



Women's Resource Center Update

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Congratulations 24th Annual Summit Awards Winners



Mary K Carr is President and Founder of Mar Cares, a credit protection and repair company. In 1989, Mary relocated to Central Florida. She pursued a career in security management and has worked for several Fortune 100 companies.

Mary's dedication to the community has resulted in bettering the lives of citizens for generations to come. One of the founders of Helping Others Make the Effort (H.O.M.E), Mary has given countless hours educating battered and homeless women and children to restructure their lives through health, social and financial programs. As a board member of the Osceola Council of Aging, Mary strives to improve and enhance the lives of senior and disabled citizens. As an active board member for the Transition House, Mary worked diligently assisting with acquiring property, petitioning for land use changes and securing the funding to purchase a crime ridden motel which now flourishes as a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. Through Mary's work as co-chairman of a political action committee, "Save and Value the Environment", Osceola County now has the means to purchase natural lands to be used for recreational activities while also helping to protect Central Florida's natural water shed and green space.

Rather than submitting to physical limitations from life threatening illnesses, in 1994 Mary founded Mar Cares. Among its purpose is education and empowerment of individuals by instructing and assisting them with credit restoration, prevention of identity theft and expanding their credit worthiness. Mar Cares received the Small Business of the Year Award in 2006 from the Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce. Mary has also received the Community Vision Leadership Award, Osceola Distinguished Leader Award and has been nominated for the American Business Ethics Award (2008).



Maureen Kersmarki is the Regional Director of Government & Public Affairs for Florida Hospital and Adventist Health System. Her team provides health policy support to 17 Adventist Health System hospitals in Florida and 20 others in 10 states. Maureen came to Orlando in 1971 and has been an involved community activist since then. She has focused on the needs of women and children, especially the underserved and those without access to health care services.

At Florida Hospital, Maureen has initiated and sustained an after hours medical clinic for people without insurance; implemented the Community Health Improvement Council, which grants \$1 million per year for innovative health improvement projects; and founded the Central Florida Partnership on Health Disparities, a regional effort to create "100% Access, Zero Disparities" in health.

In 2002, Maureen became chairman of the Osceola Health Issues Task Force (HITF). During her 5 years as chair, HITF received over \$10 million in new grants, launched a Mobile Medical Van to serve rural parts of the county, opened the county's first health clinic for uninsured residents and created a physician volunteer network and a health web site to help low-income residents. Currently, Maureen serves as the chair of PCAN (Primary Care Access Network) in Orange County. She is the author of several publications and a much sought after conference presenter.

Maureen has received the Nova and Jefferson Awards for Community Service, Distinguished Leader for Osceola County and "Volunteer of the Decade", as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Society for Healthcare Public Relations & Marketing.



Helen Von Dolteren-Fournier is a Founding Partner of AEGIS Law Firm, P.L., an estate planning boutique law firm located in Central Florida that is focused on personalized estate planning.

Helen has been an active volunteer and supporter of education and the arts in Central Florida for a number of years. She currently serves as Board Chair for the Valencia Foundation, trustee for WMFE Public Television, advisory member on Valencia's Paralegal Advisory Committee and advisory member for the Barry University School of Law. Helen also supports the Catholic Charities Food Bank, and once a month, for more than a dozen years, has cooked meals for approximately 250 homeless through her church. From the Valencia Foundation, Helen received the Service Award in 2003, Board Member of the Year in 2002 and 2005, in 2004 the Servant Leader Award and this year was recognized as one of forty individuals in the Central Florida community that has contributed greatly to the school's success with the Valencia 40th Anniversary Award.

On Valencia's East Campus, Helen established a Sculpture Garden as a tribute to Mothers and their ability to expand our horizons with a combination of arts and education, and assisted in the creation of the Anita S. Wooten Gallery to honor her friend and artist, Anita Wooten. Helen also established a Clock Tower for the Osceola Campus to provide a reminder to "make good use of time". In 2007 she established the Frances Millican 2+2 Scholarship, "Building Bridges for Education in Central Florida", honoring the contribution of Mrs. Frances Millican. She has established scholarships for students from Valencia and Seminole Community Colleges that wish to continue their education at UCF and Barry University.



Corine Varn Wilson's primary interest, both personal and professional, has always been in working with youth who are disadvantaged for personal, social, economic or ethnic reasons. This interest led her to earn a Masters Degree in Educational Administration and was the motivation behind her current, late in life, pursuit of a Ph.D.

Corine lived in New York State for 30 years before moving back to her native Florida and the Orlando area. She has worked as a teacher, trainer, consultant, administrator, and program coordinator. Corine found that working with the disenfranchised requires a great deal of advocacy as well as education. She has trained teachers in cultural diversity, taught parenting classes, developed youth programs and served as both a consultant and a board member with several educational organizations. Corine feels that The Central Florida Chapter of International Black Women's Congress has been a means of sharing her expertise on a local and global level while continuing to expand her knowledge, culture and love of diversity.

Corine has served on the Board of Directors of the Rochester, New York Urban League; was the founder of the Rochester Battered Women's Center; Vice President of the International Black Women's Congress and a charter member of the World Foundation of Successful Women; National Association of Female Executives. Now 'retired', Corine has co-authoring a system to increase self-esteem and cultural awareness in students, starting her own consulting business called "I'm Somebody Making A Difference!" and creating an educational center in Orlando dedicated to reaching out to make a difference in the lives of teachers, parents and children. Corine's current commitments also include the Girl Scout Citrus Council and the NAACP of Central Florida.

"To cultivate kindness is a valuable part of the business of life." Samuel Adams



Commentary from Kate: President's Notes

By Kate Kinsley, President of Women's Resource Center Board; President, Datawise, Inc.

Once again, I am looking forward to the next Summit Awards, our 24th! As usual, we have wonderful winners. It has been a pleasure learning about each of these women. Mary's commitment to educating battered and homeless women and children, to seniors and to the environment; Maureen's dedication to health care for disadvantaged women and children; Helen's support of the arts and education and Corine's work to improve the lives of the disenfranchised are truly inspirational. Their methods are all different, but the service these women have unselfishly given to the Central Florida community is extraordinary.

Thank you to our Summit Sponsors – Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, Florida Hospital, Darden Restaurants, Entertainment to Empowerment Foundation, Harriett Lake, Datawise Inc. and Nemours. Please keep in mind that we are still accepting sponsorships from individuals, businesses and organizations to help us celebrate these marvelous women at the Summit Awards on October 14th. Don't miss the opportunity to support WRC and to be a part of this wonderful event. Sponsorship forms can be found at the end of this newsletter.

As you can imagine, it is a busy time at WRC. The script committee members are interviewing the winners and writing the scripts for each winner's video. Darden has donated their recording studio and Annetta Wilson has donated her time to be the voice of our videos. Carolyn Fennell has agreed to be the mistress of ceremony once again. The color scheme and center pieces are being designed. We are preparing the text for the program, which is donated by Orlando Health. The Public Relations committee is preparing the press release, e-blasts, newsletter and website.

Meanwhile, WRC has just wrapped up a successful membership meeting/baby shower at the Beta Center and is planning a "Christmas in July" event, on July 29th at Ten Thousand Villages.

The Philanthropy Committee has received seventeen Summit Impact Grant applications. These are being evaluated and the winners of the \$10,000 grants will be decided soon.

WRC is truly making a difference in the community. We could not do it without our members. Thank you for your support.

**A Time to ...
Celebrate**

**A Time to ...
Recognize**

**A Time to ...
Support**

*The Board of Directors
Of the
Women's Resource Center
Cordially invites you to the
24th Annual Salute to Women
Summit Awards*

*See order form at the end of this
newsletter!*

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Central Florida Women's Resource Center

24th Annual Summit Awards

5:30 p.m. Reception and Silent Auction

6:30 p.m. Dinner and Recognition

The Rosen Center Hotel 9840 International Drive Orlando

"It is well to give when asked; it is better to give unasked through understanding." Kahil Gibran

Every 90 Seconds Reaches 5744 Students Through WRC Funding

WRC awarded a grant to the Sexual Assault Treatment Center for presentation of **Every 90 Seconds**, a live performance and curriculum that educates students about sexual assault. This is the only recognized and approved curriculum by Orange County Public Schools that addresses this topic. Presented from April through May, 2008 at 12 Orange County high schools, over 7,544 teens were reached through this program.

Every 90 Seconds is a live theatrical presentation by Michelee Puppets. This unique production uses live actors and puppets to address the sensitive issues of dating violence, acquaintance rape, and sexual abuse in a factual and honest way. Helping students understand healthy relationship behavior, power and control dynamics, personal boundaries and assertively saying "NO" is the focus of the play.

According to Nicole Quinn, Executive Director of the Victims Service Center, several students, who are victims of sexual assault received counseling as a result of the **Every 90 Seconds** presentations.



Every 90 Seconds, a performance for high schools students that deals with sexual assault.

Photo credit, Rhonda Walsingham



Summit Impact Award Recipient

SafeHouse of Seminole: At a Glance.....Sexual Assault Support Groups

by Jeanne Gold, Executive Director, SafeHouse of Seminole

Every week, the doors to the "little house next door" open to welcome victims of sexual assault to the Thursday night support group. The front porch beckons, and women cross the threshold onto the 40-year-old hardwood floors of the recently renovated SafeHouse outreach house, where victims can join together to reduce isolation and provide an opportunity to meet other survivors who have shared their experiences.

The licensed sexual assault counselor, provided through a collaboration with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, welcomes everyone and leads each group member to the "comfort" table before settling in. At SafeHouse, victims can have their experiences validated and confirmed, providing space to counteract the self-blame and low self-esteem experienced by most sexual assault victims.

Comfort items, long established as necessary and positive for healing, are supplied weekly through the generous impact grant funding by the Women's Resource Center, committed to funding programs designed to support education, prevention and issues related to sexual assault. The comfort table consists of, among other things, coffee, tea, various cold beverages, finger foods, boxes of tissues, writing instruments and paper for journal entries, poetry writing, note taking and drawing.

SafeHouse of Seminole collaborates with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office to provide weekly, 1 to 2-hour Sexual Assault Support Groups to adult victims of sexual assault. The Seminole County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with the Florida Coalition Against Sexual Violence, provides a volunteer sexual assault counselor who gives non-judgmental and sincere emotional support to victims. SafeHouse provides a safe and confidential location for the groups. These services are available to sexual assault victims in the community and the SafeHouse domestic violence emergency center residents who have experienced sexual assault.

SafeHouse joins the Women's Resource Center and the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, who are "working together to make a difference" .

WRC is Working Together to Make a Difference...

“BETA Shower”



On May 6th, WRC held a membership meeting/baby shower to benefit the BETA Center. BETA Director of Development, Lisa Blackwelder, took us on a tour of this impressive facility. Over \$1000 in new baby items were received from WRC members.

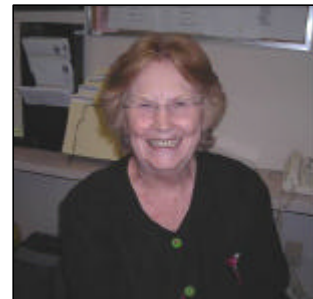
Welcome MiMi

When you call the WRC office, a new voice will answer the phone. WRC welcomes our new Office Administrator, Mimi Mora.

Mimi was senior vice president of Harcourt Brace Insurance Companies in Orlando. She also worked as a Business Consultant in a joint venture with an American and Jakarta company, establishing a insurance company in Hong Kong.

“Retired” since 1999, Mimi has worked as a volunteer, helping reorganizing company business structures. We are very pleased to have Mimi as the WRC Office Administrator.

Mimi took over from Cindy Romagnoli who will be living in Baltimore for the next year. We are sure that when Cindy returns, she will once again be active in WRC.





The Central Florida Women's Resource Center
24th Annual Summit Awards - "Salute to Women"
Tuesday, October 14, 2008

5:30 p.m. Reception, 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Awards
Rosen Centre Hotel – 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Fl. 32819



Company Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____ E-mail Address _____

Corporate Phone _____ Fax _____

Type of Payment _____ (Cash-Amount) _____ (Check-Amount) _____ (Charge Card-Amount) _____

Card Number _____ (MC / VISA—circle one) Expiration Date _____

Card Holder Name (Print): _____

Card Holder Signature _____

Billing Address: _____

Sponsorship Package Options:

(See attached sheet for descriptions of sponsorship packages.)

- Platinum Sponsor - \$10,000
- Gold Sponsor - \$5,000
- Silver Sponsor - \$1,500
- Corporate Table - \$1,000
- Reserve ____ individual tickets - \$75 each.
- Business Card ad and one individual ticket \$125 (members only)
- Cannot attend, but would like to make a donation in the amount of \$_____.

Please make checks payable to: Central Florida Women's Resource Center (WRC)

Mail to: WRC --- P.O. Box 568905, Orlando, Florida 32856-8905

For additional information:

Phone: 407 426-7960 Fax: 407 426-9261 E-mail: cflwrc@bellsouth.net www.wrc-online.org

WRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Sponsorship Package options

Platinum Sponsor - \$10,000

Includes: Full page ad in Program, 2 VIP tables of 8 with preferred seating, Logo on event website with link to your website, Company name added to Summit Impact Grant, Invitation to Summit Winner's Reception - 4 tickets, Complimentary corporate membership for one year in the Women's Resource Center.

Gold Sponsor - \$5,000

Includes: Half page ad in Program, 2 VIP tables of 8 with preferred seating, Logo on event website with link to your website, Invitation to Summit Winner's Reception - 2 tickets, Complimentary corporate membership for one year in the Women's Resource Center.

Silver Sponsor - \$1,500

Includes: One third page ad in Program, 1 VIP table of 8 with preferred seating, Logo on event website with link to your website, Invitation to Summit Winner's Reception - 1 ticket, Complimentary corporate membership for one year in the Women's Resource Center.

Corporate Table - \$1,000

Includes: seating for eight and recognition in the printed program.

Business Card Ad & one individual ticket \$125 (Members Only)

Send your camera-ready artwork or business card, along with your check payable to the Central Florida Women's Resource Center to the WRC, address listed below. *(Tickets and advertisements are non-refundable)*

****TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PRINTED PROGRAM, ALL RESERVATIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY September 1, 2008.**

Please make checks payable to: Central Florida Women's Resource Center (WRC)

Mail to: WRC --- P.O. Box 568905, Orlando, Florida 32856-8905

For additional information:

Phone: 407 426-7960 Fax: 407 426-9261 E-mail: cflwrc@bellsouth.net www.wrc-online.org

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