Celebrating 45 Years

Highlighting 45 years of Women’s Resource Center meeting the changing needs of women in the workplace
Dear WRC friends and partners,

In March we kicked off our 45th anniversary celebration by honoring our founders at our annual Pillar Awards Luncheon. This newsletter continues the celebration by highlighting the ways Women's Resource Center has adapted to the time, culture, and needs of working women over the last four decades.

From the beginning, we have sought to engage others in our efforts. Along with our founders, there were nine colleges and universities, plus over two dozen women and men who allied themselves with the work of Women’s Resource Center.

Today, we continue to see women and men listen, advocate, and invest in the areas of women’s professional development and advancement.

It is through your partnership and generous donations of time, talents, and treasures that we are able to continue this work. Looking to the future, we will continue to advocate for women within our community, to ensure that all women are empowered to achieve their full potential through meaningful work, personal growth, and financial stability.

Thank you for helping women who aspire to create better tomorrows for themselves and their families!

Warmest regards,

Sandra Gaddy
Women’s Resource Center CEO
This spring, nearly 500 people gathered to celebrate the Pillar Awards. The theme of this year’s event - “Evolution of the Women’s Resource Center,” honored those who support our work and paid special tribute to the four women who founded Women’s Resource Center 45 years ago. Estelle Leven*, Vernis Schad, Barbara Fisk, and Gloria Slykhouse* were revolutionaries, believing long before many others that no one should be treated as anything less than equal...in the workplace or in the world.

Thank you to the community ambassadors who have and continue to work to ensure that women everywhere have access to quality jobs, education and training, and fair and harassment-free workplaces.

*Denotes deceased
Is there a need to help women in the workplace?

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“I have no work experience and have no idea where to start.”

WRC establishes the Displaced Homemaker program to help middle-age women enter workforce.

“I’m divorced and I need to support my family.”

WRC establishes the Working Women’s Clothes Closet, Single Parent program, and Minority Women Outreach program in response to the changing needs of women in the workplace.


1973 1980

Women’s Resource Center opens

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WRC influences workplace culture nationwide

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WRC breaks stereotypes in the workforce
WRC opens doors to nontraditional jobs with the Women in Skilled Trades Pre-Apprenticeships program.

Partnership gets more people connected to WRC’s services
People connect more easily to employment services in West Michigan after WRC forms the Employment Services Collaborative with seven other organizations.

WRC celebrates 45 years of service
With your support, WRC has adapted to the changing needs of women in the workforce. Together, we will continue advocating for women in our community, empowering them to reach their full potential through meaningful work, personal growth, and financial stability.

EMPOWERMENT
“Now I have the skills and confidence I need to find a good job.”
WRC and Grand Rapids Community College increase life and employment skills for women after incarceration through the Training to Work program.

Helping women overcome barriers to employment as returning citizens
The New Beginnings program pairs incarcerated women with mentors who help them adjust to life as they reenter the workforce and community.

“After leaving an emotionally abusive marriage, I was relying on state assistance to get by - until I learned about WRC. I literally walked to WRC and they helped me get through that part of my life.”
BRENDA BRAME
FORMER WRC PARTICIPANT

“‘In the late 70s, I felt I was in young career woman’s nirvana. WRC was offering very progressive programming for the times and I was working alongside trailblazing women I admired.’
DEB BAILEY
FORMER WRC STAFF

“Don’t think I could have gotten through losing a job, losing my identity, losing what I thought was going to be a lifelong career; I wouldn’t have been able to do it without WRC’s services.”
SHARON, FORMER WRC PARTICIPANT

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION
Upcoming Events

**WINE, WOMEN & CHOCOLATE**

**OCTOBER 4, 2018**
**CASCADE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**

Enjoy wine and beer tastings, fine chocolates and hors d’oeuvres while participating in the silent auction and raffle. All proceeds benefit WRC programs and services.

For tickets and sponsorship information visit grwrc.org or call (616) 458-5443.

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**WRC WORKS TOUR**

Are you interested in learning more about Women’s Resource Center programs and impact? Attend one of our upcoming tours:

**AUGUST 6 | OCTOBER 22**

Tours begin at 4pm in our office at 678 Front Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. We hope to see you there!

RSVP by calling (616) 458-5443.

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