



EVERY WOMAN'S PLACE
WEBSTER HOUSE YOUTH SERVICES

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Muskegon, MI 49441
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24-Hour Crisis Line 231-722-3333
www.everywomansplace.org
www.websterhouseyouthservices.org

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EVERY WOMAN'S PLACE

newsletter

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.



Winter 2005/2006

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The month of April brings with it thoughts of new beginnings and warm weather, but unbeknownst to many, April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This directed effort for national awareness and education about sexual assault brings attention to the all too prevalent reality of this heinous act. Sexual Assault is defined as any kind of sexual activity that is unwanted, enacted by one person on another without consent — it may include the use of physical force (but many sexual assaults do not), and it involves some combination of coercion, threats and intimidation.

According to the National Criminal Victimization Study (2001), 248,000 people over the age of twelve reported being raped. An American is sexually

assaulted every two minutes. However, only 38% of sexual assaults are reported to the police and even more horrifying, less than half of those arrested for sexual assault are convicted.

No one should have to deal with a sexual assault on their own. Getting support for this traumatic event is very important; Every Woman's Place is here to help. All counseling is held in a very supportive and confidential environment.

"There is no difference between being raped and going head first through a windshield except that afterward you are afraid not of cars but half the human race."
-Marge Piercy

Have you checked out our web sites?



www.everywomansplace.org



www.websterhouseyouthservices.org

groups

Women

Domestic Violence
Education Groups for Women
Monday
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
For referral, contact Jennifer

Domestic Violence
Therapy Group
Call for referral

Children

Children Witnesses to
Violence Support Groups
call for referral

Families

Strengthening Families
Contact Mandy or Angela for information.

Drop-In Center for Youth
Street Outreach
1855 Peck Street
Mondays and Thursdays
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Building Personal Power for Youth
(Anger Management)
Wednesdays
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM for 6 weeks
Drop-In Center
1855 Peck Street

231-759-7909

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

Letter from the Director

Susan P. Johnson

April is sexual assault awareness month. This year, we celebrated the opening of the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program at Mercy General Hospital. This innovative program allows for forensic evidence to be collected by state of the art equipment, and ensures that individuals accessing the services receive them in a way which respects their dignity and privacy, provides emergency counseling, and connects them to aftercare services that assist in their emotional recovery. Evidence collected using a high-power scope, digital imaging and computer software provides scientific evidence of the assault that is magnified hundreds of times over conventional methods.

We celebrate this breakthrough service for adolescent and adult victims

of sexual assault with mixed emotions. We are grateful to Trinity Health and Mercy General, who secured the funding and provided the specialty nurses. We appreciate the kind care and expertise that the volunteer nurses exhibit to those in need. I personally admire and appreciate the staff members who respond to the calls for help on a 24/7 basis. But we are also saddened that so many boys, girls, and women will need these services again this year. Most will have believed rape could never happen to them.

As a society, we have an obligation to secure a safe environment for our own. It will take all of us... individuals and social institutions alike, to send a clear and unmistakable message that violence based on gender,

socio-economic status, sexual orientation or religious beliefs cannot and will not be tolerated. Documented in the news this past year we had people killed here in Muskegon County for some of those very reasons. When will it end? Where do you stand in this fight?

We are grateful to the many donors who contribute to our client services. We are thankful for our volunteers. We are blessed with many professional colleagues who do not blame the victims, but support them and hold the assailant accountable. But we have much more to do. There are ways you can help. Contact Christina (759-7909 x 239) or Jean (759-7909 x 267) for information on how you can make a difference.

featured donors

Thanks to:

Zonta Club of Greater Muskegon for the donation of clothes, electronics, perfume and makeup for Webster House.

Harbor Industries, Inc. for the television sets.

Merle Norman Cosmetics Studio for their generous gift of body care products, facial products, and make-up.

Mrs. Wendy Voogt's class at Ravenna Public Schools for the donation of hats, scarves and gloves.

Muskegon Fire Fighters Union Local 370 and Snow Babies of West Michigan Doll Club for their generous financial contributions.

Sappi Fine Papers for the donation of movie tickets.

Mrs. McDaid's Second Grade class at Orchard View Elementary School for collecting money for toys.

Special thanks to the following people who donated toys, food and other gifts during the holiday season: Mark Meade, Catherine Rombouts, Nancy Schneider, Carol Southland, Barbara Langlois, Jenny McNeill, Robert Scolnik, Pat Preston, The Olive Garden, Debra DuRose, Gail Gilliam, Jamie Westover, Ragamuffins, MI Dunes Montessori, McGraft Seniors, Sheli Keteloot, Amy McNorland, Phyllis Howard, Kelly Crocker and Sheila Guevin.

A very big thank you to everyone who adopted a family for the holidays. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

New Location for Cheers and Chocolate

Cheers and Chocolate, chefs in action. sponsored by Meijer, was held March 10 at the new Baker College Student Center. "The center has been remodeled and accommodated a larger crowd. This was a great opportunity for the agency and for the Baker College student chefs," commented Christina Scarpino, Director of Development. "We had a great turnout and everyone had such wonderful things to say about the new location."

In the past, the student chefs and chef instructors had to transport the hors d'oeuvres and desserts from the kitchens at Baker College to the Country Club. This year, the students created some of the hors d'oeuvres at live stations. This gave the guests a chance to watch the

Wines from nine countries were available for tasting. Chocolates and desserts were created by student chefs under the direction of award winning pastry Chef Luis Amado.

Chef Robb White oversaw the students creating the hot and cold food for the event. Chef White is the director for the culinary school at Baker College, one of the largest programs offered through the Muskegon Baker College campus.

Proceeds support services at Every Woman's Place/Webster House Youth Services and a portion goes the ACF West Lakeshore Junior Culinarians.

Red Hatters Matter

The Red Hat Society's motto is "Red Hatters Matter" and you will surely agree if you are able to spend just a few minutes with a Red Hatter. Taking a page from the movie Calendar Girls, the local group



Ernestine Sloan, Red Hatter presenting check to Christina

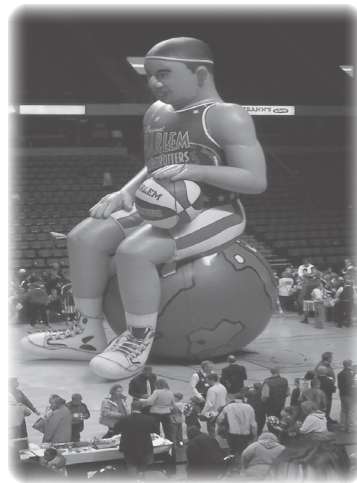
of the Red Hat Society has produced its own risqué calendar. The proceeds from the calendar benefited Every Woman's Place/Webster House Youth Services. They recently presented the agency with a check for \$1,200! Thank you girls, the Red Hatters definitely Matter To Us. There are a few calendars left, for your copy please call Christina at 759-7909x239 or stop and get one at the front desk.

Area Youth Visit with the Harlem Globetrotters

Thank you to everyone who bought coupons during the Younker's Community Day fundraiser. With these funds area youth from the Transitional Living Program, Street Outreach, Transition to Independent Living and Youth In Transition Programs recently had the opportunity to see the Harlem Globetrotters. They even got to meet four of the players before the game. The players talked to the kids about how important it was to not only stay in school but to go on to

college. Using themselves as examples (all four players were drafted to the team from college) they reminded the youth to not take sports for granted; to stay healthy and fit.

This was a great opportunity for the youth. "I purposely picked kids who would never be able to afford to go and had never seen anything like this," said Javi Hernandez, of Street Outreach. A lot of the kids didn't know what the Globetrotters were all about. They were surprised when they realized it was half comedy show and half basketball. They had a great time.



Sara's Story

Sara, not her real name, has been a constant visitor to Webster House. Since the age of 13, she has stayed in the shelter for runaways at least four times. The last time she came needed shelter, she was only 16, but this time Sara needed permanent housing.

She had been kicked out of her house for abusing the rules set by her mother and step father. "I didn't have anywhere else to go. I knew I had to follow the rules at Webster House, because I couldn't go back home," said Sara.

When Sara entered the Transitional Living Program, an 18-month program designed to help the seriously homeless youth and young adults in the area, she was expected to set some goals. Dan Scanlan, case manager for the program, encouraged Sara to open a savings account.

"My goals were to stay in (high) school, get a job, and eventually have my own apartment," comments Sara. "With the help of Dan and the Webster House staff, I found a job and was able to stay in school. I will graduate on time! And I'm living in my own apartment."

Sara's advice to kids, "keep in contact with your parents."

Today, Sara is in constant contact with her parents. She says they tell her how proud they are of her all the time. That means a lot to Sara. Now that she has reached her initial goals, she would like to think about going to college some day.

Every Woman's Place Newsletter is published quarterly by Every Woman's Place, Inc. 1221 W. Laketon Muskegon, MI 49441 231-759-7909

Donate Your Used Cell Phones Here!

Did you know that over 65 million cellular phones are stockpiled in U.S. households – creating 30,000 tons of potentially hazardous waste? Instead of contaminated our drinking water with toxic substances such as Arsenic, Cadmium, Copper, Lead and Nickel please join the hundreds of people who have already donated their used cell phones to Every Woman's Place/Webster House Youth Services. Not only will you be helping the environment, but also **giving women and children in crisis one more link to safety.** In the last four months alone, EWP has given over 125 clients 911 cell phones. This was possible because people like you brought in old cell phones instead of tossing them in the trash. We would like to encourage everyone to collect old phones from their neighbors, friends, fellow worshipers or classmates and bring them to Every Woman's Place/Webster House Youth Services. And it doesn't matter if they are outdated, broken or otherwise inoperable. Phones that cannot be used for a 911 emergency phone will be recycled to raise funds for the agency. Since November of 2005 we have raised \$685. So thank you and keep up the good work!

Battle of the Bands House Party

Blind Messiah from North Muskegon rocked the house and was the grand prize winner of the first annual Battle of the Bands House Party to benefit Webster House Youth Services. This year area youth bands were asked to compete for a \$300 contract to perform on the Regional Showcase stage at Summer Celebration. We sold 157 tickets, had seven bands compete. "We were able to connect with parents and community leaders to educate them of our services to youth and families. That's valuable to our community's youth," said Sue Johnson, CEO for Every Woman's Place/Webster House Youth Services. "The bands were awesome! There's a lot of young talent out there.



We are pleased to be able to feature these young acts on the Regional Showcase stage this summer," commented Lowell Kirksey, judge for the event and committee chair for the Regional Stage. We can look forward to another Battle of the Bands at next year's Jaycees Snowfest.

Congratulations to Blind Messiah, Facing Pyxus and J-Walk for winning the top three prizes. You can see them on stage June 30, 2006 at the Regional Showcase from 12:00 - 5:30 pm.



Community Partner

Reminder...

The agency is in need of the following items:

- towels
- duffel bags
- silk flowers
- florist foam
- diapers
- yarn
- crochet hooks
- ribbons
- baskets/containers
- hot glue gun

