

Winter / Spring 2003

Featuring Our 2002 Annual Report

Exceptional Women 2003 are honored



Dr. M. Beverly Swan



Lynn Urbani-Craddock



Debra V. Murphy, Esq.

The Women's Center of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the seven women and groups throughout Rhode Island honored at our First Annual Exceptional Women Awards Luncheon on Thursday, March 6th from 12:00–1:30 p.m. at the Providence Marriott. This event is held during the week of International Women's Day to celebrate outstanding female leadership and achievement in Rhode Island. Our awardees represent women from different fields and walks of life: women in business, education, community service, law enforcement, public service, survivor groups, and those working to raise awareness about domestic violence.



Rear Admiral Barbara McGann



Dr. Jody Glass, A.D.



Susan Connery



SOAR Members

Exceptional Women continues on p. 4

WCRI Kicks Off Corporate and Major Gift Campaign: President and CEO of BlueCHIP's Honorary Chair

This month, the Women's Center of Rhode Island begins a 10-month outreach campaign to businesses and major donors to solicit their special help in supporting our mission. We are honored to have Ms. Lynne Urbani-Craddock, President and CEO of Coordinated Health Partners, Inc. (BlueCHIP) serving as 2003 Honorary Chair. Board Member Lisa Bowen, the Board's Corporate Campaign Committee Chair, offers outstanding leadership with her development of strategy and marketing plans.

This campaign plays a major role in helping to secure our programs and services and offers companies free seminars in the workplace: *Promoting Healthy Relationships* and *When Domestic Violence Comes to the Workplace* which educates managers and employees about the warning signs of abuse, awareness and prevention. These seminars remind employers that 75% of victims are harassed, stalked or threatened in the workplace and offer suggestions for keeping employees safe and productive in the work environment.

For more information about how you can participate in this exciting campaign and to hear about our special recognition offers to corporate and major donors, please call Deb Gurka, our Director of Development, at 861-2761 x133.

"You don't develop courage by being happy in your relationships every day. You develop it by surviving difficult times and challenging adversity." —Barbara DeAngelis

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From the President Michael J. Chazan, Esq.

We are pleased to present our 2002 Annual Report in this Winter Newsletter edition. The statistics show the largest numbers of service to victims in the history of our agency. We accomplished this by increasing the number of family bedrooms and by increasing staff to offer even more community education and violence prevention outreach programs.

While we have the capacity to do more, at the same time we recognize that the needs for victim advocacy and for community prevention



Michael J. Chazan, Esq.

programs are ever increasing. Thus, the year 2003 brings new challenges and we gratefully thank you, our donors and friends, for your continued support.

Our Board of Directors is a strong, professional and dedicated group of men and women who are committed to supporting and strengthening our current programs, while at the same time planning for future expansion and growth. As Board members, we will be focusing much attention during the coming year on developing a 2004–2008 strategic plan that will meet the needs of victims and work to initiate strong violence awareness and violence prevention programs in the communities we serve.

From the Executive Director Kathryn O'Hare, Ph.D.

Courage and Strength—Acknowledging Exceptional Women

This year on March 6th, we begin celebrating the week of International Women's Day with our own celebration of Rhode Island's Exceptional Women. This annual event focuses on extraordinary women who have overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles and challenges to achieve personal triumph and success. Some are well known; some you may have never before met. But all have attained personal triumph over adversity.

Rhode Island has a long and proud history of remarkable women who have made history in the annals of Rhode Island archives and in the national spotlight as well. Christianna Bannister, a Native American-Black American, founded the concept of a safe house for abused women and their children in Rhode Island. She now has a sculptured bust in her honor gracing the second floor grand hall of the State House amid the all-male portraits lining the hallways. Christianna opened the doors to this first shelter in the very same location where the

Women's Center of Rhode Island is now located.

In our daily work, we open our arms, our hearts and our resources to women and children who are fleeing abusive situations.

While we recognize their plight and, most often, their feelings of fear and despair, we also recognize their remarkable courage and strength. It takes strength to face challenges; it takes courage to make life-altering changes.

So we also acknowledge our own Exceptional Women—those whom we see in our shelter every day and those whom we reach out to in our court rooms, and in public forums, and in support groups. Know that we will continue to be here for them, to serve them, and to acknowledge their extraordinary ability to survive and heal and grow.



Kathryn O'Hare, Ph.D.

New Woman Pins Now Available!

Every pin is individually crafted and unique.



WCRI is offering a new line of the "Woman Pin" we've made available in recent years. These attractive pins feature women from all walks of life and are helping WCRI raise money to fight domestic violence in our community.

The pins are the creation of Lucinda Yates. Yates is a jewelry designer who started her own business in the attic of her apartment in 1983. Formerly homeless for two years due to a divorce and financial setbacks, she was able to build a successful business dedicated to creating affordable jewelry that brings much needed financial help to non-profit organizations. The pins sell for **\$15.00 each** (please add \$1 shipping and handling). This beautiful accessory makes a great gift, and your purchase helps support women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. To purchase a Woman Pin, call the Development Office at **(401) 861-2761 extension 134**. Please indicate preference of diversity, background color, single/group of women, handicapped (cane or wheelchair), new baby, etc. We will try to find a pin to meet your request.



Our Mission

We envision a world where all people are safe from violence, personal safety is considered a fundamental right, and interpersonal safety is more highly valued than power and control over others.

We strive to build a community that does not tolerate violence against its members and one that holds perpetrators of interpersonal abuse accountable for the harm they inflict on individual victims and on the social fabric of the community.

Our mission is to provide safety and support to women, their children and others who are experiencing interpersonal abuse or are homeless due to a personal crisis.

Local 328 Workers Deliver Holiday Cheer

Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 328 brought some early holiday cheer to the Women's Center of Rhode Island with a \$7,000 donation of goods and grocery store gift certificates to benefit victims of domestic violence and their children.

UFCW's members, employed at grocery stores, food service companies, health care facilities, banks and credit unions throughout Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, purchased items on the Women's Center of Rhode Island's Wish List. "We were overwhelmed to find that most of our wishes were fulfilled. Union workers individually purchased every item needed and personally delivered a truck filled with items," said Kathryn O'Hare, Executive Director. The gifts included pillows, blankets, dishes, strollers, sheets, towels and many other crucial items for abused and homeless families seeking refuge at the Women's Center of Rhode Island's domestic violence shelter. In addition to buying items on the Center's "Wish List," they pooled funds to purchase \$2,000 in gift certificates to Stop & Shop, which will be used by the Center to buy food for the holidays and beyond.

The 300 union workers participating in the gift-giving hope their gifts will make the holiday a brighter time for residents at the shelter, and by purchasing items at a local retail store that is not represented by a union, they helped to deliver personal information about union membership. "Members used their shopping spree to help educate the store's employees about worker's rights and what it means to be a union member. UFCW hopes this experience benefits the stores primarily female workforce while helping a good cause," Lee Dilorio, President of UFCW's Local 328, explained.

"It doesn't matter where you are coming from.

All that matters is where you are going."—Brian Tracy

Off Track Bedding Donation

The need for additional rooms and beds in our emergency domestic violence shelter left the residential staff in a dilemma over where to put the increasing number of families seeking shelter at the Women's Center of Rhode Island. Our staff strategized ways of utilizing our space to accommodate more women and children. We converted our staff lounge and a family area into two additional bedrooms, but found we didn't have enough beds to best utilize the space. And that's where Roann Barren came into play. Off Track Bedding donated four twin-size beds, and delivered them to the Women's Center at no additional cost. As the result of her donation, we were able to help even more victims of domestic violence over the holidays. We appreciate Roann's generosity and kindness for making this donation!

All of our awardees have struggled to break down barriers for women and have overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges to reach personal achievement and success. Their photos and stories will be presented in our event program booklet. These booklets will also be given to survivors residing in our safe house who are victims of domestic violence and will be used as inspiring examples of women who have succeeded, despite personal crisis and obstacles.

The Exceptional Women Awards Committee solicited nominations from individuals and groups throughout Rhode Island, and with careful consideration, selected the final seven awardees. We are pleased to recognize the winners!

Dr. M. Beverly Swan, Provost, University of Rhode Island

Lynne Uhlani-Cradlock, President & CEO, Health Partners, Inc. (BlueChip)

Dr. Jodi Glass, Au.D., Activist and Founder of The Rhode Island

Clothesline Project

Susan Connery, Director, Feinstein Community Service Center,

Johnson and Wales University

SOAR, Sisters Overcoming Abusive Relationships

Debra Viera Murphy, Esq., Private practice attorney and first female police officer in the Newport County area

Rear Admiral Barbara McGann, U.S. Navy (retired), former Provost, Naval War College Newport and now serving as CEO of RI American Red Cross

For nearly 30 years, we've been able to help! 24-hours a day, 7-days a week · Helpline: 401.861.2760

Your gift is more than a donation:
It helps to repair broken spirits of women
and children, rebuild self-sufficiency, and
remove the threat of danger.
You help to save lives.

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