



The Women's Center  
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December 2, 2011

Dear Friends,

In the afterglow of our 40th anniversary celebration, I am gratefully reflecting on all that the Women's Center has given us over the years - a safe place to call our own, a sense of community, support to find our voices, encouragement to speak our truth, validation of our worth as women, and opportunities to transform our lives and the world around us. I cannot imagine how my life would have unfolded without the Women's Center, and I know many of you share that feeling.

As most of you know, I have been a volunteer fundraiser for the Center for the past five years. What many of you may not know is that this has been a half-time position. Having reached retirement age, I will no longer be continuing as a fundraiser, although I will still be a volunteer at the Women's Center as the Director of Incest Resources, the facilitator of the Drop-In Group for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse, a consultant to the Survivor Quilt Project, and an advisor to the Survivor Theatre Project. I will also be continuing my private practice as a psychologist part-time.

I am deeply thankful to each and every one of you who contributed financially and otherwise to avert the threatened closing of the Women's Center in 2006, stabilize the Center under a new Board, and improve our position since. Without your donations and your constancy, there would be no Women's Center today and no fifth decade for us to look forward to.

As my years as a volunteer fundraiser come to a close, I want to emphasize both my abiding affection for the Women's Center and my concern that it never be taken for granted. The road back from the brink since 2006 has been long and arduous. We have operated with one paid staff person, Ming Chang, our gracious Center Coordinator. Hard-earned grants and donations brought in by myself and my tireless fundraising partner, Judy Norris, have had to simultaneously cover repayment of the loan taken out by the old Board, operating expenses, long overdue capital improvements to the house, and critical programs and services for an ever-growing number of women in need.

As much as Judy and I have been able to accomplish as a volunteer team, the future of the Women's Center depends upon being able to move from one paid staff position to two, including a paid fundraiser. This goal cannot be achieved without every extra dollar of support each of you can contribute. Please join me in investing in the long-term health of the Center, and the well-being of the next generation of women, by giving as generously and as often as possible.

Wishing you all the best,

  
Elaine Westerlund

*A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization (Federal I.D. #23-7131753)*