

Dinner, auction will benefit women's shelter

By Pat Malach
Emerald Reporter

Dinner, an auction and a chance to own an 18th century "fainting couch" are opportunities available to people who attend the Womenspace shelter's second annual fund-raising auction.

The program provides shelter, counseling and referral services for women who are victims of domestic violence.

"We provided immediate shelter for 522 women and children last year," said Theresa Banks the shelter's treasurer. "We had 603 women take part in our support groups and we gave counseling and referrals over the phone to 1,926 women."

Women are accepted by the shelter usually based on the amount of present danger they are in and on whether they have any other resources that they can turn to, said Abbie Smith, assistant shelter director. The average stay for women and children that come to the shelter is about 14 days, she said.

The shelter also maintains five apartments for women who need time to make the transition into the community. The transition apartments are rented by women who are allowed to pay on a sliding scale depending on their resources.

"The women need time to find a job and to save enough money for the first and last month's rent," Banks said. "It also takes some time to find an apartment."

The 1989-90 operating budget for the shelter is \$203,000. Fifty percent of that budget comes from federal, state and local governments, 12 percent comes from the United Way, 30 percent comes from individual contributions (including the auction) and 8 percent comes from room and board paid by the residents.

Banks said she hopes to raise \$20,000 at Saturday's auction. "Even if we reach our goal of \$20,000, we will still be operating under a budget deficit of \$10,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1990."

The auction is extremely important to the continued operation of the shelter, Smith said. "It is about one-eighth of our total operating budget. It is tremendously important to us."

Banks added that last year the shelter raised \$15,000 at the auction, but this year's donated merchandise exceeds last year's. "We have over 250 items this year," Banks said.

Some of the merchandise for auction Saturday includes a new car, a Honda scooter, a mountain bike, gift certificates to local restaurants, vacations to places like the coast and Sunriver, many antiques, and 1,000 thirty-second advertisement spots on local television station KEZI.

The auction and buffet dinner will be held at the Eugene Hilton. The doors to the "silent auction" will open at 6 p.m. and the dinner will begin at 7 p.m. The auction is scheduled to begin after dinner.

Tickets for the event are \$20. Advance reservations can be made by calling Kay Van Nortwick at 465-5879.

NCC

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through the University, he said.

The enrollment this year is 233, an increase from last year but "still a matter of concern," Womack said. In 1976, 429 students were enrolled.

Womack's expectation is "that a vigorous campus community will continue to grow."

Until about 15 years ago, NCC drew about 80 percent of its student body from congregations that had historically supported the college. Now the number from these congregations is down to about 40 percent, with the rest belonging to denominations "across the board," Womack said.

"We see ourselves as a college that welcomes students from a variety of churches," he said.

In addition, a goal is to increase recruitment of international students, Womack said.

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