler, H.D. Wagoner, C. Waltenberger, J. F. Waugh, C. Wheeler, Snuffins, P. Picasso, C. Pissarro and many more.

EXHIBITION
Wednesday, April 25, Noon - 8 p.m.
Thursday, April 26, Noon - 8 p.m.
Friday, April 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

AUCTION
Friday, April 27, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 28, 11 a.m.
Sunday, April 29, Noon

Illustrated catalogue, \$15.00, \$18.00 postpaid
Call for free literature.

420 Enterprise Court, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013
(313) 332-1500 FAX 332-6370

Sale!

All including these:
• Schumacher
• Van Lise

25% to 30% OFF
All Fabrics

55% to 60% OFF
All Kirsch Quality Blinds

Ash Showroom
2374 Franklin Road
Bloomfield Hills 48070
Hours: 9-6 p.m. Mon. thru Fri. • 10-4 p.m. Sat.

Sale March 15 thru April 27