

# HISTORY OF EVERY WOMAN'S PLACE ~ A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION

*Every Woman's Place provides emergency shelter for victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our facility provides a safe haven, complete with support groups, counseling and advocacy services. All services are free of charge to survivors & their children.*

## **July 1, 1975**

Every Woman's Place opens its doors.

## **1980**

Every Woman's Place and Webster House merge as one agency.

## **1994**

Agency purchases its own building at 1221 W. Laketon in Muskegon, MI.

## **March 30, 2007**

Final mortgage payment for the Laketon building is hand delivered to the bank.

## **2014**

Every Woman's Place/Webster House Youth Services receives accreditation from the Council On Accreditation

In February 1975, several women who were concerned about the unmet needs of women in our community met with representatives of the Department of Social Services and United Way. The women present ranged in age from 18 to 73 years of age. They included ADC recipients, middle and upper-middle income women, Black, Chicana, and White. They were women who worked at home and women employed away from home, married and single. They represented themselves as individuals and groups such as the League of Women Voters, Church Women United, National Organization for Women (NOW), Business & Professional Women, and the American Association of University Women.

The one single thing all had in common, besides the fact that they were women, was their knowledge of and concern for the problems which confront many women. In that first meeting, those problems began to be identified. The main identifiable problem areas were employment, assistance in crisis situations, assistance in knowing where to get the help and information they needed, and emergency child care.

The group unanimously decided that a center for women was needed to assist women with problems. The philosophy was and is to serve the unmet needs of every woman who needs assistance with emphasis placed on those women who are the least able to help themselves, the economically disadvantaged, minority women, women over 45, handicapped women and women with less than a high school diploma. Hence, the name, Every Woman's Place came about.

In April, a funding proposal was written and in May it was presented to the Muskegon/Oceana Consortium, prime sponsors for Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) funds. Articles of Incorporation were filed and a small fund set up with donations from community women to take care of those initial expenses. A Board of Directors was elected, again representing a cross-section of our community, all ages, all economic backgrounds, all races, homemakers, secretaries, professional people, women and men. In June, 1975, we were funded for four (4) months and on July 1, just four and one-half months after that first meeting, we opened our doors.

