



Inspire

Fall 2009

“ In an era when women’s wisdom is needed more than ever, It will take all of us to weave the lessons learned in past generations into the realities facing women today.” The Omega Institute

Dear Inspire Readers:

Keeping with our new format, this issue features our women’s court ordered programming. As a growing body of work develops around the issue of women who use violence, it is gratifying to see how our long held beliefs at the Center are right in line with what others doing the work are talking about, writing about and beginning to practice, in a consistent way, when offering women’s violence intervention programming. In a recent conversation with a colleague from Ann Arbor we spoke of the importance of building into each session with a client—non shaming, identity affirming, gender specific skills and awareness. Our program at the Center was one of the first in the state to address this growing issue. For twelve years now, our women’s program has worked to provide accountable/ appropriate programming for women who are arrested for their use of violence, or who are unable to protect their children from violence.

This October the Center is bringing a film, “Sin by Silence” looking at women in prison who are there for killing violent partners. Our work is to keep women in our community and surrounding areas from suffering that fate. To do that, to offer curriculum that is truly preventative, requires a critical understanding of the forces at work when women use violence in their relationships and in their lives.

A cross-section of our clients will show women from many races and cultures. You will see women from poor and middleclass families, some with single and two parent families, some raised by other family members, some who have pursued an education and some who have not. What then are the common threads? What causes a person to be unable to act in their own best interest, remain in a dangerous, violent environment? What blinds someone to the impact of their choices, or makes the consequences seem unimportant? One common thread is abuse. It can be a series of unrelated traumas or an intergenerational life pattern of oppressive exploitation and violation.

So these are the questions we consider. We challenge women to think critically about their lives and the safety of their families. When we create space for this kind of dialogue, the realities of women’s lives rise to the surface where they are visible. This promotes a self exploration that speaks truth about our pain, rage, violence, creativity and dreams. It calls women to recognize the layers of beliefs about themselves and the world, guiding their choices and to become powerful “within” themselves, and creating the lives they want and deserve.

This then is the work we do and the amazing privilege we enjoy in witnessing women’s work on nonviolence at the Center.

Maralee Martin & Beth Beams, Women’s Program Coordinators

Inspiring Change. One person...One family...One world



**CfN's
Coordinating
Panel**

Kim Miller

Brindha Hariharan

Nancy Cripe

Susan Minke

Ann Frellick

Jose Hernandez

Alan Hoffer

Sherwin Kepes

Barbara Linden

Jeanne McGee

Laurie Weier

Women's Program Offers:

Women's Violence Intervention Program Women are referred to these groups due to their use of violence. Women range from acting as primary aggressors to primary victims. Participants are assessed and enrolled in a 29 week curriculum based on a Duluth model.

Mother's Intervention Program Mothers are referred to this group because their children have experienced domestic violence, child abuse, and/or neglect. The 26 week program uses key curriculum from our women's groups in addition to best practices parenting.

Support, Education, Advocacy (to be highlighted in the next issue)

"I'm thinking more, I'm thinking different"
2009 client

Women's Program Goals:

- Encourage women to take accountability for their own use of violence
- Increase understanding of the power and control dynamics of relationships
- Developing the abilities in women to think critically
- Teach nonviolent skill building
- To gain skills to insure they and their children are in safe nurturing environments
- To be able to problem solve acceptable ways to guide children's behavior
- To recognize the far reaching effects of emotional and physical abuse as it is passed from one generation to the next

Feedback from clients.....

CFN has truly saved me. I have learned how to love myself and respect myself. Most importantly, I have learned that I am worth it.

This group has helped me a lot as to deal with my past childhood and how to deal with my own kids. I get advice I never would of come up with on my own and use it at our home. Thank you.

I started classes in mind that I didn't need to work on anything and while coming here the last few months has made a big difference on how I handle most situations or problems I encounter.

"Thank you," to our direct service women's staff:

Ana Giusti Gladys Suarez Pat Cornell Josefina Cervantes Beth Beams Maralee Martin

*And a very special thanks to Joan Uebelhoer for her brilliant work
with our women on women's history and reality.*

Center Sightings:

You may have noticed that this issue appears to come right on the heels of our summer issue—well, you would be right, October is domestic violence awareness month and we wanted to make sure that we got this out in time to invite you to the Center’s upcoming events. Please see the insert for a full listing. We welcome you to join us at any (or all!) of these events to raise your voice against domestic and other forms of violence.

Our goal throughout the month of October and beyond is to call attention to the continued need to eliminate domestic violence in our community, our country and around the world. October is also a time to remember those who have lost their lives to this devastating and senseless crime.

- There were 65 deaths in Indiana last year that were a result of domestic violence
- 50% of the homeless women and children in the U.S. are fleeing abuse.
- Abusive husbands and lovers harass 74% of employed battered women at work, either in person or over the telephone, causing 20% to lose their jobs
- More than 50% of child abductions result from domestic violence
- 73% of the battered women seeking emergency medical services have already separated from the abuser

Tips for ending violence against women and children:

Understand that love does not involve control or ownership

Remember: anger is a feeling; violence is an action

Do not belittle, humiliate, or hit children

Work for full equality between men and women in society and in personal relationships

Teach your daughters that respect is just a minimum.

Teach your sons the same

Never excuse behavior by saying “boys will be boys”

Praise gentle boys

Understand that what it means to “be a man” is defined by society

Unplug boys and girls from violent media.

We are all role models.

Be nurturing, loving, and caring

Taken from poster #P575CW 2004

Results of the Women’s Program:

- 98% of court ordered female clients agree that overall CFN has had a positive impact in their lives, with 76% strongly agreeing
- 97% of court ordered female clients agree that they were treated with respect by CFN staff, with 90% strongly agreeing

Model the change you want to see in your community.

Center's Wish List

- Digital camera
- Instrumental CDs
- Projector (for computer-Microsoft compatible)
- Laminator
- Diapers & Wipes
- Bubbles
- Markers
- Clay
- Construction Paper
- Playground balls
- Art supplies
- Boxes of Kleenex
- Book shelf
- (3) 5 gallon bucket of asphalt
- Basketball hoop (that can be attached to garage)
- Gift Certificates to...
 - Lowes
 - Home Depot
 - Meijer
 - Target



Services of the Center

All services are also available in Spanish

- Adult Violence Intervention Programs
- Support Groups
- Mother's Educational Groups
- Child-Centered Parenting After Divorce
- Violence Intervention for Youth
- Thinking Errors Intervention for Youth
- Community Nonviolence Initiative (school-based programming)
- Trainings

Mission: To provide education, support, and advocacy to end domestic and other forms of violence while modeling equality and power sharing

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Center for Nonviolence