



Fall 2009

Women's Center among Top 100 nonprofits in Oregon

Tillamook County Women's Resource Center has been named one of the Top 100 Best Nonprofits to Work For in Oregon by Oregon Business magazine.

TCWRC was among more than 200 other nonprofits that applied for consideration statewide, according to Robin Doussard, Oregon Business editor.

Doussard said the winning agencies were judged on the basis of the results of an employee survey to which more than 6,700 employees at more than 200 agencies responded. The survey included 60 questions about workplace satisfaction, such as benefits, management, trust, work environment and development. The survey was free of charge and independently calculated by researchers Davis, Hibbits and Midghall.

"We are so honored to receive this recognition," said Women's Resource Center Director Kathleen Marvin. "It is a testament to our excellent staff and our board, who help us create a nurturing and supportive environment for our clients as well as our employees."

Doussard said the new Top 100 Non-profit award category reflects the economic contribution of the nonprofit sector.

"We believe that the nonprofit sector is just as important as for-profits to the health and vitality of our economy," she said. "What makes a good workplace is important to the success of any organization."

She said the award may also help nonprofits attract good staff and win scarce grant dollars.

"This designation can give an entity tremendous bragging rights and helps differentiate it in the marketplace," Doussard explained.

The Top 10 rated nonprofits will be announced at a special Oregon Business banquet at the Portland Art Museum on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Registration information is available at www.oregon100best.com.

34% of Tillamook women have experienced domestic violence, TCWRC survey reveals

More than one-third of all women – 34% – in Tillamook County have experienced some form of domestic abuse.

That is one of the startling findings of a countywide domestic violence survey recently completed by a Portland-based research firm on behalf of the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center.

According to Kathleen Marvin, executive director of TCWRC, the 34% rate is higher than the 29% national figure cited in a 1998 survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice and a statewide 2004 survey that found that 31% of Oregon women had experienced some type of violent victimization.

Among the other findings of the Tillamook County telephone survey were the following:

- In the past five years, 37% of county residents state that a family member has experienced domestic violence, with 30% of those incidents taking place in Tillamook County.
- 50% of respondents said they know someone who is not a family member who has experienced domestic violence.
- Statistically, a minimum of 11% of the county's households – or 1,145 total households – have directly experienced domestic violence.
- Of those individuals who have personally experienced domestic violence, a full 25% took no action to get help or escape the situation.

"While these figures are startling, they reflect our experience in working with families here in the county," remarked Marvin.

She said the information gathered in the survey will help the center craft a major countywide public education project that will



'What we hope to achieve is to help people understand the true nature of domestic violence, that it profoundly effects all of us in one way or another and that we can make choices – either in our own lives or by helping others – that can reduce this problem in our community.'

*– Kathleen Marvin
Executive Director*

See Page 6

From My Desk



Welcome to our new TCWRC newsletter. As you can see, we have a new format and a new look. It's a big change for us and one we hope will provide you with more information about our work and updates about services and programs that will help you stay involved in our effort to Stop Violence.

In this edition, we are focusing on the U.S. Department of Justice Outreach and Education grant we were awarded to help us mount a major public education campaign about domestic violence.

As you can see from our cover story, DV in all its various forms is widespread in Tillamook County. Fortunately, the survey we were able to undertake also revealed that a majority of people here believe that DV is an important issue. We hope to build upon that awareness in the coming months to give all segments of our community information and tools to help individuals and families make better choices and affect positive changes in their lives and the lives of their children.

This might be a good time to explain the nature of grants. Some may believe that, because we have a big government grant, we no longer need donations from our community to do our work. Unfortunately, nothing could be further from the truth. This grant, while a wonderful blessing, comes with very strict rules about how it may be spent. We cannot use it for our routine, day-to-day operations or for anything other than the specific public outreach and education effort for which it was awarded.

So, for all of our regular operations – from the crisis line, to our advocacy services, shelter and other support services – we still must rely on the same funding sources we have always needed, including the generous donations from our Tillamook County supporters.

In fact, if our outreach efforts are as effective as I believe they will be, with your assistance, we will be able to help more people than ever and that means we will need the support of our community even more.

We know you will be there to make that happen. Thank you for all that you do for the families of Tillamook County.

Shelter Update



Shelter Manager Janet Stringer surveys the new garden.

Veggies growing in new donated garden

Lettuce, squash, potatoes, tomatoes, onions and kale. These are some of the healthy, fresh vegetables now finding their way onto the table at the TCWRC shelter, thanks to the hard work of a supporter. Helen Hill created a large, circular vegetable patch on the shelter grounds in July and planted it with an array of seedlings donated by Hill and others.

“The project was conceived, designed and installed by Helen,” said TCWRC Education and Outreach Program Manager Romy Carver. “She came in, dug up the sod and planted it all!”

The garden features two distinct areas: a large circular planting area divided into nine mounds radiating out from center like the spokes of a wheel, and a separate crescent-shaped bed planted only in peas, which currently are bearing in abundance, reports Shelter Manager Janet Stringer.

And, she added, the ripening produce is being well received.

“Whatever I pick and bring in seems to disappear right away,” she noted.



New workplace violence law takes effect Jan. 1

Senate Bill 928 – a bill that provides employment protections for victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking – has been passed by both houses of the Oregon Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Ted Kulongoski. It takes effect Jan. 1, 2010.

Under the new law, employers may not refuse to hire otherwise qualified individuals or take actions against them because they are victims of domestic or sexual assault or stalking.

Further, the law requires employers to make reasonable safety accommodations

for victims unless it can be proven that it would cause unreasonable hardship on the employer's business operations. Such accommodations include transfers, reassignment of duties, schedule modifications, changing work telephone numbers installation of locks and other actions.

The Women's Resource Center will offer information about the new law to local employers on request. In addition, we are available to provide support and training for employers and staff in how to recognize and deal with domestic violence and violence in the workplace.

Outreach & Education

Federal grant funds countywide domestic violence initiative

The Women's Resource Center of Tillamook is moving into the second year of implementing a two-year, \$400,000 federal "outreach and education" grant that will invigorate efforts to achieve its mission of ending domestic and sexual violence in the county.

"We're still open to input," said Executive Director Kathleen Marvin, "but we're basically done with the information gathering process."

For the past year, she said, the center has been busy gathering information and opinions on what various segments of the Tillamook County community believe is needed to eliminate domestic and sexual violence here. That effort included a full-blown scientific study of the impact domestic violence has had on residents of Tillamook County and collecting views of partner agencies and members of the public.

From now until the end of September 2010, Marvin said, the organization's focus will be on stepping up educational efforts in the community and enhancing services for victims. The theme for this effort, "No Violence," has its own logo, which will be used on educational materials and signage, she added.

The grant – from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women – is aimed at programs that combat domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

"The grant money is being used strictly for things we couldn't do before," Marvin said.

Among other things, the grant is funding two staff members to help implement the outreach and education program and a half time advocate position to help with the increased client volume expected as a result of that outreach effort.

"This enables us to enhance victim services and respond to the level of re-



quests for services that always increases when we are able to do outreach and education," Marvin explained.

Overseeing the outreach and education efforts are Romy Carver, the new education and outreach program manager, and longtime teacher Deborah Yund, the new education coordinator.

Carver said one of the agency's goals is to revive and expand the Tillamook County Coalition to End Domestic Violence.

"We want to engage more people in what we're doing," she said. The coalition has begun holding meetings at 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month at the 9-1-1 Center at 2311 3rd St. in Tillamook.

"It's exciting to hear from people who look at things through different lenses than we do. We're sorting through their ideas."

Some of the suggestions that have been offered include putting Women's Resource Center contact information in rest rooms at local restaurants; supplying law enforcement agencies with more handouts

on domestic violence, providing information for church bulletins on how to get help and how to help victims, and placing posters on domestic violence in medical waiting rooms around the county.

"Social change has to happen in order to end domestic violence," Yund said. "It takes a community working together to examine its values and support things that help reduce it. It's about accountability and intervention. There are victims who believe it's their fault and they don't know that services for them are available. We need an informed community that's engaged in solving the problem."

Yund noted that, as education coordinator, her job this year will involve using funds from the grant to put on various training sessions and disseminating printed information on various facets of domestic and sexual violence.

"It's huge," said Marvin. We think that out of all this we'll continue to get new ideas for programs and we hope to apply for two more years of funding."

Carver, Yund join team

Romy Carver first learned about TCWRC's services in 1986, when she came to the agency as a survivor of domestic violence.

"I was so grateful I had a place to go," she recalls. "Over the years, I've been sending people to the agency for help."

Carver has 15 years of social services experience, including six years in workforce development. She said a "large majority" of the clients she counseled also were dealing with domestic violence issues.

"They were facing poverty and taking income and lifestyle hits," she said. "They were confused and in crisis. We referred them to the Women's Resource Center all the time.

"I've always been touched by the amount of compassion I received here. It's wonderful to be able to be a part of that now."

Romy Carver, left, is education and outreach program manager. Deborah Yund, right, is education coordinator.



You could say that everything Deborah Yund has been doing all of her adult life led her to her current position as education coordinator for the Women's Resource Center of Tillamook.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, Yund got her teaching credential in 1974 and has been involved in education in Tillamook County since 1981, when she worked for Tillamook County Education Services District. She later taught kindergarten at Nestucca Elementary School in Cloverdale.

She began volunteering for what was then the Women's Crisis Center in 1994 as

an advocate and trainer.

"I realized at a young age that not all of us have the same opportunities," Yund said. "We're trying to educate everyone that violence is not an accident; it's a choice. By learning how to recognize the difference between emotions and actions, we can learn how to change our behavior toward others. Any of us can learn how to change, whether it's the way we relate to people at work, in the community, at school or in the family. Even my brother and I, after all these years, can learn how to communicate with each other more respectfully."

Forums expanding awareness of DV issues

"It showed the frustration and exhaustion victims go through in attempts to escape domestic violence," said one participant.

"Sometimes (victims) don't know or understand that they are being abused and they might think it's normal," added another.

"It gave me the ability to see what (domestic violence) may be like for someone," remarked a third.

These are a few of the comments from people who took part in a forum entitled "In Her Shoes," the first of four quarterly informational programs that will be sponsored by the Women's Resource Center through next spring.

The "In Her Shoes" program, in particular, was designed to educate participants about the problems encountered by domestic violence victims when they leave their abusive situations and why some choose not to leave.

Deborah Yund, education coordinator for the Women's Resource Center, explained

that the educational series will reach out to all facets of the community.

"People want education for young people about domestic and sexual violence and they want to know about Internet safety," she said.

A forum in October, which also happens to be "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," will be aimed at helping families. A January session will explain how victims can stay safe in today's high-tech environment.

"People also need to know about how to be careful with cellular phones, GPS systems, what kind of information not to put up on social networking Web sites and how to access domestic violence information on the Internet."

A third forum for adults is based on some of the "healthy relationship" principals being taught in our school curriculum. It will be offered in April and taught by Mary Ann Dearborn, Yund said.

"People sometimes need help recognizing what is healthy and what is unhealthy in

their relationships," she noted. "The idea here is to show what can and should be expected when a home is safe."

Yund said the educational program will conclude with a "community summit" in 2010 that will bring domestic violence experts into the community as well as sum up the information presented in the forums.

Yund said 41 people attended the two "In Her Shoes" sessions at the Tillamook Library in July.

She said the sessions used interactive exercises to dramatize and demonstrate the problems many domestic violence survivors encounter when they leave their abusive situations. A brainstorming session after the forum explored how members of the public can help remove barriers that victims face in escaping their situations and how to support them in other ways.

The forum showed that "government and social agencies have severe limitations and that women need to be taught to rely on their own resources," said another participant.

News Briefs



Halloween items at the Wild Flower

The Wild Flower now has Halloween items on display, along with costumes, at very good prices. We have received a generous donation of new items from a retail shop. Wild Flower Manager Melissa Finnell shows off a few items here.

Wild Flower needs furniture

The Wild Flower reports that there has been an increased need for furniture as a result of the current economic crisis. This is a critical need, yet there has been a decrease in furniture donations. The Wild Flower staff and volunteers have also been repairing and restoring old and broken furniture and have some beautiful items currently on display.

The Wild Flower thrift store is located at 114 Main St. in Tillamook. Hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (503) 842-2996 for information.

Personal Peace classes offered

Tam Hulburt will be teaching a FREE 12-week class for women on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m., starting in October, called "Fundamentals for Creating Personal Peace." There will be a class for men starting in November. Advance registration is required. For information, contact Peaceworks at (503) 842-3100.

Churches supporting DV awareness

Local churches have joined in the effort to raise awareness about domestic violence. Both the Tillamook Ecumenical Committee and Tillamook County Ministerial Association have requested bulletin inserts to help inform churchgoers about Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

Trainings

- ✓ Our eight-week volunteer training will kick off Sept. 28, with Monday sessions through Nov. 9, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. There will be an additional Saturday class Oct. 10 and a Tuesday class Nov. 10. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Eleanor Watkins, volunteer coordinator, at 503-842-9486.
- ✓ Training was recently provided to 78 youth at the two Oregon Youth Authority facilities in Tillamook. Deborah Yund conducted the training, which covered such topics as gender roles, oppression and violence awareness.
- ✓ Yund is also scheduled to conduct a session on domestic violence screening for medical providers at the Oregon Scientific Seminar in Newport, sponsored by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Scientists and the Oregon State Society of American Medical Technologists. Training continues to be offered to local professionals, including medical professionals and daycare providers.
- ✓ Kathleen Marvin and Wild Flower Manager Melissa Finnell gave a presentation in July to the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, discussing the store's value as a sheltered worksite for clients, for job training and other support, while making money for TCWRC. It also provides items for free to people in crisis. In addition, a group of five TCWRC staff members attended the conference and received training.

October Calendar

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Wear your purple ribbons every day and share your knowledge and support with others.

Wednesday, Oct. 7 – 5:30 p.m. Tree planting at the Tillamook City Police Station to raise awareness about domestic violence.

Wednesday, Oct. 21 – 3 to 7 p.m. Awareness Day/Forum at Bay City Arts Center. There will be two workshops, music, art and crafts activities for kids and adults, refreshments, a movie viewing area and an awareness vigil at the end of the evening. The goal is to enhance awareness and debunk myths about domestic violence.

Tuesday, Oct. 27 – Noon. We will hold our annual Memorial Walk. Participants will meet at the Women's Resource Center and walk to Carnahan Park, where there is a memorial tree with plaques. Those who don't wish to walk are welcome to drive down and meet us there.

Wednesday, Oct. 28 – 5:30 p.m. TCWRC board meeting.

Fund-raising pro joins TCWRC

David Guard joined the staff of the Women's Resource Center in August as development director in charge of fund-raising.

Executive Director Kathleen Marvin said Guard, 57, is working for the agency part-time.

Guard, who lives in Neskowin, has previous experience in nonprofits.

He worked as director of consumer affairs and resource development for the Integrated Services Network, an arm of the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition. He also served as a community speaker for United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and as statewide services coordinator for the Oregon Food Bank.

For several years, he was senior pastor at the Gresham United Methodist Church.

Guard has previous experience with domestic violence issues.

"I came in contact with domestic vi-

olence victims while working as pastor of a small rural church in Idaho," he said. "There was no shelter there, so myself and a person from Mercy Medical Center put together a committee and started a shelter."

Guard said he also taught the philosophy of nonviolence as a member of the Religion and Philosophy Department at the College of Idaho.

"In college, I became enamored with the writings of Gandhi and Martin Luther King," said Guard, who holds a master's degree in divinity from Duke University and bachelor's degrees in psychology and general studies arts and letters from Portland State University.

Guard also is serving as part-time campaign coordinator for this year's Tillamook County United Way campaign, according to United Way Board President Lisa Phipps.

"We are looking forward to working with David to build sustainable funding



David Guard

that will ensure victim services are available in Tillamook County for years to come," Marvin said.

The Women's Resource Center, a United Way agency, is providing the office space Guard will use for both jobs.

"We're thrilled to be able to have this partnership with one of our agencies," Phipps said.

Survey findings

From Front Page

extend to September of 2010.

"What we hope to achieve with this survey and with our public education campaign," Marvin explained, "is to help people understand the true nature of domestic violence, that it profoundly effects all of us in one way or another and that we can make choices, either in our own lives or by helping others, that can reduce this problem in our community."

Marvin said there is some good news revealed in the survey. A huge majority of respondents – 87% – believe that domestic violence is an important issue in the county, 92% agree that it is NOT the woman's fault, and 88% believe the issue of domestic violence should NOT be confined to the family: It should be discussed openly in public.

"What a great message that sends," Marvin remarked. "It is wonderful that so many people consider this an important issue. It means we have a real opportunity to reach out to the community, discuss this issue and potentially help change people's

behavior."

Representatives of other local agencies that deal with domestic violence issues agreed that the survey's results ring true.

Tillamook County Sheriff Todd Anderson said he believes the 34% figure is accurate.

"Not all domestic violence includes behavior that is subject to criminal charges," he explained. "But we respond to a lot of calls involving verbal abuse. A very large percentage of all our calls are domestic in nature. And these are just the reported cases. We know that a huge percentage of cases go totally unreported."

Anderson said his department considers domestic violence a serious issue.

"Our officers have specifically trained to do more thorough investigations into these cases and to increase the percentage of them that go to court. Our goal is to achieve justice for the victims."

"I'm not surprised by the (34%) figure," remarked District Attorney Bill Porter, who noted that the court system only sees cases that have risen to the level of criminal violence. He said such cases represent a rela-

tively small proportion of the types of unacceptable behavior that fall within the definition of domestic violence.

Sandy Kephart, operations manager of the Self-Sufficiency Unit of Oregon Department of Human Services office in Tillamook, said she is not surprised by the 34% figure, either.

"That seems accurate," she said. "We don't see all the cases of domestic abuse in the county, obviously, because we only see women who have come to us for services. But we have seen an increase in the numbers of women coming to us for help in escaping abusive situations. And, in almost all cases, the abuse centers around the issues of power and control, with the man using abuse to assert his power."

The survey was conducted by Pulse Research of Portland. Pulse dialed nearly 8,200 telephone numbers and conducted a total of 400 interviews for the survey. All the county's ZIP codes were represented proportionally to their respective populations. The results are accurate within a margin of plus or minus 4.8%.

With Grateful Thanks!

We wish to thank our supporters for their generous contributions. With your help, we continue our work to Stop Violence

Tillamook United Methodist Women	Ceilous and Mettie Williams	Frants Poulsen	Susan & William Wagner
Judith Schwartz-Sorrel	Jan Bartlett	Rachel Perry	Nancy & John Walsh
TLC Federal Credit Union	Christie and Jim Zerfing	Economic Development Council of Tillamook County	Kristine Hayes
St. Albans Guild	Deb Dyson & Jim Carlson	Andrew and Mary Lisik	Timothy and Linda Hayes
Connie and Bruce Ryan	Tam Hulburt	Kathy Park	Gloria Lyons
Leah Fletcher	Jeri White	Jill & Irvin Schneider	John & Kerma A. Lamkin
Rockaway Lions Club	Sharon Lighthill	Frank Hanna-Williams	George and June McKay
Janet Stringer	Alice & John Magnano	Sue LeGrand	Wayne McCollum
Nehalem Bay United Methodist Women	Debra Moberly	David Bizeau, DMD	Amy & Alex Rangel
Women of St Catherines	Raymond Ferguson	Dr. Lily Roselyn	James & Rene Straessle
Michele and Pat Aeder	Dana Anderson, MS	Karen Williams	Jennifer Childress
Margaret Wilson	Comfort Inn/ Jae Lee	Monica & John Isbell	Flamingo Jim's
Erik and Judith Eselius	Bill and Kathy Stout	Kathie & Rod Van Loh	Jim Freeman
Karen Ryan	Sue Cameron	Harry and Linda Backeberg	Paul & Marie Miller
Kay Stepp	Marilyn Parrish	Vincent and Elizabeth Glaudin	Frederick & Patricia Parker
Carl Peters	Valerie Brace	Marilyn and Walt Rigterink	Fran Recht
Odetta Schoen	Katharine and Goodwin Harding	Lisa & JD Skinn	Dennis Thomason
Therese and Raymond L'Hommedieu	Christine McDonald	Sherry Ashford	Deborah Yund
Tillamook Vision Center	Erica and Tom Rubin-Swanson	Mary I. Easley	K. Marie S. Ashton
Jeanne LeJeune	Stella & Richard Clyne	Pam & Richard Obrist	DuBois and Cat Freshwater
Kathleen Marvin	Carol and Steve Dotson	Ellen Boggs	Andrew Kerr
Dodie and Daniel Gillespie	Lee & Susan Long	Bruneau Construction, Inc.	Carmen Larson, Family & Youth Services Coordinator
Dan & Cathy Silver	Nancy Searles	Helen Hill	Martha McFadden
Viviane Tallman	Susan Tone & Phil Blanton	Betsy Johnson	Charles Woolridge
Darlene and Jerry Cherry	Jean Cameron	Mary Sause	Dale Litvin
Don and Norma Cameron	Rita Poortman	St. Joseph Altar Society	George & Ruth Allen
Janet and John Stahl	John & Marlene Putman	Trask River Therapy	Gretchen & John Power
Kathleen Newton	Susan Strawn	Fred and Kendra Furman	Paula & Bucky Buckwalter
Susan Barksdale	Bros. and Hoes Landscaping	Kimber Lundy	Kim and Mark Cavatorta
Nancy and Bob Slavin - Rees	Erin Skaar	Adrienne & Chad Allen	Albert & Mary Ann Haas
Debbie Bergquist	Maxine Cracraft	Helen Armstrong	Jennie Logsdon Martin
Vivien and Terrence Bliss	Jean Scholtz	Melody Ayers	Jeanine McCambly
Don and Diane Bacon	Robert & Carolyn Ollikainen	Mary Clemens	Esther & Anthony Troyer
George, Sue, and Bonnie Hastings	Food Basket Market Place	Adrienne DeFrank	Frederick & Diane Wright
Denise Harrington	Dolly Parsons	Mary Ann Dearborn	Ted Chu
	Rosenberg Builders Supply	Jane Frost	Michael Knighten
	Richard Rowland	Carol Laurich	Patricia & Douglass Tormey
	Lisa & Jon Stine	Christy & Kenneth Vail	Carolyn Olsen

25% OFF!!

Redeem this coupon for 25% off your next purchase!

the
Wild Flower

A thrift boutique benefitting the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center

Open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

114 Main St., Tillamook • (503) 842-2996

Community FOCUS

Tillamook County Women's Resource Center
P.O. Box 187 • 1902 2nd St., Tillamook, OR 97141
Office: (503) 842-9486 • Crisis Line: (800) 992-1679
TTY (800) 877-8973 • Fax (503) 842-6458
www.TCWCCSAFE.org

STAFF

Executive DirectorKathleen Marvin
Client Advocate.....Susan Bush
Administrative AssistantKandy Staples-Cooper
Bi-Lingual AdvocateNorma Obrist
AdvocateAdrienne Allen
Education & Outreach
Program Manager.....Romy Carver
Education CoordinatorDeborah Yund
Development Coordinator.....David Guard
Violence Prevention Coordinator/SAPC.....Mary Ann Dearborn
Wild Flower SupervisorMelissa Finnell
Shelter ManagerJanet Stringer

Board of Directors

Susan Barksdale
Jody Bell
Darlene Cherry
Jane Frost
Sue Hastings

Kimber Lundy
Christine McDonald
Father Ray Ferguson
Alice Magnano
Beth Hope



This project is supported by Grant No. 2008-WR-AX-0038, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



**Tillamook County
Women's Resource Center**
P.O. Box 187
1902 2nd St., Tillamook, OR 97141

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
PRS
US Postage
PAID
Tillamook, OR 97141
Permit No. 173