

CENTERPOINT

SUMMER 2011

The Women's Center's mission is to provide safety, shelter and support to women and their families and to facilitate their development.



THE
Women's
CENTER

Childcare Services: Lack of Money for Childcare Shouldn't be a Barrier to Women Seeking Services

On-site childcare is provided at no cost for children of clients being served at The Women's Center. The women who founded The Women's Center recognized the importance of on-site childcare. They believed that victims should not have to pay for support services, and that a lack of money for childcare should not be a barrier to women seeking services. Thanks to the generosity of donors we are able to continue the practice.



Childcare Room at The Women's Center.

Many people don't understand that, because of the dynamics of abuse, many of our clients do not have a support system of family or friends to count on for a few hours of childcare. Abused women are often isolated from family members and friends and many of our clients cannot afford to pay for childcare.

Both resident and nonresident clients are able to use our childcare services while they are using other services: attending shelter meetings and taking part in individual counseling sessions and support groups. At these times, the mother needs to focus on herself and know her children are in good care. It is preferable that children not hear what their mom is disclosing to a

counselor regarding their or her abuse. Limited emergency childcare is also offered to our clients, using qualified daycare centers.

Judy, the Childcare Specialist at The Women's Center, has taken care of the children during her 25 years of service. *"Many children have separation anxiety and have a difficult time being away from mom, even for a short period of time. But after a few visits you see the change: the child begins to relax, they let their guard down and are no longer scared. They realize this is a safe place."* And a fun place, too! Thanks to the many toys that are donated to The Women's Center, the children are entertained. They are also required to follow the rules of saying "please", "thank you" and to pick up their toys when they are finished playing.

On certain days, childcare can have 12 children using the facility. This requires 4 or 5 trained volunteers, in addition to staff, to help care for the children. *"The key is to keep the children safe, and we couldn't do this without the help from our many volunteers."*

Continued on page 3.



The "Jungle Room" at The Women's Center offers toys, games, ping-pong, computers, air hockey, foos ball and much more.

Ann Jones Spoke for Those Who Could Not at Anniversary Luncheon



Margaret Jankowski, Barbara Bache-Wiig, Barb Applegate, Martha Bache-Wiig and Katie Phillips

The Women's Center Anniversary Luncheon was held at The Italian Community Center in Milwaukee on April 8. Author, reporter, and photographer, Ann Jones was the keynote speaker. Over 500 guests listened as Jones discussed her latest book *War is Not Over When it's Over*, which detailed her work in post-conflict countries, encouraging women, through photography, to document their lives and speak up for change. The MC for the afternoon was Leonard Peace

from the FBI. Prior to Jones' presentation, those attending the event participated in a large silent auction that displayed 123 items, and tried their luck in a raffle to win Southwest Airline tickets and a digital camera. The Women's Center raised nearly \$75,000 to support the women and children in Southeastern Wisconsin! We wish to extend a sincere "Thank you" to our sponsors and everyone who made the afternoon a success.



Event Chair Louise Ladd Whitson and Event Auction Chair Al Froehlich



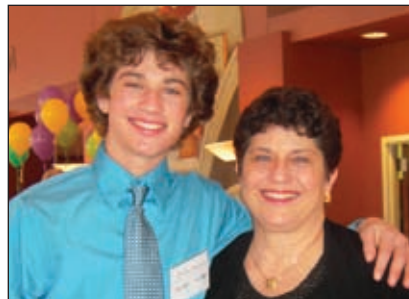
Lynn Revoy, Steve Johnson and Jenny Krynicki



Event raffle sellers Michelle Rosenwald, Laci Jones, Mary Yakel, Linda Couillard and Erika Peardon



Lori Ullrich, Jane Berry-O'Brien and Karla Priest



Gabe Merkow and Dr. Ann Bartos Merkow



Kathy Gray, Susan Baron and Mary Kay Mark

"Summer Evening" July 23 at the Chenequa Country Club

The Women's Center 2011 Summer Evening event will be held at the Chenequa Country Club on Saturday, July 23. Three generations of the Merkow family are chairing the event. The evening will include a live auction conducted by Dylan Bolin, cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres, live music and dancing. Our presenting sponsor is **PNC Financial Services Group**. Tickets are \$150 for this cocktail-attire affair which is sure to be an exciting and enjoyable evening. Invitations will be mailed in June. For details about the event, or information about The Women's Center, please visit our website at www.twcwaukesha.org.



Marie Kingsbury, Betty and Tom Arndt at last year's Summer Evening

Childcare Services *Continued from page 1...*

Judy had many stories about chance encounters with past clients at a grocery store, and how the children squealed with excitement when they recognized her from across the aisle. One can only imagine how they all felt, at that moment, realizing just how far they have come.

NOTE: In 2010, The Women's Center provided 2,513 hours of on-site childcare for 326 children. In 2009 the childcare staff provided 2,138 hours of care to 343 children.

A Client Story: "I thank Judy and her helpers for taking care of my children."

A woman wrote us a thank you note telling us how the parenting classes she had attended at The Women's Center have helped her to be a better mother. She explained how she could not have attended them without childcare: "I thank Judy and her helpers for taking care of my children during these classes. I couldn't have attended these classes without her. I thank her and the childcare staff for their dedication and time."

Toga Clad Students Lend Their Support to The Women's Center



Carroll University students and community members suited up in their best toga attire for a good cause: Delta Rho Upsilon hosted its third Annual Toga 5k run/walk and 10k bike ride on April 10 to help raise money for The Women's Center.

"It was created to act as a great way to help out The Women's Center and community, add positive PR to Greek life, and act as our semester service project.", explained Delta Rho Upsilon social chairman Ben Greer. The Toga Run/Walk was able to bring in \$1,200 to benefit The Women's Center. Delta Rho Upsilon plans to keep the Toga Run an annual event to continue their support of the community. *Thank you to Delta Rho Upsilon -- The Women's Center appreciates your support!*

Thank you for your support!

- Aegis Corporation
- American Transmission Company
- Associated Bank
- Benchmark Inc.
- Bergson Interiors LTD
- California Closets
- Christensen Service Group, LLC
- Coldwell Banker Metro West Suburban
- Continuum Architects & Planners, S.C.
- Cooper Power Systems
- Galleria West Shopping Center
- GE Foundation
- Great Lakes Power Vac, LLC
- Hydrite Chemical
- Johnson Bank
- Kalmbach Publishing Company
- Krumrich's Jewelers, Inc.
- M&I Bank
- Marine Bank
- Molly Maid of Lake Country
- Northern Trust Bank
- Phillips & Gemignani
- Pioneer Investments, USA
- PNC Financial Services Group
- Power Test Inc.
- ProHealth Care, Inc.
- Purity Dialysis Centers
- Quad/Graphics
- R&R Insurance Services, Inc.
- Robert W. Baird & Co.
- Studio Gear
- Tavern League of Waukesha County, Inc.
- TheoPro Compliance & Consulting, Inc.
- WaterStone Bank
- WE Energies Corporation
- Wells Fargo Bank
- WHR Group
- Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, S.C.
- Wisconsin Coach Lines, Inc.

These businesses contributed large gifts from January through April 2011



March 8 was International Women's Day. Supporters of The Women's Center met on the bridge on Barstow Street with signs, to call for an end to violence against women worldwide.



**THE
Women's
CENTER**

505 North East Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53186

Bus. 262-547-4600
Crisis 262-542-3828
www.twcwaukesha.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Waukesha, WI
Permit No. 416

**CALENDAR OF
SPECIAL EVENTS**

**July 23, 2011
Summer Evening**

Chenequa Country Club.
Cocktail attire; Live
auction by Dylan Bolin,
cocktails, hors d'oeuvres
and live music.

**November 18, 2011
Fashion Show
& Dinner**

Country Springs Hotel.
Produced by Russell Levin
from Picardy Shoe Parlour

For more information
about our events,
visit our website at
www.twcwaukesha.org

*"Nothing you do for children is ever wasted."
-Garrison Keillor*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Kristine Havlik

President Elect

Jeanine Kes Bode

Secretary

Sandy Wysocki

Treasurer

Mara Roberts

Past President

Linda Graebner-Smith

Directors

Ann Dee Allen

Marsha Block

Robert DiDonato

Allan Froehlich

Bill Humphreys

Erin Jacyna

Pat Kandziora

Ellen Langill

Dr. Ann Merkow

Laurie O'Loughlin

Lynn Revoy

Dr. Shaila Singh

Louise Ladd Whitson

Sharon Wood

Student Members

Gabe Merkow

Teah Welsch-Rainek

Volunteer Spotlight: Bruce Kehl

My wife Sally and I trained at The Women's Center after Barabara Applegate, a friend and fellow iceskater, invited us to volunteer. That was in the summer of 2007. I was then encouraged to serve as a Gentle Man with children who reside at The Women's Center. (*Gentle Men work at Sister House providing a warm, nurturing, non-sexist, non-violent male role model for children*).

I enjoy travel, meeting people and visiting places where people, who are not typical Americans, live. Together with my wife, I have been to Africa, China and Tibet, Central and South America. Diversity in beliefs and cultures is a learning and humbling experience.

Additionally my wife and I volunteer for various groups including the Skylight Opera Theater. I personally enjoy service to the Boy Scouts of America, Milwaukee County Council as District Commissioner, Root River District. Both of our sons are Eagle Scouts which was a major factor in their growing to adulthood.

Having taught various grades from 7th grade through college in the Wisconsin system, my greatest joy was teaching 8th grade for 35 years. My second career was service in the United States Army for over twenty years, retiring as Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Service Corps.



Bruce Kehl

The pleasure of quietly listening and talking to children, one-on-one is very satisfying, especially after many years of managing 25-30 youngsters every hour throughout the school day. The luxury of focus on the individual rather than the group is something that a teacher and Army officer has little opportunity to experience.

Remember The Women's Center in your Will

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit www.twcwaukesha.org

Centerpoint is published by The Women's Center, Inc., a private, non-profit charitable organization. The mission of The Women's Center is to provide safety and support to women and their families and to facilitate their development. Comments regarding Centerpoint should be directed to Cheryl at 262-522-3805. As a United Way agency, The Women's Center encourages you to support the United Way of Waukesha County.

