



Winter 2011

National figure to lead workshop against violence

When Patrick Lemmon was in college, he was the kind of guy his female classmates confided in.



Patrick J. Lemmon

"I was seen as the sensitive guy," he explained, "and for whatever reason, I wound up being disclosed to a lot (hearing stories about how the women had been hurt or raped by fellow students). By the end of college, I'd heard about a dozen different women's stories. So many, I didn't really know what

to do about it. So I tried to distance myself from it. To shut it off."

That was, until one of those women took him to task.

"One of my good friends got really angry at me," he recalled. "She said, 'You know, Patrick, the reason I chose you to tell this to is because the person who raped me is a friend of yours.'"

This news brought what Lemmon described as a "paralyzing feeling" that was difficult to process. "I mean, this was a guy I had just spoken to the previous evening when we had been laughing and joking together."

It was at that moment, Lemmon said, that he began to look for ways he might help change the notion that male violence against women was somehow acceptable.

At first, he began volunteering at rape crisis centers. Then in 1997, he and a friend

See Page 4

Tillamook County teens face cyber bullying, dating violence

Since January is Stalking Awareness Month and February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, we recently spoke with two counselors at Tillamook High School – **Lori Rhodes** and **Judie Marvis** – to share their experience and advice on both topics.

Q Has the incidence of teen dating violence, bullying and stalking increased locally?

Judie – We see it a lot and it can encompass physical violence, and those cases we refer to the Women's Resource Center. And it can include emotional abuse, controlling behavior, threatening. One that I'm dealing with this week, a past boyfriend was texting messages around saying his former girlfriend is a whore.

Lori – It seems like every year there's more. And it's not just females. We also have some males who were targeted, not so much with physical abuse, but emotional abuse and cyber bullying.

Cyber bullying is becoming very significant. I have a broken-up couple with whom the texting is rippling out and hurting big time. This year I also dealt with and referred a young man to the Women's Resource Center as a result of some inappropriate behavior he

did toward girls. Since then, he has had some sessions with a representative from the Women's Resource Center and that's proved to be wonderful for him.

I've had a couple of cases this year in which I had to make reports of violence. The bruises were evident.

In one case, a girl came in to tell me what was happening to one of her friends and said this was not cool that her friend had bruises all over her body.

When I called the girl in, I told her not to deny it any more. Let's talk about it and decide what we're going to do about it. So she did. She actually has moved away to get away from him. She loved the guy, but he was abusive to her.

It was the same old story, where he says he's sorry and won't do it again. The mom was aware of it, but didn't know how to stop it. So we got DHS involved and the police. She went to live with her father in order to get away from it because she said she had no power to get away from him otherwise. She loved him too much.

I had two sisters who had to move away because of relationships. They had seen a

See Page 2



Tillamook High School counselors Judie Marvis, left, and Lori Rhodes.

From My Desk



As we begin a new decade, I thought it worth looking back at all we have achieved during the past one.

Ten years ago, when we were still called Women's Crisis Center, our organization was struggling and in transition. We knew we needed to step into the 21st century with a more cohesive plan for serving Tillamook County. Wisely, our board took a hard look at where we were and what we needed to do to revitalize our organization and our mission. We crafted a plan and we went to work on it.

First, we knew we needed to establish a shelter. But we also knew that would require an ongoing source of funds. So, in 2006, we opened The Wild Flower Thrift Boutique on Main, which helps support our operations and provides job training to clients referred by Oregon Department of Human Services.

In 2008, with the help of grants, we opened Pacific House Emergency Shelter. Then, again with the help of grants, we opened our Outreach and Education Center to inform and engage our community. We backed it with a major grant-funded public information and marketing campaign.

Internally, besides rebranding ourselves as the Women's Resource Center to better reflect the breadth of our services, we rewrote our by-laws and personnel policies. And we continue to update our financial and reporting procedures to strengthen our governance and ensure the professionalism of our all our activities.

We are thrilled to report that all the work has reaped a positive result. Our requests for service have increased some 40 percent. And many in our community have begun to realize that small things we do in our everyday lives can help change the culture of violence.

But for every success there is a challenge. Ours is to remain sustainable in the face of difficult economic times. Ironically, at a time when we need to do more than ever before, we must now do it with less.

We are looking at ways to optimize our efforts. We are working with our community partners to eliminate duplication and leverage our efforts most effectively.

But now more than ever we must rely on the incredible, grassroots support of our community. We are grateful for whatever you can contribute to keep us moving forward.

Together, I believe we can continue our amazing progress into the new decade and beyond.

Teen issues

From Page 1

bad model over years in their own family. Mom has her act together now and is a blossoming woman here in town. But for years she had men in her life who were either abusive to her or abused drugs and brought all that into the home. That's what the girls saw when they were young. So they are willing to take a lot because they don't know where the line is ... what not to take. That line has been blurred for them or it has been lowered.

Q What role does technology play?

Judie – Technology makes all of this instant.

Lori – Cyber bullying is on the increase. We have had a few fights that have been recorded via phone cameras. The fight was off campus, so we couldn't really stop it. If something goes down, almost instantly, many kids know what just happened because of texting. The message travels like wildfire.

Judie – They set it up, announce it, they know they're off school grounds and we can't be involved because it's after school.

Lori – They can't be reprimanded for off-school fighting. But cell phones are what got a crowd there and then it's videotaped.

Q How are you addressing cyber bullying?

Lori – It's hard, because how do you find out who started it? And if it's off campus, then we can't do much about it. But, if it comes on campus and starts destroying the learning environment, then we have to get involved. When we are able to track it down, we invite in the police.

If the parent is able to bring in the text messages or e-mails, it's treated a lot like other types of discipline issues. That was the case this week with the two boys who started the text messaging, saying the girl was a whore. The girl told us who she thought did it, so the vice principal called them in and said, "We know you did it." And they admitted it and said they were sorry. But, if there are any threats in it, it is moved to a police issue.

Judie – Technology has affected bullying. It's much easier to say nasty things about a person when you can be anonymous. There's a freedom in that.

Q Do you see much stalking among your students?

Lori – I have had experience with stalking involving broken relationships when one party can't give it up. They drive past their house, or they honk or they start texting the new girlfriend.

I have a case right now where I've had to tell the girl that she needs to stop this because she is to the point that it's stalking. The boy is still texting her a little bit, kind of dangling her. The girl is stalking other people and him because she doesn't want anyone else to get near him. We called each one in separately and told them they need to stop.

Judie – Earlier in the year I had a boy who was literally stalking a girl who broke up with him. He was following her and actually started to get physical with her.

Lori – We've had a few parents put restraining orders on kids. I have a couple of "no contact orders" this year on my caseload.

Q What should parents or bystanders do if they see things like this?

Lori – Call the police immediately. Call DHS. They can contact us, if they feel more comfortable that way, and we're mandatory reporters. So we would immediately make the call. But it comes better from the person who has seen it. It is harder to pursue if it is reported by someone who has not actually witnessed it.

Judie – Parents also should NOT get involved in the drama. I've had parents try to get involved. They're texting somebody, saying "Leave my daughter alone" and threatening them. That just makes it worse.

Q How can the community help?

Lori – Continue to fund Women's Resource Center. They are great people that you can call. They do the counseling here at no cost for our young man who needed some help.

Judie – I would say, if you see something like this happening to your son or daughter, get on it right away. Call whoever you need to call and don't get involved in a negative way in which you are starting to become part of the problem.

Lori – I think, also, you don't need to be your child's best friend. You need to be the parent. We have parents who are afraid to make their children angry. They need to call and get help. Our local officials are pretty good at keeping things anonymous.

Community Outreach

Office expansion complete

We have come together at last! Just before the holidays, Tillamook County Women's Resource Center was able to consolidate its offices into one, larger space.

For the past couple of years, our Development, Education and Outreach staff members have occupied small quarters in the back of the Muddy Waters building on 3rd Street, across from the Elks Lodge.

"It was great having some auxiliary space," said Education & Outreach Program Manager Romy Carver, "but being a block away sometimes posed real communication and coordination challenges."

So in the fall, TCWRC was able to negotiate a lease for the vacant office space next door to its existing offices at 2nd and Ivy, doubling the space of the main office and providing room for a larger conference and training area, as well as a "storefront" area for the outreach staff.

"This gives us a chance to be more accessible to the public and allows us to consolidate things



Romy Carver, left, Deborah Yund, Terri Neimann and David Guard settle into their new digs in TCWRC's expanded office space.

like our telephone and computer systems," Carver added. "Now it is much easier for us to coordinate all of our day-to-day activities with staff in the main office, while still maintaining the security and privacy

of our advocates and their clients.

Occupying the new space are Carver, Development Coordinator David Guard, Education Coordinator Deborah Yund and Prevention Coordinator Terri Neimann.

The new office space is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, phone (503) 842-8294.

New electronic newsletter

In an effort to expand our reach while keeping an eye on expenses, Tillamook County Women's Resource Center has recently launched an electronic newsletter, or "e-letter" entitled Digital Update.

This new e-mail newsletter will be sent out periodically to anyone with e-mail who wishes to receive it. Initially, it will serve to keep everyone posted on our news and activities during the months between our quarterly print newsletter. Eventually, we hope to convert a large percentage of our print readers to the electronic version as a way of trimming our printing and mailing costs.

If you would like to help us grow our e-mail readership and help us in our eventual cost-cutting conversion, you may sign up to receive Digital Update by going to our website at www.tcwrc.net and clicking on the sign up button. It's very easy to do and, if you ever wish to unsubscribe, you can do so easily at any time.

We promise that your e-mail address will not be sold to any "spammers" or used for any commercial solicitations.



Community Outreach

Bystanders

From Page 1

founded Men Can Stop Rape in Washington, D.C. – an organization that gradually grew into a national force for change.

Lemmon will be in Tillamook for a free public seminar entitled “Bystander Intervention and Creating a Violence-Free Community” from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 27, in the Department of Human Services building at 4670 3rd Street in Tillamook.

During the seminar, he will lead a discussion and offer suggestions on ways to recognize the signs and intervene early to help prevent harmful behavior we observe in our day-to-day lives.

Lemmon’s expertise in this topic was honed over 11 years working with the Men Can Stop Rape organization.

“We started off as a pro-feminist collective of men who wanted to figure out how we could be supportive of our fe-

male friends who had been victimized and were working at shelters and rape crisis centers,” he explained.

Eventually, however, the organization was tapped to conduct seminars across the nation at high schools, colleges and communities trying to address the issue of violence against women.

Lemmon said the experience eventually revealed that one-shot workshops, while useful in raising awareness of the problem, did little to change things and, in some cases, actually exacerbated violent behavior.

“That’s because some male students who were required to attend the seminars resented it or felt they were being attacked for their perceptions or behaviors and, as a result, acted out even more aggressively,” he explained.

So Lemmon now believes that the only true way to change the culture of violence is through steady, patient, ongoing work and the engagement of the entire community.

Lemmon recently moved to Portland, where, he is working with the Attorney General’s Sexual Assault Taskforce.

Seminar Details

Date: Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011
Time: 4 to 6 p.m.
Where: Department of Human Services
4670 3rd Street in Tillamook.
Topic: Living Our Vision: Bystander Intervention and Creating Violence-Free Community
Presenter: Patrick J. Lemmon

When faced with the reality of epidemic levels of men’s violence, many people feel helpless. However, each of us has the capacity to create change in our community and build a new set of norms in which respect, equality and peace are honored.

Patrick Lemmon will work with the audience to rank a set of community norms for evaluating male behavior toward women. He will help the audience identify patterns of speech and behavior that may be predictors of violence against women.

“Few of us will ever actually witness someone being violent to a woman,” he explained. “That kind of behavior almost always happens in private. But all of us have been witnesses to attitudes that support the violence. If we can identify those attitudes and intervene early, instead of waiting for something bad to happen, we may be able to prevent the violence.”

“If we can destroy the infrastructure of men’s violence, then we can go a long way toward reducing the actual experience of it,” he concluded.

Lemmon has 20 years of experience helping to end violence against women. He recently moved to Portland from Washington, DC, where he was co-founder and executive director of Men Can Stop Rape and a member of the board of directors for the D.C. Rape Crisis Center. His honors include the Ms. Foundation for Women’s Gloria Award and American University’s Capital Area Peacemaker Award.



Barbara Lewis, left, displays one of 177 donated pillowcases for Women’s Resource Center Executive Director Kathleen Marvin as Kathy Trent looks on.

Shelter receives gift of pillowcases

Barbara Lewis donated 177 pillowcases to Tillamook County Women’s Resource Center as part of a nationwide challenge published in American Patchwork & Quilting magazine. The goal is to make a difference in American communities with a million pillowcases donated to charities.

Lewis, who owns BJ’s Fabrics & Quilts in Cloverdale, read about it and got to work. Lewis said she immediately thought of the Women’s Resource Center shelter. She and a bunch of her customers responded.

Then on Nov. 8, she and Kathy Trent, who work at BJ’s, drove to Tillamook and presented 177 pillowcases to Women’s Resource Center Executive Director Kathleen Marvin.

“There are still some more being made,” Lewis said. “I’ve had the center in the back of my head since I heard about a local (victim),” she explained. “I was inspired by her case.”

Since February, Lewis has been asking customers at her shop on U.S. Hwy. 101 to make pillowcases out of fabric she donates to the project and send them back to her.

“We get visited by quite a number of tourists,” Lewis said. “One woman from California asked some of her friends there to make pillowcases from fabric in their own stashes and send them to us. The other day, a pillowcase arrived in a package from another customer in Washington, D.C.”

According to Lewis, members of the Tuesday Stitchers at the Kiawanda Community Center in Pacific City have also been making pillowcases.

Surprise holiday gifts help make season merry

Christmas was made easier for some families recently, thanks to generous donations to the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center.

Student government leaders at Tillamook Bay Community College collected nearly 80 toys from students, staff and faculty in the weeks leading up to the holiday.

"Every year student government adopts a needy family," said Student Government President Melissa Nowicki. But, this year, she said, the students decided to collect toys for families being helped by the Women's Resource Center.

"It was a way to honor my aunt, Jane Taylor, who worked for what used to be known as the Women's Crisis Center until 1994," Nowicki said, "when she was killed by a drunk driver."

Women's Resource Center Executive Director Kathleen Marvin said gifts from TBCC and other individuals and groups were distributed among residents at the shelter and families receiving help through other TCWRC programs.

"We were all so moved by what they had done," Marvin said. "When they brought those toys in, it made our day."

Marvin said several other groups and individuals, many of them insisting on anonymity, also donated gifts.

"The OB staff at Tillamook County General Hospital donated women's toiletries and other gifts," she said. Other donors included



Resource Center staff members, from left, Norma Obrist, Kathleen Marvin and Kandy Staples-Cooper look over some of the gifts donated for families receiving help from the organization.

the First Christian Church and the Tillamook County Quilters. "There were several cash donors, too," she added.

And, according to Nowicki, TBCC student government's efforts won't stop when the holidays are over.

"We know there's a shortage of diapers at the shelter," Nowicki said, "and we were hoping to get 150 packages of diapers to do-

nate for Christmas. We didn't quite make it."

So, she said, the "diaper drive will continue" this year.

Anyone wishing to contribute either cloth or disposable diapers can drop them off at the college's business office on First Street. Nowicki said gift packages should be marked for her or student government faculty advisor John Sandusky.

News Briefs

Father Ray honored

In December, during our annual year-end gathering for the board, staff and volunteers, we celebrated the life and work of the late Pastor Ray Ferguson (Father Ray), a long-time board member and supporter.

As part of the evening, we dedicated the new conference room – which is in our new outreach and education space – to him. On hand for the dedication was Father Ray's wife, Louise Ferguson. Kathleen Marvin and Susan Barksdale both spoke briefly.

The room is now marked by a photo of Father Ray and a sign above the door. We are also donating the following books to the library in his name: *Keeping the Faith: Guidance for Christian Women Facing Abuse* by

Marie M. Fortune; *Violence in Families: What Every Christian Needs to Know* by Rev. Al Miles; *Battered Love: Marriage, Sex, and Violence in the Hebrew Prophets* by Renita J. Weems; and *Am I Sleeping with the Enemy? Males and Females in the Image of God* by Ron Clark

Tam Hulburt donated *God's Reconciling Love: A Pastor's Handbook on Domestic Violence* by Nancy A. Murphy, M.A., to our lending library in Father Ray's name.

Grant applied for

In December, we submitted a Department of Justice, Crime Victims Assistance grant to fund a part-time advocate to work with DHS, the Teen Parent Program and the Health De-

partment to serve teen parents, pregnant teens and women who are mothering children less than one year of age.

Next Steps meeting

A Next Steps meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 4 p.m. at the Women's Resource Center offices.

Soup Bowl coming

Mark your calendar for the 2011 edition of The Soup Bowl, our popular annual fundraising event. This year it will be held on Saturday, April 16. Tickets will go on sale well in advance. As always, it is wise to reserve your bowl early.

Fund Raising



African textile auction raises \$3,000

Eager bidders turn out for event at Pioneer Museum

An auction of colorful and unique tapestries and weavings by a group of African women has raised approximately \$3,000 for Tillamook County Women's Resource Center.

The event, held Nov. 19 at Tillamook County Pioneer Museum, featured the work of Mapusha Weavers – a cooperative of women based in the village of Acornhoek in the Limpopo province of South Africa.

Mapusha Weavers came together in 1973 with the help of a local Catholic missionary as a way for unemployed women in the village to learn a craft and make money to support their families.

Trained in the skills of weaving and sewing, the 12 women that make up Mapusha create an array of handspun, handwoven, hand-dyed textiles in a variety of colors and fabrics. No two items are the same; each is its own original work of art. The income from Mapusha's products goes to support approximately 50 of the women's dependent family members.

Judy Miller, who helped the group get started, was on hand at the event to tell the story, along with Chris McDonald, WRC board chairperson and a long time supporter of the Mapusha Textile Weavers Cooperative.

Above left: Attendees view some of the dozens of handcrafted textiles created by Mapusha Weavers.

Above right: Judy Miller, left, with Women's Resource Center Board Chairperson Chris McDonald.

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