

creating a safer community



**Women's Resource Center of Winona**

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**WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER OF WINONA**

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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to support the Women's Resource Center**

**at the following tax-deductible membership level:**

\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



*Women's Resource Center*  
Creating a safer community  
by eliminating sexual and domestic violence

**The Advocate**

**Supporters Unite to  
Take Back the Night**

"Women Unite. Take Back the Night!" The campus of Winona State University was filled with chants like this and others as more than 80 students and community members came out to this year's Take Back the Night rally and march



on April 21st. The courage of survivors and support of the community was strong at this gathering. The rally began in 1977 to raise awareness of sexual assault and to empower survivors. This year's event was proudly sponsored by the WRC and the WILL student club. Thanks to all who helped make it a success.

**2011 Summer Kids Garden Project**

The Women's Resource Center, in collaboration with Master Gardeners of Winona and the Land Stewardship Community Garden, is pleased to announce that it will once again hold its Summer Garden Program for kids. The garden project will begin on June 6, 2011 and run through August 22, 2011. We will meet every Monday night from 6:00-7:30pm at the Redeemer/Land Stewardship Garden located behind Redeemer Lutheran Church on Kraemer Drive. Children ages 5-12 are welcome to come and learn about gardening and have the chance to plant their very own garden. Parental Permission is required. Space is limited, so call and sign up your children today! We are also looking for volunteers who wish to help with the summer garden.

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**Spring Edition  
May 2011**

**Executive Director**  
Lori Woodward

**Staff**  
Bethany Ablan  
Princess Cramer-Drazkowski  
Brianna Mielke  
Eryn Redig  
Adria Sherwood  
Jaime Spilman

**Board of Directors**  
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Laurel Mohan  
Pat Nolan  
Stephanie Nuttall  
Jay Palmer  
Taff Roberts  
Jamie Sanders  
Susanne Smith  
Jennifer Monsos  
Judy Yess



**LAST QUARTER  
STATS:**  
Total Clients: 361  
New Clients: 173  
Client Contacts: 672



**WELCOME**

The WRC is excited to welcome Princess Cramer-Drazkowski as the newest member of our staff. Princess graduated from Winona State University in 2009, with a major in Social Work. She has been a trained Advocate at the Women's Resource Center since the summer of 2007. Welcome to the Women's Resource Center, Princess—we're happy to have you!

## Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse

People are not the only ones affected by domestic violence; often times pets are at risk as well. It is not uncommon for batterers to threaten, harm, or even kill their partners' pets as an act of power and control over their victim. The correlation between pet abuse and domestic violence is a significant one. Domestic violence victims whose batterers abused their pets reported more than twice as many incidents of child abuse than domestic violence victims whose batterers had not abused their pets. Seventy-one percent of pet owners entering domestic violence shelters report that their batterer had threatened, injured, or killed family pets. One study found that 87% of batter-perpetrated incidents of pet abuse are committed in the presence of their partners.

The fear of harm to family pets is a great barrier to animal-owning victims seeking help. The constant worry about what will happen to the animals if they leave is many times enough to keep them in an abusive situation. If a family pet is being abused or neglected, many times that is a sign that others in the household may be in danger as well.

What can victims with pets do? They can make a safety plan for themselves that includes their pets. When leaving a violent situation, some shelters allow pets and several others have foster programs in place for animal victims of abuse. In the instance that neither of those are an option, it may be possible to arrange short-term care with a veterinarian, friend, family member, or local animal humane society. When at all possible, get the pets licensed and vaccinated in the victim's name to show proof of ownership should that become an issue.

\*Statistics taken from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

## Looking for a Speaker?



If you are interested in having someone from the WRC do an educational presentation for your community group, class, or business, please contact the WRC at [wrc@wrcowinona.org](mailto:wrc@wrcowinona.org). We can customize a presentation for your group on topics related to safety, domestic violence, sexual assault, and others upon request.

## 15th Annual Tour of Gardens

The 15th Annual Tour of Gardens will be on Saturday, June 25th from 9am-3pm, rain or shine. You are invited to enjoy a self-guided tour of six beautiful area gardens.

Cost is \$15, with a discount available to WRC members on pre-sale tickets at the Women's Resource Center only. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Women's Resource Center, Paperbacks & Pieces, Bluff Country Co-op, and [www.wrcowinona.org](http://www.wrcowinona.org).

If you are interested in volunteering at the Tour of Gardens, please email [Brianna@wrcowinona.org](mailto:Brianna@wrcowinona.org) or call 452-4440.

See insert for descriptions of the six wonderful gardens on this year's tour.



## From the Director

Isn't spring absolutely beautiful with the blooming trees and flowers? I always enjoy the spring days and all that they bring. The WRC continues to flourish as well. In April, over 275 Winona area residents participated in "An Evening with the Stars", the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala at the Elks Lodge. What an amazing event it was, raising over \$17,000! The WRC's other major fundraiser, the *Tour of Gardens*, will take place on June 25<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to see the six beautiful gardens that will be toured on that special day. I hope you will be able to attend this fabulous event!

The Women's Resource Center's staff continues to provide exceptional services to those in need. Many times I am asked what it is like to work for an agency that works with people who are facing so many difficult issues. My response is that the WRC is able to make a difference in the lives of those suffering from sexual or domestic violence. At the end of the day, it is a beautiful feeling knowing that someone is in a better place because of the work that is done at the Center. The following is a wonderful poem that I refer to regularly that is a quiet reminder on the necessity of the work we do.

Thank you to all of you – the members and friends of the WRC – for your continued support of the services we provide to all residents of Winona County.

Sincerely,  
*Lori Woodward*  
Executive Director

**I'm Free!**  
No more walking on eggshells  
I'm Free  
No more verbal abuse  
I'm Free  
No more broken bones  
I'm Free  
No more permanent scars  
I'm Free  
No more crying at night  
I'm Free  
No more physical abuse  
I'm Free  
No more heartache and pain  
I'm Free  
No more stress on my kids  
I'm Free  
Now I can be myself again because...  
I'm Free!  
Break the cycle of Domestic Violence so you can be free too!

By: Quida "Daynjrus Ice" Lynn



## Upcoming WRC Events:

- June 6th**—Kid's Summer Garden Project begins
- June 25th**—15th Annual Tour of Gardens 9am-3pm
- June 27th**— 4:30pm, WRC: Board of Directors meeting
- July 4th**—WRC Closed — Happy 4th of July!
- July 25th**— 4:30pm, WRC: Board of Directors meeting
- August 22nd**— 4:30pm, WRC: Board of Directors meeting

