

Dear Members of the Women's Resource Center,

It is a pleasure to present the annual report of the activities of the Women's Resource Center for fiscal year 2012.

Despite a 25% cut in state and federal support that takes effect October 2012, the Center is in a healthy financial position. This cut is equal to 14% of our FY2012 budget. It also means that tax-payer funding from local, state and federal sources is now less than half of our annual budget. Thankfully, community support from individuals, foundations and businesses is increasing. Memberships and contributions exceeded expectations this year. The Gala and Garden Tour both had their best year ever, raising almost \$29,000 between them. Our Leadership Circle benefactors (those whose gifts were \$500 and above) gave us \$29,500 this year. We continue to receive support from the United Way of the Greater Winona area and underwriting for the individual needs of our clients through the Winona Community Foundation – and to those philanthropic organizations we are truly grateful.

In total, the WRC raised almost \$74,000– an increase of \$3,000 over FY 2011. Fiscal Year 2012 is off to a great start, with the first annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event raising \$3,700 and a new gift of \$6,120 from Verizon Wireless to be awarded in November. We expect membership and Leadership Circle to increase in FY 2013 as well.

The Center continues to actively partner with the Sexual Assault Interagency Council (SAIC) the Winona County Primary Prevention Project and Beyond Tough Guise on prevention efforts of sexual and domestic violence throughout the county. The 17th Children's Summer Garden Project hosted over 20 young gardeners and welcomed many community volunteers to help the children learn about nurturing and healthy relationships through gardening and other fun activities. The Wise Women continue to meet monthly to discuss issues and books of interest to them and they continue to be some of the Center's most dedicated supporters, most of them having been friends of the WRC since its inception. The WRC continues to be an active partner to Winona County's Blueprint for Safety project, which will effectuate positive changes in the criminal justice system in response to domestic violence, keeping victims safe and holding offenders accountable for their actions. It is a pleasure to collaborate with our criminal justice professionals to further our common goal of creating a safer community.

I am pleased to announce that the WRC now has an active Executive Women's Advisory Council, a group of leaders from various sectors in our community that come together quarterly to discuss and give advice on how the Center can best serve the Winona area. One additional exciting new development is our new grant-funded partnership with Family and Children's Center and Winona County to initiate a supervised visitation/safe exchange program for victims of domestic violence and their children. Funded by V.A.W.A., the Safe Havens program begins serving families in 2013. Last, but not least, the WRC has reinstated support groups for women! Now in full swing, regular weekly meetings of support group are provided at the WRC.

Our volunteer advocacy and internship programs remain strong and we rely on volunteers to help us provide 24-hour crisis line assistance to victims. This past summer, 8 new advocates attended training at the WRC, and kept us going into the fall when 37 new advocates were trained as of

October 3. The WRC has had the pleasure to work with 8 outstanding interns from Winona State and Saint Mary's Universities this year. They have advocated for our clients, helped organize events and fundraisers, made educational presentations, and performed much-needed research and office support.

This old house at 77 E. 5th Street is getting a spruce-up this year. New window treatments, donated by Engrav's Decorating, adorn the main floor common areas. There are new desks throughout the house for each staff member and intern. Most exciting, every desk has its own computer, and those computers are being networked, backed by a server. We had to say goodbye to our antique light fixtures; although they were beautiful, they weren't giving us adequate light. New fixtures are being installed this fall for the benefit of all who use the facility.

I cannot close without acknowledging the Board of Directors, who have given their time, talent and treasure so generously in support of our mission. The Board guides my work, holds me accountable and works tirelessly to ensure that the WRC is the best organization that it can be. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the current WRC staff – Bethany Ablan, Jaime Spilman, Emily Dierling, and Sam Sollie for their passion, patience, and professionalism in advocating for victims and survivors. Likewise, my heartfelt appreciation goes out to staff who've resigned in 2012: Eryn Redig, Princess Cramer-Drazkowski, Bri Mielke and Adria Sherwood.

The WRC served 650 survivors of domestic and sexual violence in FY 2012:
386 women, 41 men and 55 children who survived domestic violence
131 women, 13 men, and 24 children who survived sexual assault
311 victims were provided with legal advocacy support and information through the criminal justice process

What tremendous work we do! I am proud to be a part of this incredible organization that makes a difference in the lives of so many and indeed, creates a safer community. I look forward to 2013 with much optimism. With strong leadership from our Board, excellent, capable and caring advocates and volunteers, as well as generous support from our membership and the greater community, we can expect growth and improvement for the WRC in the future.

Diana Miller
Executive Director