

# CENTERPOINT

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

FALL 2011



THE  
Women's  
CENTER

## Working Toward Independence Through Transitional Living

Transitional Living is a housing and counseling program designed to help women and their children transition from violent relationships to peaceful independence. The Women's Center operates four homes for large families and five apartments for single women and women with one or two children.



One of the four homes in the Transitional Living program

Many women flee domestic violence relationships with little more than their children and the clothes on their backs. Our emergency shelter provides a critical, life-saving service, however it is a short-term, crisis facility. There is not enough time to heal and begin to make the changes one needs to become self-sufficient and violence-free. The Transitional Living Program is designed to be the next step for women making the choice to leave a violent relationship and start a new life.

Access to affordable housing is a significant barrier to battered women leaving violent relationships. Our Transitional Living Program is directed at improving economic self-sufficiency through assistance in

developing necessary skills. It is a comprehensive program that provides:

- Access to safe and affordable housing
- Case management, advocacy and other supportive services
- Peer support
- Connection to community resources
- Independent life skills training
- Opportunities for personal growth to become more self-sufficient

*"Without all of the support and help I received, I would likely have gone back to my abusive relationship and not continued my education. The Women's Center helped me see that life is to live, showed me that I am worth something to myself and my children."*

A counselor helps develop an individual and family care plan to identify needs. The plan sets forth realistic and achievable goals and is utilized throughout the program to direct and monitor progress towards meeting identified goals. Counseling sessions focus on parenting skills, long-term effects of domestic violence, difficulties experienced during the transition from an abusive relationship to independent living, stress management, self-esteem and assertiveness issues. Our counselor encourages program participants to use all supportive services offered by The Women's Center, connects them with resources in the community, and provides follow-up to support their progress toward greater independence.

*"As I look at who I am today I am thankful for the assistance The Women's Center gave me in changing my life. I have grown to be someone who is self assured, strong, confident, independent, and successful. Thank you for knowing and believing in your hearts that there are those who deserve the opportunity to choose to change their lives."*

# *Summer Evening* Event at the Chenequa Country Club Raised Over \$50,000 for Women and Children

The Women's Center's *Summer Evening* event was held at the Chenequa Country Club on Saturday, July 23. Three generations of the Merkow family chaired the event. The evening included a live auction conducted by actor and comedian Dylan Bolin, cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres, live music and dancing. Thank you to all of our sponsors and guests who helped make the event a success! Do you want to join the fun next year? Mark your calendars: July 21, 2012.



*First and second generation event chairs:  
Steve and Ann Merkow,  
Riva and Bill Merkow*



*Third generation event chairs:  
Gabe, Max, Alana and David Merkow*



*Laura Hiler, Todd Athorp, Stephanie Athorp,  
Will Hughes, Kristine Havlik and Frank Lenz*



*Cathy Robertstad, Bobbe Titus, Ford Titus  
and John Robertstad*



*Gina Tolzman, Jeanine Kes Bode, and  
Bill Nordstrom from Nordstrom Jewelers,  
who donated the diamond for our  
Champagne on the Rocks*



*Jay Evans, Lauren Evans, Jamie DiDonato  
and Bill DiDonato*



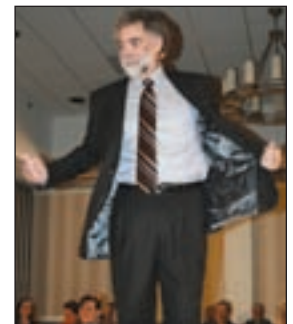
*Magdaline Benson and Jim Miller*



*John Gutenkunst, Lesa Gutenkunst,  
Donna Dorau, Jeffrey Eineichner*

## Fashion with Friends of The Rep Friday, November 18

Experience a unique show on November 18 as Friends of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Russell Levin from Picardy Shoe Parlour and The Women's Center work together to bring you fashions from today and yesterday. The event will include a silent auction, raffle, dinner, and fashion show featuring costumes from The Rep and fashions from Picardy, Salamander Boutique, Bieg Boutique and Squire Fine Men's Apparel. The MC for the evening will be Susan Kim from Today's TMJ4. Meet us at the Country Springs Hotel at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75. To register online please visit our website at [www.twcwaukesha.org](http://www.twcwaukesha.org).



*Models who participated in last year's Fashion Show*

# Elmbrook Rotary Club Raised Over \$133,000

Elmbrook Rotary Club (ERC) is a group of 70 professionals in Brookfield and Elm Grove who combine hands-on projects with fund raising to make a difference in the community, providing humanitarian service, and helping to build goodwill. Since 1989 they have raised over \$133,000 for The Women's Center! These donations have

given our clients a safe place to sleep, allowed them to become self-sufficient and independent, and provided the children their first real birthday party, as well as enjoyable healthy family meals together. Visit ERC's website at [www.elmbrookrotary.org](http://www.elmbrookrotary.org). Thank you Elmbrook Rotary Club and all Civic Organizations that help The Women's Center!

## Youths Support The Women's Center



*Thank you for  
your support!*

*Marine Bank  
Molly Maid of Lake Country  
Power Test Inc.  
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Robert W. Baird & Co.  
Foundation, Inc.  
Steinhafels  
Studio Gear  
TheoPro Compliance &  
Consulting, Inc.  
WHR Group*

*These businesses contributed large gifts  
from May through August 2011*

## Anniversary Luncheon April 27, 2012

Commemorate our **35th Anniversary** at our luncheon next year on April 27 at the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee. Our keynote speaker will be Michael Kaufman ([www.michaelkaufman.com](http://www.michaelkaufman.com)). Kaufman is the author of six books on gender equality, democracy and development. He is the co-founder of the White Ribbon Campaign, the largest effort in the world of men working to end violence against women. Shari Dunn from CBS 58 News will MC the event. Be sure to mark your calendar!



*Michael Kaufman*

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Each October The Women's Center displays life-sized purple silhouettes, each bearing a date-of-death, representing those killed by domestic violence in Waukesha County.

- One-fifth of adults employed in the U.S. have been victims of domestic violence.
- Domestic violence is the single greatest cause of injury to women ages 15 to 44 in the U.S. – more than muggings, car accidents and rapes combined.

## *WI Gives Back* Calendar Sales Benefit The Women's Center

*Wisconsin Gives Back* is a fundraising program where participating groups are represented through a marketing effort to reach people to donate by purchasing 2012 calendars. These calendars are available for \$15, and \$9 of that purchase goes to the charity of the buyer's choice. To purchase calendars go to [www.wi-givesback.com](http://www.wi-givesback.com) and select *The Women's Center* when prompted.



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  
PAID  
Waukesha, WI  
Permit No. 416

CALENDAR OF  
SPECIAL EVENTS

October 2011  
*Domestic Violence  
Awareness Month*

November 18, 2011  
*Fashion Show  
& Dinner*

Country Springs Hotel.  
Produced by Russell Levin  
from Picardy Shoe Parlour  
with Friends of the Rep

April 27, 2012  
*Anniversary  
Luncheon*  
Commemorating 35 years!  
Speaker: Michael Kaufman

July 21, 2012  
*Summer Evening*  
Chenequa Country Club

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

*"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong – because someday you will have been all of these." — George Washington Carver*

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Teah Welsch-Rainek

**Volunteer Spotlight: Ann Dee Allen**

Ann Dee Allen was a Board member at The Women's Center in 1995 when she resigned to join the staff as Manager of Resource Development and Communication. The 2½ years she served on the staff left an indelible impression on her – so much so that she joined the marketing committee in 2008 and returned to the board in 2010.

"I wish I could express how deeply I respect the mission of The Women's Center, and more significantly, the staff who carry out the mission as well as those whose lives are changed by them," Ann Dee said.

During her tenure on staff, she was involved in promoting the 20th Anniversary of The Women's Center, and oversaw the creation of the then-new Women's Center logo.

"Every time I look at the logo now, I think about the talented volunteers from the Milwaukee

creative sector who collaborated with the board and staff to develop it," Ann Dee said.

As a current board member, Ann Dee also serves on the Vision Task Force. She contributes writing and editing for fund development materials when needed, and most recently volunteered at *Summer Evening*.

Ann Dee has focused on journalism, communications, publishing, writing and editing during her career. She enjoys hiking with her black labrador retriever, Sasha, reading, and spending time with friends and family. Last spring, she joined a group of friends on a trip to Spain; the group is currently weighing their options for their annual trip in 2012.



Ann Dee Allen

**Remember The Women's Center in your Will**

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit [www.twcwaukesha.org](http://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, shelter 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.

