



women's resource center  
of the New River Valley

# ANNUAL REPORT — JULY 2006-JUNE 2007

The mission of the Women's Resource Center is to create a community free of domestic and sexual violence. The Strategic Plan of the Women's Resource Center identifies five goals for the agency. The status for FY07 of these goals is as follows.

## **Goal 1 – To provide for the direct service needs of victims of domestic and sexual violence**

The Women's Resource Center continued to respond to requests for services from adult and child victims of domestic and sexual violence, serving 3340 victims in FY07. This represents a 6% increase over the prior year. The entry way to all Women's Resource Center services is the live-answer hotline that operates 24/7/365 and a pool of 98 volunteers ably handled these calls and provided 10,011 hours of service. Overall, we trained 84 new volunteers. Also in FY 07, the Women's Resource Center sheltered 146 families including 112 children. Women and children were sheltered 5805 nights. Transportation services for sheltered families continued to be a much needed service. A total of 103 women used these services on 918 occasions marking a 6% increase in actual trips. Counseling and advocacy services were provided to all sheltered individuals, and we provided follow-up services to 159 clients. We maintained our services from last year by facilitating a total of 864 support group meetings for adults and children which represents a huge increase of 62% over the prior year. The Women's Resource Center instituted an After School Program assisting children with homework and providing recreation for a total of 231 hours.

Cornerstone, the Women's Resource Center Transitional Housing Facility completed its sixth year. Fourteen families with 25 children were residents in FY 07 and spent a total of 5892 nights in their transitional homes. We held 47 group meetings for adults on the diverse topics of community living, nutrition, budget planning and life skills. We also held 172 family group meetings. The Cornerstone children's program held 239 groups for resident children and 296 adult and child group meetings. We had five families move on to permanent housing. The total number of Domestic Violence victims served was 1903 which represents a 13% increase over the prior year.

The Women's Resource Center Sexual Assault Program

provided services to 828 adults and children in FY 07. Twenty-two CARE (Crisis Advocates Responding Effectively) Companions responded to 75 calls to the four area hospitals. Forty-seven adults and 28 children received emergency advocacy at the hospitals which represents a 47% increase over the prior year. The number of primary child sexual abuse clients increased by 3% over the prior year.

The Women's Resource Center Legal Advocacy Program responded to 771 primary victims of domestic and sexual violence in FY 07 and provided 899 court escorts or transports for them. Overall, this number was down 10% over FY 06 due to lack of resources and staff availability. Of the 899 victims, 600 (67%) were not clients in any other capacity. The Legal Advocacy Program continues to be a critical tool for reaching victims not reached by our other programs.

## **Goal 2 – To provide a comprehensive education and prevention program**

The Women's Resource Center increased its education efforts by 4%, providing 704 presentations to a total of 18,847 people, including 8,767 middle and high school students. The number of persons attending WRC educational presentations increased from FY 06 by 6%, marking a record high.

Five Coordinating Councils on Domestic and Sexual Violence organized and facilitated by the Women's Resource Center continued to meet monthly. Fifty-six meetings were attended by 46 different participants

The Women's Resource Center co-sponsored a Regional Conference on Domestic and Sexual Violence with Southwest Virginia Legal Aid and sponsored its own Conference on Domestic Violence Among Older Adults.

## **Goal 3 – To fund Women's Resource Center programs and services**

A significant amount of staff time is devoted to writing and managing grants to sustain Women's Resource Center client services and programs. In FY 07 we managed 21 federal and state grants and five private foundation grants. We also received support from five local governments and three United Ways.

*Creating a community free of domestic and sexual violence through services, support and education.*

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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

The purpose of the domestic violence program is to provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and to work toward a violence free society through education and advocacy for societal change. Crisis intervention services are provided through our 24 hour hotline and our emergency shelter and shelter services including coun-

seling, support groups, court advocacy, community resource assistance, transportation, and children's services. Major accomplishments for the year included:

- Provided safe emergency shelter to 146 families, a total of 258 individuals
- Provided counseling to 183 adult victims in private and face-to-face domes-

tic sessions.

- Transported 162 individuals to community resources for a total of 918 trips.
- Facilitated 864 support groups for adults and children on a variety of topics.
- Provided court advocacy and accompaniment services to 816 domestic violence victims.

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## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM

Cornerstone, our 8-apartment transitional housing facility, provides a stable environment with supportive services to assist survivors of domestic violence to achieve violence-free living and permanent, stable housing. Housing and services are provided to victims of domestic violence for up to two years. The program helps motivated women overcome the various obstacles to independent living that have the potential to drive them

back into violent situations. Support and advocacy services are designed to empower residents to gain control of their lives and include individual counseling, domestic violence support groups, parenting and life skills workshops, transportation, assistance with community resources, and programs for children. Major accomplishments for the year included:

- Assisted 5 families to permanent stable housing and continued to house

8 families.

- Continued a grant-funded outcomes assessment program in collaboration with Radford University to identify resident needs and provide guidance for program improvement.
- Improved communication with other NRV services in an effort to better empower residents in contacting and securing those services as they work toward independent living.

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## SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM

The sexual assault program serves adults, adolescents and children. The Adult Sexual Assault Program provides individual counseling, support groups, 24-hour CARE (Crisis Advocates, Responding Effectively) Companion services at local hospitals and police stations, and advocacy within

the criminal justice system. The Child Sexual Abuse and Assault Program provides comprehensive crisis intervention, consultation, and group and individual counseling. Major accomplishments included:

- Provided emergency advocacy to 75 adults and children in the area's

hospitals.

- Provided counseling and advocacy to 228 adults who had been sexually assaulted.
- Provided counseling and advocacy to 178 children who had been sexually assaulted and abused.
- Trained 22 CARE Companions

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## LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Legal Advocacy Program provides assistance to victims of domestic and sexual violence who are involved in the criminal justice process. Services include explanations about court procedures, aid in applying for crime victim's compensation, help with P.E.R.K. hospital bills, courtroom tours, support and crisis

intervention, transportation, and court escort services. Services are available for child and adult victims. Major accomplishments included:

- Provided assistance to 961 primary and secondary victims of domestic and sexual assault as they used the criminal justice system.
- Continued to strengthen relationships

with Commonwealth's Attorneys, court personnel, and law enforcement.

- Participated in a Supreme Court initiated pilot program to develop and utilize the I-CAN program, a website to help people file protective orders.
- Participated on coordinating councils for all five localities served by the WRC.

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

The purpose of the Community Outreach Program is to improve the community's response to violence against women and to expand the community's understanding of sexual and domestic violence through public education. Major program accomplishments this year included:

- Delivered 704 presentations to an

average of 59 groups per month, totaling 18,847 people.

- Continued to deliver our primary prevention program, Peaceline, for school-aged children in five school systems.
- Facilitated monthly meetings of five Coordinating Councils on Domestic

Violence and Sexual Assault and a Task Force on Domestic Violence Among Older Adults.

- Co-sponsored with Southwest Virginia Legal Aid its annual conference on Domestic Violence.
- Sponsored a conference on Domestic Violence Among Older Adults.

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## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Non-paid staff (volunteers) are an integral part of the Women's Resource Center's service delivery. Volunteers bring unique perspectives, motivations, and backgrounds to our overall work and allow the community to join our mission. Major program accomplishments this

year included:

- 609 individuals contributed more than 18,010 hours of service, representing a total dollar value of more than \$127,015.
- 84 crisis intervention volunteers completed the pre-service orientation program.

Integrated quarterly in-service trainings into the volunteer program that included a wide range of topics. Feedback and attendance were overwhelmingly positive.

- Planned and implemented the annual volunteer recognition event with other volunteer supervisors.

**stats at a glance**  
**july 1, 2006 - june 30, 2007**

**crisis hotline**

crisis call	1025
i & r calls	603

**domestic violence program**

women sheltered	146
children sheltered	112
nights of shelter	5,805
support groups	864
counseling clients	490

**public education program**

presentations	704
participants	18,847

**sexual assault program**

adults	344
companion calls	75
children	295

**transitional housing program**

adults housed	14
children housed	25
nights of housing	5,892

**legal advocacy program**

primary victims	789
secondary victims	172

**volunteer program**

volunteers	609
volunteers trained	84
student interns	52
volunteer hours	18010

**Annual REPORT (continued)**

Approximately 67 churches, 129 organizations, 20 student groups and 551 individuals made cash or in-kind contributions totaling \$309,214. In summary, the Women's Resource Center had \$1,220,024 in income and \$1,162,664 in expenditures. The year-end fund balance was \$57,360.

**Goal 4 – To promote professional excellence of staff**

There were 25 staff members in FY 07: 22 full-time staff, three part-time staff.

Together the staff of the Women's Resource Center attended 323 trainings, workshops and conferences. All new staff completed the new staff orientation and training.

**Goal 5 – To promote organizational excellence**

Women's Resource Center staff was very active in local and state organizations that address the needs of our client base. Staff collaborated with dozens of outside agencies.

Lester and Gillespie, PC, continued to provide accounting services for the Women's Resource Center, and Michael Cooke and Associates conducted the annual audit of the Women's Resource Center with no reportable findings.

**Thoughts on FY 2007**

The Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley offers the most comprehensive set of programs and services of any similar agency in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are regarded as a model throughout the Commonwealth for our breadth, innovation and effectiveness. Our goal for the future is to maintain this outstanding level of performance as we continue to grow to meet the needs of women and families in crisis across the New River Valley. We will continue to study our programs to ensure that the people we serve, and our constituents and program partners are receiving the support they need.

In Peace,  
 Pat Brown  
 Executive Director