

Women's Crisis Services Commemorates 25 Years of Service to Hunterdon County

Events Planned for Commemoration include Dinner and Workshop with Nationally Renowned Author Michelle Weldon, The Candlelight Vigil, and "Communities of Light" Luminary Project

This year marks an important one in the growth of Women's Crisis Services. In 1978, through the efforts and dedication of an ad-hoc committee formed under the Advisory Committee to the Hunterdon County Community Mental Health Center, Women's Crisis Services emerged as a private, non-profit organization. Its target population was victims of domestic violence and survivors of sexual assault; its purpose, to provide emergency crisis intervention services to this group.

The initial task for Women's Crisis Services involved training volunteers who could respond to hotline calls from battered women and survivors of sexual assault. In January 1978, on a totally volunteer basis, Women's Crisis Services began offering hotline counseling, information and referral, advocacy and limited transportation. Women's Crisis Services went on to develop a safe home system, peer-group counseling and a program of community education.

After a little less than two years as a volunteer service, Women's Crisis Services received a Title XX grant to open a center for its operations. In the fall of 1990, after many arduous years of preparation, Women's Crisis Services opened a shelter for Hunterdon County victims of domestic violence fleeing from their abusers. The shelter not only provides a "safe haven" to escape abuse, but offers counseling for both victims and their children.

After 25 years, Women's Crisis Services has evolved into a full service agency fulfilling its mission to empower, educate and support victims of domestic violence and survivors of sexual assault. Services include: Free and confidential individual and group counseling, legal advocacy, 24-hour hotline (1-888-988-4033), 24-hour emergency shelter, transitional housing, children's advocacy and creative arts therapy, community education, The Consignment Shop, and the Volunteer Crisis Intervention Team. Women's Crisis Services also offers a Domestic Violence Recovery program to end the use of violence in relationships.

To commemorate this growth in service, honor those who have survived Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and support those who still live in their shadow, Women's Crisis Services has planned four very special events. The events include:

October 23, 2003

Annual Dinner

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

Special Guest Speaker: Michele Weldon

Author & Survivor of Domestic Violence

October 24, 2003

Journaling Workshop

The Inn at Lambertville Station

Presented by: Michele Weldon

Author & Survivor of Domestic Violence

October 27, 2003

Candlelight Vigil

Hunterdon County Justice Center

Honoring Victims of Domestic Violence

through poetry, music and art

December 21, 2003

Communities of Light Luminary Event

Communities throughout Hunterdon County

Honoring victims of Domestic Violence

A Tri-County event with Somerset and Mercer Counties

Get further details on these events, please feel free to [contact WCS](#) for more information.