



VOICE COMMUNITY

A quarterly publication of Every Woman's Place & Webster House Youth Services.

2006 Fall Issue

THE MISSION of Every Woman's Place is to improve and enhance the lives of women and families in crisis in our community by providing and advocating for services which lead to their safety, their emotional and economic self-sufficiency, their productivity, and their ability to participate full in our society.

AWA RENE SS

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Last week, as I drove home after an especially long day, I was pleased to see that my husband had left the driveway and entrance lights on as a courtesy to me. The lights lit my way, and their glow seemed so inviting and welcoming. I was tired, hungry, and very glad to be home; a warm house, a loving family, my husband's famed spaghetti and meatballs. Life was good.

How often do we take for granted those things that bring us comfort---that enable us not just to survive, but to thrive? How often do we pause to consider that for many, there is no home, no lights, no food, no dry place to escape the weather, no family to care about and for us, no soft place to lay our heads at the end of a very long day? As we enter another winter

season, with all that it brings, our agency engages with other community partners to raise the awareness of the public on the issue of homelessness, and to serve those in need.

Every Woman's Place/Webster House provides a safe place for those that would otherwise be forced to live in an unsafe environment: those that are fleeing a violent home, those that have been forced out of their homes, those that are living on the streets. They are human: prone to exhaustion, hunger, hypothermia, and loneliness. They need what we all do to survive. In the past year, over six hundred of them found what they needed in our safe shelters.

I am proud of our agency, our mission, you as our donors, our volunteers and our staff. Every day we strive to assist people to turn their lives around. We are successful in this endeavor. Collectively, as we lay under warm blankets, our heads on soft pillows tonight, our stomachs full, we will not forget those that do not have such luxuries. We will rise tomorrow to face our task of helping those that do not have what we take for granted. We will not stop until our mission is accomplished. With your help, we will succeed.

CEO- Susan P. Johnson, PhD

GRAND OPENING OF NEW DROP-IN CENTER FOR YOUTH

Webster House will be moving the Drop In Center to a new location at 550 Wood Street in Muskegon. The Drop In Center will be part of the Smith-Ryerson Community Center and open to Webster House youth for activities and events. An open house will be held on Thursday, November 30 from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. The public is invited to see the new location.

"The center will offer more for our youth

programs. We have basketball courts, more space for activities, a kitchen, and a computer lab for youth who need to get homework done," commented Javi Hernandez, Street Outreach Advocate.

The center has been vacant for some time and used only as a rental facility until recently. Law Enforcement Officers Matt Kolkema and Emilio Trejo have been working with area youth through

the facility, utilizing it for after school programs. Now, the Webster House Street Outreach Team will partner with the police officers to offer more opportunities for our area youth who need a place for support services, activities, and a connection to their community.

Join the staff, Thursday, November 30 to learn more about this growing opportunity for our community youth at risk.

AWAWARENESS



Rachel Glavich, Director of Operations for Adult Services and Heather Wiegand, Director of Youth Services pose with Captain Jack at The Haunt

“HAUNT”-INGLY GOOD FUN

A recent trip to The Haunt, West Michigan’s largest indoor haunted house, provided a much-needed opportunity for fun and laughter.

Thanks to a generous donation of V.I.P passes (a \$20.00 value) from Mr. Jim Burns, owner/producer of The Haunt, youth from all of Webster House’s programs were able to let loose a little and attend an attraction that most of them couldn’t afford to attend on their own.

Approximately 40 youth and 10 chaperones from Transitional Living Program, Transition to Independent Living, Youth In Transition, Street Outreach, Adolescent and Family Mentoring/ Strengthening Families, and Webster House Runaways were able to attend. The experience was really enjoyed by the youth; some even expressed an interest in working at The Haunt in the future. Thank you Mr. Burns for reaching out to youth in our community.

CALLING ALL COOKS

We need your help! Please send us your favorite recipes to be included in a cookbook to be titled “Every Woman’s Cupboard.” It will be a compilation of recipes honoring courageous women in our community and the proceeds from the sale of this cookbook will benefit women and children in your neighborhoods. In order to make this possible, we need recipes, recipes and more recipes.

Submitting a recipe is easy - visit our website at www.everywomanplace.org, click on the link, fill out the necessary information, and mail it to the address at the bottom of the form. Send as many as you’d like, in as many categories as you’d like. There is no recipe too big or too small, too complicated or too simple; send us them all! Then ask your neighbors, fellow church members, friends, and family to do the same.

A committee of seven volunteers are working diligently to put together a selection of the best recipes submitted. Please remember you are invited to include a memory of how EWP has affected your life or a memorial or honorarium to a special loved one along with your recipe. Some of these will be selected to appear in the cookbook. So get busy and send us those recipes.

THANK YOU ART VAN, APPROVED CASH ADVANCE AND PROJECT LINUS

ART VAN HOSTS COAT DRIVE

During the month of November, Art Van in Muskegon will be accepting donated coats, hats, and mittens for Every Woman’s Place/Webster House Youth Services.



The coats will be given out to homeless youth, women and children as needed. We are grateful to Art Van for recognizing the need in our community.

The donation center is currently in great need of warm coats. If you would like to donate a coat, please stop by Art Van during the month of November.

APPROVED CASH ADVANCE HOLDS FUNDRAISER

On October 21st, Approved Cash Advance held their 2nd Annual Tailgate Party and Fundraiser. They offered free food, free drawings, college football broadcasted on a bigscreen TV and a silent



auction. All proceeds from the auction were then donated to EWP/WH. Thank you Cash Advance.

PROJECT LINUS WARMS BODY AND SOUL

Project Linus volunteers continue to provide homemade blankets and quilts to the women and children we serve. Especially at this time of the year, these gifts are greatly appreciated.



International studies show that one in three women will experience abuse by a significant other in their lifetime, while 40% of all murdered women are killed by their husbands or lovers. These statistics are staggering, but Every Woman's Place and Webster House Youth Services are here to strengthen families. Our programs range from domestic violence prevention to youth programs geared toward helping youth make positive decisions about their lives. Our goal is to keep families healthy and safe in the greater Muskegon County area.



TEST SCORES

Percentages indicate correct answers.

Violence rarely happens in teenage dating relationships. True or False:

Pre-Test Score 58.62%
Post-Test Score 100.00%

Girls who stay in abusive relationships have no one to blame but themselves. True or False:

Pre-Test Score 41.38%
Post-Test Score 86.96%

Dating violence happens mostly to females. True or False:

Pre-Test Score 55.17%
Post-Test Score 100.00%

Dating violence is only physical violence. True or False:

Pre-Test Score 82.76%
Post-Test Score 100.00%

Using alcohol or other drugs is a cause of dating violence. True or False:

Pre-Test Score 27.59%
Post-Test Score 78.26%

If the police are called when a dating violence is committed, the victim has to press charges for an arrest to occur. True or False:

Pre-Test Score 51.72%
Post-Test Score 82.61%

Dating Violence happens mostly to teenagers who provoke it. True or False:

Pre-Test Score 55.17%
Post-Test Score 82.61%

Teenagers will frequently tell someone about dating violence when it happens to them. True or False:

Pre-Test Score 62.07%
Post-Test Score 91.30%

SWEET SUCCESS

The first Dating Violence presentation of the '06-'07 school year was a success! Dan Scanlan and Darla Jackson took on the task of educating 23 youth at Bunker Middle School in October.

"It is always interesting, but also saddening to hear stories from student's experiences of dating violence," states Dan. "Sometimes not only are we teaching them about dating violence, how to prevent or stop it from happening, but they are teaching us about the world they live in, and the things they have seen or lived through. It takes a little time to get some of the students interested, but when we get down to more stories and examples, some of the students have more stories for us than we do for them."

Many students reported liking the "string game" the best, which is a class participation exercise that demonstrates the importance of a student's support system and how the failure of that system can affect the student's ability to cope with a dating violence situation. Students also discussed the definition of dating violence and completed the exercise of Job Interview for an Ideal Dating Partner.

Every Woman's Place/Webster House Youth Services would like to thank the students of Ms. Turner-Terry's class for being such great participants. Check out the scores on your right to see just how much of a difference this presentation can make.

POWERFUL DISPLAY CALLS ATTENTION TO THE TERROR AND SADNESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Every Woman's Place scheduled events to bring attention to the effects of domestic violence and encouraged the public to learn more about the issues.

An Open House on October 11, 2006 attracted approximately 50 people. Every Woman's Place hosted public tours of the shelter and invited guests view tributes to victims of domestic violence.

The Clothesline Project included hundreds of T-shirts created by victims, survivors, and their families from the greater Muskegon County area.

Also on display was the 2005 Michigan

domestic violence homicide list, where victims were remembered by framed art that included their individual stories and candles lit to honor their memory.

Every Woman's Place would like to express gratitude to all those that attended. We thank you for caring.



"The displays are a very moving experience," remarked one guest. "Your heart hurts for them."



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GROUPS

WOMEN

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EDUCATION
GROUPS FOR WOMEN

Monday 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For referral, contact Jennifer

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
THERAPY GROUP

Call for referral.

231-759-7909

All groups and counseling are completely confidential and free of charge.

CHILDREN

CHILDREN WITNESSES TO
VIOLENCE SUPPORT GROUPS

Call for referral.

FAMILIES

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES
Contact Angela for information.

DROP-IN CENTER FOR YOUTH
STREET OUTREACH

Mondays and Thursdays 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

BUILDING PERSONAL POWER FOR
YOUTH (ANGER MANAGEMENT)
Wednesdays 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. for 6 wks
Call Willie Wilson for information.

WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

WEBSTER HOUSE BATTLE OF THE BANDS February 3, 2007

CHEERS AND CHOCOLATE March 9, 2007

Ticket vouchers for Cheers and Chocolate are now available for holiday gift giving. Cheers and Chocolate will be held Friday, March 9 2007 at the Baker College Student Center. Tickets are \$40.00. Please contact Christina to purchase your holiday gifts.