



GIRLS DREAM FAIR

NOVEMBER 11, 2010

Save the date for the 11th annual Girls Dream Fair! This event will be held on November 11, 2010, at Ridgepoint Church, 340 104th Ave, Holland. The Girls Dream Fair hopes to introduce girls to a variety of career opportunities, and encourage a commitment to education in order to land these "dream jobs."

Eighth grade girls from Ottawa and Allegan county schools will connect and network with successful female community women working in the areas of Arts and Communication, Engineering and Manufacturing, Business, Management, Marketing, Technology, Health, Human Sciences, and Agricultural Sciences. We thank the AAUW and Counterpart for their support.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Center for Women in Transition commemorates Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) during October. Throughout the month, the Center will embrace the theme "Abuse of Any One Harms Everyone" and reach out to those who are underserved. A Domestic Violence Fact Sheet will be available online in English and Spanish with additional information for the undocumented and LGBT communities.

Author Kim Douglas will read excerpts from her autobiographical book, *High Desert: A Journey of Survival and Hope* on October 19 at 7pm, at the Loutit District Library in Grand Haven. The book will be available at area libraries and in the Development Office at the Center.

Enamel purple ribbon pins will be available at the Center for a \$1 donation. Please consider wearing a purple ribbon during the month of October in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Watch our website for additional dates and information at www.aplaceforwomen.org.

Teens Preventing Dating Violence

Lesley A. Coghill, LMSW
DELTA Project Coordinator

Celebrating their accomplishment, the sixteen students in the Teens Preventing Dating Violence class of the Hope College TRIO Upward Bound summer program proudly presented their skits and presentations to their parents and peers in July. One student group presented dating violence facts and prevention tips. Two groups performed skits focusing on dating violence and the impact of family violence on children.

This fall, the Teens Preventing Dating Violence student group has gotten off to a strong second year of programming and added a few new members. The students will host an informational booth on dating violence at colleges and agency events in October.

Additionally, if you would like to request a two-session presentation on healthy relationships and dating violence for your class, youth ministry, or community

program please contact Lesley Coghill, DELTA Project Coordinator, at LesleyC@aplaceforwomen.org or complete a presentation request form online at <http://delta.aplaceforwomen.org>.



Rocio Moreno and Abimael Bramasco R. perform a skit about dating violence. Also in the skit but not pictured here were Jessica Coleman and Clarissa Torres.

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Ask someone on the street what the Center for Women stands for and you will probably get a dozen different answers. But to those in the know you may hear "help women who are in a tough spot". This is not too far from the truth. In some circles the Center is a well kept secret and, at times, that is just the way we want it. However, in human services circles the Center is a player; an integral part of a network of agencies quietly carrying out their mission.

Over the past few months the Board of Directors reaffirmed our commitment to women and girls in Ottawa and Allegan Counties. Boards do this from time to time. It pays to pause and make sure the agency is still relevant. We feel we are and our clients have success stories to support this.

We also thank four board members for their service; Jane Armstrong, Jaco Hamman, Gordon Wiersma and BethAnne Teiche. In their own way each brought unique skills to the boardroom. This is how strong boards get things done. In September we will welcome three new board members and together build upon the firm foundation set over 30 years ago.

So if you are asked about the Center, speak up. Tell someone about us. Let them know we provide advocacy, a safe place, transitional housing, shelter a place to heal, with the best staff we could ask for. Doing this client after client in good time and bad is who we are and who we will continue to be.

Sincerely,

Steve Harvey, President

DIRECTOR'S LETTER



How is your view of the world shaped? Often, it is the images we see each day which powerfully affect our view of society. For those of us working to serve victims of domestic and sexual violence, the pictures we see can paint a very dark picture of our community. One in four women is the victim of domestic violence in her lifetime. Every 3 minutes someone in this country is the victim of an attempted or completed sexual assault, 60 percent of sexual assaults

and 75 percent of domestic violence incidents are not reported to law enforcement officials.

The incidence and nature of violence, in conjunction with witnessing the impact of this violence, can make it difficult for individuals and communities to form positive impressions of the world around them.

But amongst all the negatives, one must look for the positive images – the stories and facts which inspire hope. Let me share some of these thoughts with you.

Last year, every client who completed our transitional housing program went on to secure safe and stable housing within six months.

One in three families in our transitional housing program increased their household incomes within six months of entering the program.

Volunteers invested over 15,000 hours in direct service to the more than 1,500 girls participating in Girls on the Run. 100% of the children receiving therapy from CWIT after witnessing domestic violence felt safer in their home at the end of the program.

It is these images we must focus on to brighten our community picture. We can create a canvas with depictions of strength, well-being, peace, human connection, and justice. These will serve as a source of inspiration to help us confront these negative images and see that they do not represent the community we aspire to be. Together they are the artists that create something better.

We appreciate each staff person, volunteer, board member, donor, and community advocate who give of themselves to help victims and survivors create new, beautiful images, and create a more vibrant, hopeful picture of our community.

Sincerely,
Charisse Mitchell
Executive Director





2010 Michigan Victim Assistance Academy

From left to right: Facilitator Mary Temple, Kayla Magnuson Bilingual Domestic Violence Advocate, Allie Williamson Transitional Housing Advocate, the

Honorable William VanRegenmorter, Crystal Bultje Crisis Intervention Advocate, and facilitator Lore Rogers pose together for a picture at the 2010 Michigan Victim Assistance Academy. This six day training in Lansing, MI, focuses on victim-related topics such as child victimization, domestic and sexual assault, and coordinated community response to violence. Participants were delighted to meet William Van Regenmorter, author and driving force in passing the Michigan Crime Victims' Rights Act, which helped to identify a victim's legal rights and obligations of the judicial system.



*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 616-494-1756 Marylouisea@aplaceforwomen.org or Charisse Mitchell 616-494-1750 Charissem@aplaceforwomen.org to discuss naming the Center in your estate plan. All conversations will remain confidential.



The fall 2010 newsletter was compiled and edited by Development Department intern Ellie Lock. A current graduate student at IUPUI in Indianapolis, IN, Ellie is working to obtain a Master's degree in Philanthropic Studies through the IU Center on Philanthropy.

After graduation, she hopes to return to the Holland area and begin a career in the non-profit field.

Many Thanks

To **Verizon Wireless** for a grant to print materials and put billboards in Allegan and Ottawa Counties.

To **Gentex Care and Share Fund** of the **Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation** for their continued support of the work of the Center.



From left to right: Hope Nickerson from Gentex, Betsy Simpson from Gentex, Charisse Mitchell, and Dave Cammenga from Gentex, pose together. Hope, Betsy, and Dave, came to the Center as employee representatives of the Gentex Community Share Fund, which works through the Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation, to make a gift to the Center. We thank them for their generosity.

To **Perrigo Foundation** for the support of services to women and children in Allegan.

To **Dutch Village** for donating passes for all clients for the summer.

To **Kiwanis Club of Grand Haven** for hosting families for the Aquatic Center Fun Day and for the circus in Grand Haven.

To **Haworth employees** for donating several hundred dollars in pop can returns to the Center.

To **CityFlats Hotel** for donating hundreds of good linens to pass along to our client families.

To **Girl Scouts** for cookies.

To **Holland Junior Welfare League** for playground equipment, strollers, art supplies, games for children and family gift cards.

To **Hope Church** for the proceeds of the "Think Hope" art auction.

To **Cheshire Hills Golf Course** of Allegan for the proceeds from the 8th Annual Women's Open.

To the **Teens Preventing Dating Violence** for holding a car wash and donating their profit of \$165 to the Center.

To **Grace Episcopal Church's youth** for helping to clean up our playground and making it safe for the children receiving services at the Center.

To the **Holland Sentinel** and **Grand Haven Tribune** for supporting the mission of the agency with articles on domestic and sexual assault and the affect on area families, communities, and the workplace.

To the **Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation** for the Children's Therapy Program. Funding was provided from the General Endowment Fund and the Benjamin and Phyllis Bowmaster Family Fund.

To **Panera Bread** for giving \$21,000 over the past few years and many thousands of dollars in breads and products to clients of the Center. The Holland Panera accepts your donations and passes them on to CWIT.

To **Hudsonville Reformed Church** for their donation of beautiful handmade quilts and tote bags for clients.



From left to right: Kay Woodwyk, Ellie Lock, and Betty Jo Ferry, with the quilts and totes made by the ladies of Hudsonville Reformed Church.

Suggested Reading

Clients and friends have asked for suggestions for reading. Center professionals have made the following suggestions.

The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help

Author: Jackson Katz

In this insightful and thought-provoking work, Jackson Katz examines domestic and sexual violence not as a women's issue, but as a men's issue. Using modern examples from popular culture, sports, and the media, Katz examines the ways in which violence against women is discussed and understood.

Why Does He DO That? Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men

Author: Lundy Bancroft

Meant as a guidebook for women, this book explores the different types of abusive men, and the behaviors by which one can identify them. Bancroft also discusses the ways to get out of an abusive relationship safely.

Giving It All Away: The Doris Buffett Story

Authors: Michael Zitz and Doris Buffett

Sister to Warren Buffett, this book is part biography, part how-to guide for philanthropy. Doris talks about her childhood, the tough times in her adult life, and how her Sunshine Lady Foundation came into existence.

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

Authors: D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

This well-researched and well-written book documents the lives of women in countries such as Pakistan and the Congo, many of whom face terrible oppression and violence on a daily basis. The authors highlight the role of economics and microfinance in helping these women to gain independence.

High Desert: A Journey of Survival and Hope

Author: Kim Douglas

In High Desert former CWIT board member, and current Hope College faculty member Kim Douglas, presents an



involving and deeply moving account of her childhood. Growing up in a home with emotional and physical abuse, Douglas describes her self-destructive tendencies, and her path to overcoming them.

A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery

Author: E. Benjamin Skinner

A piece of investigative journalism unlike anything you will ever read. Author Benjamin Skinner traveled around the globe researching modern-day slavery and human trafficking. What he finds is shocking and disturbing; helping to highlight the severity of this issue, and the need to prevent these atrocities.

The Butterfly Garden

Author: Chip St. Clair

A powerful book detailing the author's childhood, during which he was repeatedly physically abused by his father, and the devastating secret he discovers in early adulthood. St. Clair includes updates about his advocacy for at-risk children, his continuing struggles with his father, and his journey to find peace.

The First Thing and the Last

Author: Allan G. Johnson

In his first work of fiction, sociologist and activist Allan G. Johnson creates a compelling tale of recovery. The story begins with his lead character, Katherine, in the hospital after being severely beaten by her husband, and follows her path to healing.

When Dad Hurts Mom: Helping Your Children Heal the Wounds of Witnessing Abuse

Author: Lundy Bancroft

This book explores the effects of domestic violence upon children. In particular, it focuses on the ways for women to set boundaries, protect their children, and navigate their way through the family court and legal system.



Mrs. Camy Thompson, Board member from 1983 - 2001, and Charisse Mitchell, Executive Director, discussed the history of the Center.

Board Reunion

On August 9, 2010, the Center held a board alumni reunion dinner at the home of Edith Swart in Spring Lake. Current and past board members, along with staff and volunteers, enjoyed an evening of catching up and reminiscing about the Center and their time in service to the women and children of Ottawa and Allegan counties. Many stories were shared about the early years of the Center, and the hard work of the individuals who helped create such a strong foundation for the agency.

CENTER FOR WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Mission Statement

The Center for Women in Transition's mission is to create and sustain an environment that enhances the voice, opportunities and strength of women and girls in Allegan and Ottawa Counties.

E-mail: mail@aplaceforwomen.org
 Web site: www.aplaceforwomen.org

Executive Director

Charisse Mitchell

Board

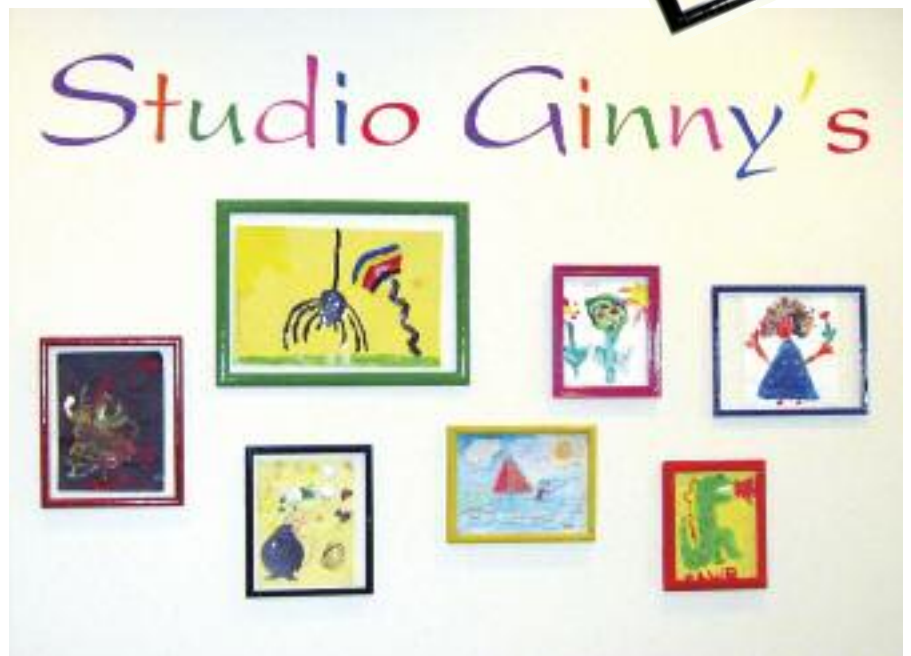
Steve Harvey, CPA <i>President</i>	Jane Dickie
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	BethAnn Teiche
	Rev. Gordon Wiersma

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



Talent on Display

This summer, children at Ginny's Place have been using their art supplies to create paintings and drawings. Their art is being displayed in GP's very own art gallery.





CENTER FOR
WOMEN IN
TRANSITION

411 Butternut Drive
Holland, MI 49424

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Thinking about Volunteering?

It doesn't take much.....All you need is a desire to help.

For additional information on volunteer opportunities and training dates, please refer to our website, www.aplaceforwomen.org or contact Sherry Martens at sherrym@aplaceforwomen.org or call 616-494-1747.

"Volunteers aren't paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

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