



CENTER FOR WOMEN IN TRANSITION

Vol. 21 No. 2

Spring 2010 Newsletter

From the Volunteer Department



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

*From the Volunteer Department
Submitted by Sherry Martens*

Center for Women in Transition celebrated National Volunteer Week by hosting an open house at the Holland Area Arts Council in honor of dedicated volunteers. In addition, individual tulips were planted for each honored volunteer in both Holland and Grand Haven. Please visit our tulip gardens, either at Window

on the Waterfront at 6th Street in Holland, or on the Boardwalk at Washington Street in Grand Haven. The Center is extremely fortunate to have close to 200 volunteers throughout the agency sharing their gifts of time and talent. With the continued help of our volunteers, CWIT is able to extend programs and services to a large population of victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

May Baskets 2010

Our May Baskets campaign was a huge success! Due to all of our community partners who were able to help by donating paper products, cleaning supplies and personal care items, we were able to provide over 125 baskets to clients. The May Basket campaign is not only an opportunity to reach out to our clients and their families with laundry baskets filled with much needed items, but it is also a way of saying we care and we want to help. Thanks again to all who made it possible.



Terri Coleman and Ginner Castillo

C O N T E N T S

Volunteer Appreciation	1
Le Style de Vie Fundraiser	1
Many Thanks	2
United Way	2
Cooking Up Smiles Cookbook	2
Kaleidoscope Club	3
Director's Letter	3
Reach for the Stars and Making a Difference	4
Girls on the Run	6
Crisis Line	6
Sexual Assault Awareness	7
Delta Project	7
Can You Help?	8

LE STYLE DE VIE 2010

Save the Date

September 11

Downtown Holland

Wine Tasting, Music, Fashion

**Behind Butch's on 8th Street
with an open house at The Globe**

Auction

Proceeds benefit the
Center for Women

Sponsored by Butch's,
The Globe and Studio K.

MANY THANKS

merchants. **Panera Bread** provided delightful appetizers for a room full of guests. Proceeds of approximately \$6000 were donated to the Center to continue our work in North Ottawa.

To **Sue Zeiler** of Mary Kay for providing special products for all the Mothers in the safe shelter for Mothers Day.

To **Michelle Hamman** of Mother Tongues for year-around support. She donates a percentage of sales. See www.mothertongues.com.

To **Maurice's clothing store for women** in Holland for many donations to the Wardrobe for Work up-to-date fashions.

To all the participants of "**Strike Out Domestic and Sexual Violence**" bowling tournament for DELTA Project of Ottawa County.

To **Allegan Community Foundation** for continued support of programs for client assistance and Girls on the Run.

To **TOPS –Take Off Pounds Sensibly** for donating personal care items for the clients of the Center. Approximately 1900 women, men and children who attended the annual State Recognition Days in Grand Rapids donated to this project.

To **Counterpart** for continued donations to Wardrobe for Work.

To **Tap Room** employees and patrons for raising funds and awareness of domestic and sexual assault.

To **Donayle Nicole Hair Salon** of Grand Haven for hosting "A Night of Fashion" style show in association with other area



Jerry Shoup of Heinz North America gives Ashley Rea and Charisse Mitchell a donation for the Girls on the Run program.



Pictured are left to right; Charisse Mitchell, Executive Director of the Center, Liz Vanderby of Greater Ottawa County United Way; Beth Larsen, Supportive Services Manager of the Center; back row, Holly Seymour, Residential Services Manager of the Center and Carol Stroop, Center Board Member.

United Way funding is vital to the continuation of the mission and vision of the Center and many programs in Allegan and Ottawa County. We extend a heartfelt thank you to all UW donors on behalf of clients and the Center for Women.

Cooking Up Smiles

Get your easy to make summer recipes in the Center's well known cookbook. For \$10 you will be able to make summer freezer treats, luscious lunches and sweet treats. The committee that designed the book several years ago wanted to create a "kid friendly" cooking experience. See page 4 for health and nutrition suggestions.

All proceeds from the cookbook sales support Center programs. All printing costs were donated. Cookbooks are available at any agency office location or from stores and restaurants in the Holland and Grand Haven area. For more information call Betty Jo at 616-494-1744. Mailing cost per book is \$2.50.





**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.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

***"Now is the time. Needs are great,
but your possibilities are greater."***

Bill Blackman said these words more than a decade ago and they ring just as true today. Bill isn't an actor, singer, or famous athlete. You won't see his face on any magazine. He's a businessman who decided one day in 1996 to be an agent of change. He started a national network to help people and organizations have a positive impact on their world.



I look at the challenges we face in our community and the growing number of people who need our help. The incidence and severity of domestic violence and sexual assault continues to rise. The number of calls to our crisis line continues to grow. The number of sexual assault exams and services we provided last year was our highest ever. Every day people show tremendous courage and come to our offices to break the silence of domestic violence and seek a way out. So yes, now is the time and the needs are great.

But the story doesn't end there. As I talk with people throughout the community, I am constantly filled with a sense of hope. I see people asking themselves "how can I be a part of the solution"? Today the Center has more volunteers than at any other time in recent history. These are people giving of themselves to serve others. Each day we receive gifts large and small from kids, adults, churches, businesses, and service clubs, all reaching out to help build a solid foundation for this agency to help those in need. Our volunteers and supporters see that their possibilities are greater than today's challenges. They also recognize that despite the hurt and trauma domestic violence and sexual assault cause in peoples' lives, with help victims can become survivors. Their possibilities are greater than their pain.

So as we look ahead to what may prove to be a challenging period of growing need, let us look to each other for hope. I know that there is great strength and compassion in our community. It is possible for us to change the world. For all the people I meet and talk with every day, and for those whose acts of kindness, strength, and respect I see every day, thank you for showing me how bright our future as a community can be.

***Sincerely,
Charisse Mitchell, Executive Director***

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 Angela Griffore Rev. Jaco Hamman, PhD
Betsy Simpson <i>Vice President</i>	Robyn Hofmeyer
Ed Walsh <i>Treasurer</i>	Lisa Luckey Jane Patterson
Jeff McMartin <i>Secretary</i>	Mary Reilly Carol Stroop
Maria Hoekstra, DDS <i>Past President</i>	BethAnn Teiche Rev. Gordon Wiersma
Jane Armstrong	

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



REACH FOR THE STARS AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2010



Bill and Maria Hoekstra



Board member Jane Dickie and guest Carol Myers visit with Charisse Mitchell.



Co-chair of Reach event Jane Patterson takes a drive in the NASCAR simulator from Kramer Entertainment.



Pattie Petty shares her story of strength and faith



Char Amante and Terry Wolfgang



Pattie Petty and Andy Rent, Master of Ceremonies



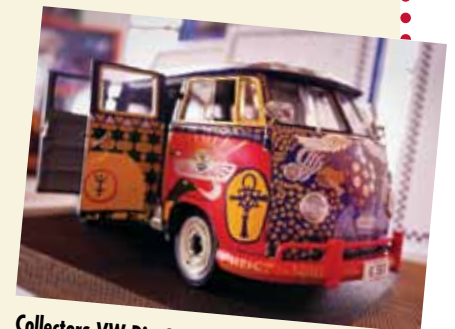
Barb Slikkers, Beth Eckhardt, Glenn Anderson and Dave Slikkers



Jim and Carol Stroop explore bid options with co-chair of Reach, Joan DeLeeuw.



Auctioneer John Petroelje encourages the crowd to support the Center with their bids.



Collectors VW Die Cast Woodstock bus was featured for the live auction.

Pattie Petty charmed and inspired full houses at both events. According to the co-chair of Reach for the Stars, Jane Patterson, “We had more fun, raised more money and had a larger audience than last year. Our committee is awesome and our speaker moved us all with her life story. Like many of our clients, she has overcome her own pain by helping others.”

Making a Difference co-chair Kelly Seaver remarked, “For over a year we have been working toward this event. It exceeded our expectations with the message by Pattie Petty, the wonderful venue at Covenant Life Church and the 60 bears that will be donated to Victory



Pattie Petty

Junction for Pattie’s kids. The generous support of the Tri-Cities made it possible again to have a “taste event” with gourmet food from over a dozen local restaurants. Lisa Luckey, my committee co-chair and the committee members are looking forward to 2011.”



Making a Difference Committee: Left to right, front row. Jill Garrison, Kelly Seaver, Pattie Petty, Charisse Mitchell
Row 2, Craig Russell, Karen Benson, Betty Jo Sandberg, Mike Lankes,
Row 3, Lisa Luckey, Tami Harvey, Chris Wright, Julie Reenders
Back row, Mary Louise Avery, Wendy Lonergan, Merri Seaver,
not pictured are Sandi Gentry, Pam Kostamo and Michele Zeilinger.



Participants had a chance to experience the NASCAR simulator from Kramer Entertainment



Wendy Lonergan with the bears that were donated to Victory Junction after the event in Grand Haven.



Co-chairs of Making a Difference, Lisa Luckey and Kelly Seaver with Master of Ceremonies, Dennis McKee.

GIRLS ON THE RUN CELEBRATES

Submitted by Ashley Rea

Girls on the Run of Ottawa and Allegan Counties celebrated their 10th year with almost 1600 participants and 350 coaches participating in the New Balance Girls on the Run Celebration 5K



events. The South Ottawa and Allegan County 5K cancelled due to threatening weather at Holland Municipal Stadium on May 21 and the North Ottawa 5K was held at Lakeshore Middle School on May 22.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters for their contributions. Your support helps to provide scholarships allowing girls in your community the opportunity to participate in Girls on the Run.

Most of all we would like to thank our coaches, volunteers, parents, school staff and liaisons. Thank you for allowing this program to flourish within your community and for giving girls the opportunity to enjoy and recognize their individual gifts and proudly say "I belong just the way I am!" This amazing program would not be possible without your generosity, enthusiasm and commitment to creating a life-changing experience for the girls. You all deserve a BIG energy award!

Girls on the Run of Ottawa and Allegan Counties is brought to you in part by Shoreline Container and Packaging, Oppenhuizen Orthodontics, Back to Health Chiropractic, The Herman Miller Foundation and Greater Ottawa County United Way and Volunteer Center; in partnership with Gazelle Sports and an affiliate of Center for Women in Transition. Also supported by JSJ Corporation, Buitenhuis Builders, GHSP, Women's Literary Club, Lugers Family Foundation, Ryan Shine of Top Five Entertainment, Bruce Decker of National City Mortgage and Scott Klaasen of

Coldwell Banker, Home Depot, Holland Recreation Department, Ken Schmidt Productions, American Medical Response, Warmones Women's Soccer Inc, JADECycles.com, AAUW, Lakewood Family Medicine, North Ottawa Community Hospital, Holland Amateur Radio, North Ottawa Amateur Radio, The Red Tomato, Studio K Clothing Company, Bank of Holland, and the JC Penney Company Fund.



Our crisis line is available 24 hours a day to provide support and referrals regarding issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, safety planning and other community resources.

English 616-392-1970 and 1-800-848-5991

Spanish 616-355-9755 and 1-866-728-2131

Nuestra línea de crisis está disponible las 24 horas del día para proporcionar ayuda y remisiones con cuestiones relacionadas con violencia doméstica, abuso sexual, planeamiento de seguridad y otros recursos en la comunidad.

C R I S I S L I N E

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

*Submitted by Adrienne Bailey, LMS
Sexual Assault Therapist*

Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2010 was a success! During the month of April the Center partnered with the Holland Area Arts Council to recognize sexual assault survivors with an art exhibit entitled "Shadows: Bringing Abuse into the Light." The artist, Paula Stark, is a long time supporter of the Center's work and a survivor of childhood sexual abuse. Her stunning artwork utilizes the medium of black and white photography to process her own experience in order to educate the public about the impact of sexual assault and choices we all

can make in order to prevent sexual violence. Additionally, the Art's Council displayed the agency's Clothesline Project which features brightly colored tee-shirts that survivors of domestic and sexual violence have created. Overall, it was estimated that more than 250 people saw the exhibit, many of whom had never known about the Center for Women in Transition. The Center also distributed over a thousand teal ribbons, which are the symbol of sexual assault awareness month.

To continue the work of Sexual Assault Awareness Month the Center distributed informational flyers. They address the common



Adrienne Bailey adjusts photo at the Arts Council exhibit

myths and true statistics about sexual assault within our own community.

DELTA PROJECT OF OTTAWA COUNTY

Submitted by Lesley Coghill, DELTA Coordinator



Cristian Panuco, Baltazar Nuñez, Abimael Bramasco R., Natalie Leyva, Raul Solis, Rocio Moreno, Mariza Mandujano, Patricia Martinez, and Courtney Chapman

In one hour, the Teens Preventing Dating Violence (TPDV) group collected over eighty signatures for the healthy relationships pledge campaign. Hope College students participated in a group led handprint collage to promote dating violence prevention. The teen group supported Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities and participated in Denim Day on April 21 in support of confronting myths. TPDV members believe that there is no excuse for dating violence or sexual assault. The TPDV group is made possible through collaboration with the Hope College TRiO Upward Bound program. There are currently about sixteen active TPDV members and the group will continue next fall. This summer, DELTA will engage a new group of Upward Bound students in a five-week summer session on dating violence prevention.





CENTER FOR
WOMEN IN
TRANSITION

411 Butternut Drive
Holland, MI 49424

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
HOLLAND, MI 49424
PERMIT #169

Can you help?

During the summer months when the children of our clients are not in school we like to provide them with opportunities for family outings. Staff at the shelter assist with arrangements and transportation. We would appreciate it if you would purchase and provide the following:

- Gift cards to McDonald's, Burger King, Captain Sundae, pizza places, Dairy Queen or any fast food restaurant.
- Tickets are appreciated to such places as the Aquatic Center, ball games, area water parks, miniature golf, Deanna's Playhouse, Dutch Village or nature and outdoor centers. Any activity passes are welcome to family entertainment locations in West Michigan.

Contact Holly at 616-494-1759 for more information. See <http://www.aplaceforwomen.org/wishlist.html> for more suggestions.

