

EVENTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, Nov. 10	Thursday, Nov. 11	Friday, Nov. 12	Saturday, Nov. 13	Tuesday, Nov. 16
Movie: "Gallipoli" 6-10 p.m. Fireside Lounge	COLLEGE CLOSED	Medical Assistants Advisory Meeting 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. CC 101	Job Search Techniques Class 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. CC 117	Discussion: "Images of Women" 12 - 1 p.m. CC 115

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Women's Center supports people in transition

By Doug Vaughan
Of The Print

Creating assistance for women who are in need of help is one of the main concerns for Jane Greene, director of The Women's Center located just off campus at 19241 Beavercreek Road.

The main purpose of the Center is in existence is the increase of women who are in new situations such as becoming a single parent, and who need help in the transition. Greene uses the example of women who have been married most of their life and their husband dies unexpectedly. She feels there are a lot of women who have never worked in their life, nor have made any traditional crucial decisions and suddenly are called on to make them. They become lost emotionally and will be faced with important financial and legal decisions that women have not traditionally made, Greene said. She recalled situations where some women had never driven a car before or even written a check. This is where the Center can help.

"Support is available. We can put them into a group with others in the same situation," Greene said. "It (the Center) helps some people become much more functional. Once you make steps toward the transition it makes you feel better about yourself."

A concern of Greene's is that all the confusion will hit the victim at once and become very devastating. She explained that if the transition is not made, many stress diseases will hamper the individual. She said that the body produces these diseases in a situation of continued stress. One of these diseases is alcoholism. In women, alcoholism is usually tied to a specific situation, whereas men will be stricken gradually.

The Women's Center is often confused with the Women's Resource Center located in the College's Community Center. But to Greene it is no major problem because the two centers try to work together.

"We work hard to coordinate our programs," the Center Director said. "When they get people in crisis situations they will refer them to us, and when the people are ready (to function in society) then we send them back up there."

One of the vital characteristics of the Center is that there is no required fee on many of their services. They can also arrange low-cost counseling for an individual if it is needed. Greene feels that this is important due to the economic situation of many of their clients.



"(the Center) helps some people become much more functional. Once you make steps toward the transition it makes you feel better about yourself." Jane Greene

Staff Photo by Duane Hiersche

newcomer they will receive slightly less.

Besides group sessions and individual counseling the Center also offers courses. They are now offering a course for women who want to make a change in their life called "Assertiveness." They provide a stress management course and a "Women as Winners" class. The newest one is a class on decision making and self-awareness, "Creating Choices." The class will deal with a problem that is facing many older women who grew up with the goal in life to get married and raise a family. Greene feels these women lose their identity and it is hard for them to figure out what they want out of life. The newest developing program is a class for men. Twenty percent of the calls received by the Center are from men who are violent and cannot control it, Greene said. There is only one place in Portland that provides treatment for these men and there is nothing at the Center yet.

Space is also a problem nagging the Center. The college is donating a trailer to them but the Center is

hampered by the problem of transporting it. The organization is also in the process of buying a new shelter home and is sponsoring a new center in Estacada.

The staff of the Center includes three paid employees, while over 40 people volunteer their time. The Center is in the process of hiring a receptionist, but it is projected that 93 percent of the work done is volunteer.

Right now the Center is at its peak of service due to the nearing of the holidays and the overflow of end-of-the-month callers. The Center has a 24-hour crisis hotline that receives approximately 25 calls per day. The use of the Center varies on many different things. Greene explained that violence goes in cycles. The beginning and end of the month are the busiest times while the holidays draws even more responses. She feels that more calls will be coming in as the economy continues to falter. It is estimated that for every percentage point of unemployment, violence increases five percent. She said three other contributing factors to violence are paydays, the moon cycle and weekends.

The Center has grown considerably through the past five years, but Greene feels that it will not continue at the same pace.

