



AGENCY SERVING MORE PEOPLE



**Holly Seymour,
Residential Services Manager**

Holly Seymour, Residential Services Manager, recently shared her observations on the increases in services to clients in 2010. "More people are coming to our doors in need of help either for themselves or for a friend or family member. We have a good reputation in the community and we provide a safe and confidential place for people to heal," she reports

The total number of individuals served increased from 3,497 to 3,814 in 2010 and calls answered on the 24-hour crisis line increased from 3,506 to 4,119 calls. According to Seymour, "The community knows that our staff treat people with professionalism and respect. We take the time to listen to clients and connect them to other services and resources."

Nights of emergency care at the shelter rose from 4,114 to 4,341 because of urgent safety needs. The increases at the safe shelter were for both adults and children. Non-residential domestic violence supportive services increased as well. The Center provided supportive services to 802 individuals in 2010 compared to 707 in 2009.

There were substantial increases in sexual assault services, crisis intervention outreach and children's therapy. More details regarding this growth will be available in the forthcoming annual report for the past year.



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See more fun from the Reach for the Stars and Making a Difference events on page 5!



DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Finally, the snow has melted and the sun shines a little longer. Spring – the season of warmth, renewal, growth, and hope for new beginnings is here. West Michigan is beautiful this time of year and we're eager to enjoy together Spring's vibrant sights and sounds in our community. While we've emerged from a long winter let us consider those who are still in the midst of a cold season in their lives.

There are thousands of people in Ottawa and Allegan Counties whose bright days are clouded by violence, fear, and isolation. Domestic and sexual violence are not seasonal phenomena. For many, such trauma is a part of daily life. As the flowers in our gardens grow, so do the needs of people in our community that may have nowhere else to turn for help. The Center for Women in Transition is here to help victims and survivors replace their darkest days with moments of safety, support, strength, and joy. Our hope is to not only empower individuals to create better futures for themselves, but to also help our entire community recognize and utilize its own collective gifts to make this a better place for all of us.

Our goal of a society free of violence and full of justice, respect and well-being is lofty and we are determined. We know that we cannot do this work alone and are thankful that we don't have to. Individuals, businesses, churches and other organizations have been wonderful partners in our work for more than 30 years. We hope that you will continue to support the Center and share your time, talents, and treasures to help us touch the hearts and minds of thousands of people again this year.

I once read an anonymous quote that said "fragrance clings to the hand that gives the rose." As you give to the Center, I hope that you have the opportunity to see and experience the beauty of your giving.



CENTER FOR WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Mission Statement

The Center for Women in Transition's mission is to respond to, reduce, and prevent domestic and sexual violence against women. This mission will be achieved through education, collaboration, and advocacy with crisis and supportive services to victims and survivors.

E-mail: mail@aplaceforwomen.org

Web site: www.aplaceforwomen.org

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CWIT is a non-profit organization funded by governmental and private grants, private contributions, donations, fund-raising events and United Way allocations.



MANY THANKS

To **Allegan County Community Foundations Legacy** grant to provide transportation assistance to victims of domestic and/or sexual violence and their children.

To **West Michigan Bridal Expo** and **Laketown Bridal Show** for the sharing the proceeds with the Center.

To **Holland Junior Welfare League** for continued support of children's activities and supplies at the shelter, playground fencing, and Girls on the Run curriculum materials.

To **Donayle Nicole Hair Studio** for the donation to the Center from Lakeshore Style Revolution style show. The music, food, fashion and prizes were great fun at the Harbourfront in Grand Haven.

To yoga instructor **Rachel Sheridan** for donating her talents to lead the Center staff and interns in a weekly yoga class.

To **Snug Harbor, Beauty Control** and **Rebekah Rosa** purse company for the purse party to support Girls on the Run.

To **Allegan County Community Foundation TAG Team** grant for Girls on the Run program to be used to provide participant scholarships.

To **people who donated blood** in March at the Red Cross drive co-sponsored by the Center staff and volunteers.

To **Girlfriends Fit Club** and **Priscilla's Boutique** for the proceeds of the spring style show.

To **Dutch Village** for the Food Drive for Center Clients.

To **Shindigs** for giving proceeds of the New Years Eve Run Walk and Ramble 2010 to the Center for the second year.

To all **groups, churches, organizations and individuals** who donated to the May Basket project for over 100 families.



Jerry Shoup, Heinz Factory Manager presents a \$1000 check to Sarah Bolman for the Girls on the Run scholarship program. The grant was made possible by the J.J. Heinz Company Foundation and Heinz North America to give back to the communities where the factories reside.



Left to right, Cheryl Nametz, Girls on the Run Advisory Committee member shows off purses at the Purse Party at Snug Harbor in Grand Haven with Elizabeth Nash and Sarah Bolman, program staff. Purses were provided by Rebekah Rosa Handbags. Proceeds supported the scholarships for girls.



Sherry and Alan Martens present a check to Charisse for the proceeds of the New Year's Eve 5K, "Run, Walk and Ramble."

REACH FOR THE STARS AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2011



Robyn Hofmeyer, Board Member, visits with President Jeff McMartin before the event.



Amanda Brooks, Andy Rent, master of ceremonies and Scott Brooks enjoy a Fenn Valley wine before dinner.



Russell Radford and Deb Sikanas, Center Board Member arrive in style.



Amy Hendrickson of Grandville and Abby and Steve Bedford of Grand Rapids share a fine dinner catered by The Gilmore Group.



Holly Wilson delivers the 1962 Volkswagen Samba Bus "Die cast car of the year" to winner Lori Schirf. She is seated with Mary Walters. Standing is event Co-chair and Board Member Jane Patterson.



Jackson Katz stands with the committee that planned a very successful Making a Difference, "Taste of the Tri-Cities Luncheon" at Covenant Life Church in Grand Haven. Left to Right: Chris Wright, Katz and Chairperson of the event, Kelly Seaver, Next row: Lisa Luckey, Julie Reenders, and Grace Cherette. Next row, Cindy Parker-Euscher, Mary Louise Avery, Karen Benson, Jill Garrison. Back row: Pam Kostamo, Betty Jo Ferry, Wendy Lonergan and Charisse Mitchell. Not pictured are committee members, Stacey Bierling, Sandi Gentry and Mike Lankes.



Tara Reibel, Allie Williamson and Holly Wilson have a good time.

JACKSON KATZ INSPIRES AT CENTER EVENTS



Agency Board President and Charisse Mitchell share remarks about the event.



Mary and Tom Helmstetter with Dave and Debbi Hildenbrand.



Pastor Tom Cook visits with Lisa Luckey, Center board member and Kelly Seaver, chairwoman of the event in Grand Haven.

The Center for Women's annual fund raising efforts went beyond an evening of just celebrating with a gala dinner and tasty luncheon. Jackson Katz, Ph.D, delivered an impressive and persuasive testimony about the need for men to join women in the efforts to end domestic and sexual violence. He also roused the students and faculty of Hope College with his presentation about the subtle messages of the mainstream media. After his presentation at *Reach for the Stars* at Midtown Center he enjoyed a standing ovation... His latest book, "*Macho Paradox*" is available in area bookstores. According to Jane Patterson, chairwomen of the Holland event, "Jackson Katz is a community catalyst as we go forward to reduce and prevent domestic violence in Ottawa and Allegan Counties. Men hear his message as educators, fathers, law enforcement professionals and community leaders. I am guessing that he will return to our community in the near future."



Keynote Speaker Jackson Katz meets Maria Hoekstra, board member and husband William Hoekstra.



Vicki Breuker, chair of auction items committee surveys her collection of over 85 silent auction items and six live auction items.



Pam Kostamo assists Holly Wilson and Jan Meinel with the raffle items.

The Stocked Kitchen cookbook by Sarah Kallio and Stacey Krastins was donated by the authors to each guest at the luncheon. See page 320 for the National Domestic Violence Hotline. 1.800.SAFE.

Submitted by Lesley Coghill, LMSW

Thank you to the many sponsors and donors who made the 4th annual DELTA Project bowling tournament fundraiser a success! The community's commitment to prevention education is sincerely appreciated. Seventy-six bowlers participated in the tournament and helped to raise over \$5,000. Sue and Rick Woodard won the bowling tournament and Becky Stout was the top fundraiser, raising \$843. Bill Ferry was voted as having the best attire for his cool style.

Thank you to our lane sponsors: Jo Ann Wassenaar, Mike Jakymiw,



Becky Stout and Betty Jo Ferry bowling for DELTA.

Robert Simon, Ryan Coghill, Jake Seiler, and Carl and Tara Mayberry. Many donors provided prizes and supported the fundraiser including Children's Advocacy Center, The Meadows at Grand Valley State University, The Great American Bagel, New Holland Brewing Co., West Shore Counseling Services & Men's Resource Center, Claudia Bos at Massage.Calm, Julie VanDyke at Eden Salon, and anonymous donors. Thank you to Century Lanes, GVSU (Grand Valley State University) Eyes Wide Open, and all those who contributed to the success of this event.



“Strike Out Domestic & Sexual Violence!”

Thanks to our Volunteers

Center for Women in Transition celebrated the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event at the Holland Area Arts Council on May 3rd. We took our “World Class Volunteers” on a trolley tour of the Center's dedicated tulip garden on 6th Street in downtown Holland. The tulips were planted in the fall by the

staff in honor of the volunteers dedication and service. The evening was complete with the sampling of fabulous foods from around the world created by Ultimate Catering. The volunteers featured in front of the trolley were the first group of the evening to take a tour to the tulip garden. One hundred and fifty volunteers serve throughout the agency.

APRIL WAS ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Submitted by Holly Wilson, Crisis Services Coordinator

The Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign theme was "It's Time.....to get involved". Center for Women staff and volunteers spent a great deal of time engaging community members in seven outreach events, including Reach for the Stars and Making a Difference.

We were able to present information on sexual assault, focusing on how ingrained messages of violence and unhealthy behaviors are used in the media for entertainment purposes in society. In an effort to sustain this message the Center offered staff, volunteers and clients the opportunity to preview the new and highly anticipated documentary by Jean Kilbourne: "*Killing Us Softly 4*": Advertising's "Image of Women."

"The film marshals a range of new print and television advertisements to lay bare a stunning pattern of damaging gender stereotypes—images and messages that too often reinforce unrealistic, and unhealthy, perceptions of beauty, perfection, and sexuality. By bringing Kilbourne's groundbreaking analysis up to date, "*Killing Us Softly 4*" stands to challenge a new generation of students to take advertising seriously, and to think critically about popular culture and its relationship to sexism, eating disorders, and gender violence."

Sexual Assault Awareness Month continued as the Center coordinated the distribution of teal ribbons, which is the symbol of sexual assault and participated in Denim Day. Denim Day is an internationally recognized

symbolic protest campaign that raises awareness of the myths that surround sexual violence against women. Denim Day was started in 1999 to protest an Italian High Court ruling that overturned a rape conviction declaring that because the victim wore tight

jeans, the perpetrator could not have removed them himself; therefore the victim must have willingly participated. After the decision was handed down, the women of the Italian Legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans to work. The movement continues in an effort to dispel such victim-blaming myths. Rape is not an act of sex; it is an act of violence and affects both men and women. One in six American women and one in 33 men are victims of sexual assault each year.

Center for Women in Transition offers various programs to support survivors of sexual assault. The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program addresses the multiple medical and emotional needs of assault victims. Specially trained registered nurses administer timely, sensitive, and comprehensive medical examinations, while volunteer sexual assault advocates stand by to offer emotional support and crisis response. Therapeutic services are also available to any teen or adult survivor of sexual assault, regardless of the age at which the assault occurred. Individual therapy provides survivors with a safe and supportive environment that allows them to explore their thoughts and feelings about their experiences of sexual assault.

Legal advocacy is designed to assist survivors of sexual assault as they go through the legal system. Legal Advocates can assist the survivors in filing Personal Protection Orders (PPO's), provide courtroom support, and/or general information regarding the legal

system and their rights as a survivor. Support Groups are offered throughout the year based upon client demand. These groups provide sexual assault survivors with an opportunity to explore feelings and learn healthy coping skills in a safe and supportive group environment.



Center staff poses for "It's Time...To Get Involved" campaign for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Front row: Becky Stout, Suzann Nummerdor, Teresa Schraudt Back row: Crystal Bultje, Lesley Coghill, Holly Wilson, Allie Williamson, Sarah Meinel, Adrienne Bailey, Holly Seymour.



CENTER FOR
WOMEN IN
TRANSITION

411 Butternut Drive
Holland, MI 49424

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US POSTAGE
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HOLLAND, MI 49424
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***To measure a man
Measure his heart***

Malcolm Forbes

In 2009 the Kaleidoscope Club was formed to honor those individuals and families who have named the Center in their will. People are encouraged to call Mary Louise Avery at 616-494-1756, Marylouisea@aplaceforwomen.org or Charisse Mitchell at 616-494-1750, Charissem@aplaceforwomen.org to discuss naming the Center in your estate plan. All conversations will remain confidential.

If you are making such a gift to the Center please inform Mary Louise or Charisse. There is an annual event planned for members of the Kaleidoscope Club this summer and we want to include everyone. Call either of the above numbers.