

EVERYWOMAN OPPORTUNITY CENTER: BEST KEPT SECRET IN WNY



KELLY PHILIPS
2007-08 PRESIDENT

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Everywoman Opportunity Center, Inc. is a regional employment service provider serving eight counties of Western New York from five cities in Buffalo, Tonawanda, Dunkirk, Olean and Niagara Falls. It is run expertly by Executive Director, Myrna Young. The mission of the Center is "Achieving Personal and Economic Self Sufficiency."

Everywoman believes that women will achieve their goals! They also know that goals can be achieved faster by using Everywoman's extensive resources to shorten the time frame to achieving what the Participant defines to be their personal success.

Each and every phase of their program is designed to raise the self esteem of women and to celebrate women!

Everywoman has a very successful and renowned Displaced Homemaker Program created to specifically address personal issues of each Participant. This ranges from an inability to find affordable childcare, lack of transportation, inability to afford interview appropriate clothing, inadequate job training, chemical dependency, lack of English language skills, medical needs and more

If self-sufficiency entails employment, then the Participant's skills are reviewed for the field of work that she desires. Even if Participants have not been in the workplace for quite some time, Everywoman teaches the Participant how to highlight their individual achievements on a resume.

For example, if a Participant was in charge of the financial budget in their household and managing the checking account or wrote the newsletter for their daughter's Girl Scout Troop, these skills can be emphasized to an employer in a creative way. Everywoman addresses the need for training, certification, licensing

and education for the work field desired by the Participant. An extensive analysis is performed with the Participant to ensure that their desired field of work can properly meet their financial budget.



The computer room

As part of Everywoman's Career Readiness Program, there are Work-shops designed to enter the workforce such as "Get Ready, Get Set, Get a Job"; "Resume Writing Workshop"; "Interviewing Techniques"; and "Job Hunting Adventures." Every Workshop has an underlying theme of building self-worth and self esteem in Participants.

A curriculum is created for each group of Participants but it changes based upon the needs of a particular group. The Participants conduct mock interviews with members of Everywoman and are taught how to market themselves.

In addition, the childcare issues of the Participants and/or transportation and back-up plans are identified and addressed to assure the Participant success. The program is approximately 3 to 4 weeks long and then they celebrate their graduation.

"EVERYWOMAN"
CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

EVERYWOMAN CONTINUED

Whenever a Participant finds employment, they *Ring the Bell of Success*.

Everywoman literally has a bell which Participants ring so that the entire center can celebrate their success! It is estimated that ultimately 70% to 80% of Participants are successful.

Not only does Everywoman focus on immediate day to day successes and short term goals, but they also focus on a "five year plan." They believe that it is important to assist women in obtaining immediate self sufficiency and also to work with Participants on how to achieve the path to promotion until they finally obtain their ultimate goals.

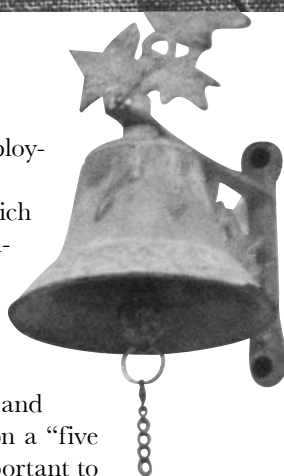
The facility of Everywoman is equipped with state of the art computers with up to date software and Internet services. The computers are often used to find scholarship programs, available financial aid, obtaining a GED, software to assist in learning about various fields of work, assessment of their job skills, determining their financial budget, learning English and numerous other tutorials.

However, Everywoman does not act alone. They have extensive coordination and cooperation with other service providers in Western New York to ensure for non-duplication of services. They have coordinated with various schools of higher education such as ECC, Boces, University at Buffalo and can give guidance regarding the programs offered by the local schools, coordinate tours of the schools, assist in applying to the appropriate schools as well as information and assistance with financial aid applications, scholarships and grants that may be available.

The "Wheels Program" with First Niagara Bank has been very successful in giving Participants an opportunity to purchase a vehicle. After meeting specific criteria, such as having obtained employment, or working 25 hours per week or more, a Participant may purchase a vehicle with a loan from First Niagara. First Niagara Bank offers loans to Participants which are subsidized by a grant given to Everywoman. Assuming the Participant's loan payments are made on a timely basis, this program assists them in creating a good credit history.

English as a Second Language Program is coordinated with the Buffalo Public Schools. Teachers from the Buffalo Schools teach English classes to non-English speaking Participants. Their efforts are coordinated with software programs available on Everywoman's computers.

The Clothes Closet is a significant asset of Everywoman. It is similar to walking into a department store where there are well-



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organized and size-labeled racks of suits, rain coats, blouses, pants, purses, shoes, jewelry, new panty hose and undergarments. Each site has a Clothes Closet and Participants are allowed

to take professional attire from the Clothes Closet, free of charge, in the hopes that they can be dressed for success. Donations for professional clothing are readily accepted.

Every woman (or man) who calls Everywoman is treated as a potential Participant and screened for the services that are available through their center. Even if Everywoman cannot provide particular services needed by an individual, they will take the time to refer them to the appropriate agencies. Everywoman

graduates many women a year but their doors are always open to act as regular resources for their former Participants and future Participants. This agency is truly the best kept secret in Western New York.

— Deanne M. Tripi, Esq.



MEMBER PROFILE: MARYBETH PRIORE PRESIDENT-ELECT, WNY CHAPTER

Next year's Chapter President is Marybeth Priore. Currently, Marybeth is President-Elect and State Director of the Western New York Chapter of WBASNY. Marybeth previously served as Secretary, Local Director and co-chair of the Programs,

Membership and Mentoring Committees of the Chapter and she is also a member of the Bar Association of Erie County and the New York State Bar Association. She became involved in WBASNY because she believes strongly in its mission statement. According to Marybeth, women in this community need to support each other and it is important that we continue to "promote the advancement of the status of women in society and of women in the legal profession."

Marybeth has been an associate with Colucci & Gallaher, P.C. since she graduated from law school in 2003. Her practice is focused primarily on the defense of products liability actions. In particular, she assists in the defense of the world's largest aerial work platform manufacturer. In that regard, she handles products liability cases in state and federal courts located throughout

the United States. Marybeth enjoys products liability actions because "they present new and interesting challenges everyday." In addition, Marybeth practices intellectual property law, with a focus on copyrights and trademarks.

Marybeth received her Juris Doctor from the University at Buffalo School of Law, where she also completed a concentration in Technology & Intellectual Property. While in law school, she was an editor on The Buffalo Law Review and The Buffalo Intellectual Property Law Journal. In addition, she was a recipient of the American Bar Association and Bureau of National Affairs Award for Excellence in the Study of Intellectual Property. During law school, Ms. Priore was a law clerk for the American Society of Journalists and Authors, National Fuel Gas Company and Erie County Family Court.

Marybeth graduated summa cum laude from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. During her undergraduate studies, Ms. Priore was the Assistant Director of Group Legal Services, a division of Sub-Board I, Inc., and was an intern with New York State Division of Human Rights.

Marybeth will become the WNY Chapter's 24th President. She intends to focus her presidency on increasing WBASNY's membership and "in providing its members with quality substantive and social programs that continue to carry on the legacy of this Chapter."

— Sakina Riddell

WBASNY PROGRAM CALENDAR

DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME	CONTACTS
4/17	Reception for Newly Admitted Attorneys	Cabaret 490 Pearl Street	6-8:00PM	Natalie Grigg grigg@rupbbaase.com
4/29	Women in the Law Forum II: Making Part Time Work for You	BAEC Headquarters	TBA	Sakina Riddell sakina.riddell@hotmail.com Molly Mallia mmallia@damonmorey.com
4/30	Annual Meeting	F. L. Wright Boathouse 194 Porter Ave	5-6:00PM	Bridget O'Connell boconnell@lglaw.com
4/30	Cocktails with Women's Physicians	F. L. Wright Boathouse 194 Porter Ave	6-8:00PM	Monica Wallace monica_wallace@nywd.uscourts.gov
5/7	Fundamentals of Investing with AG Edwards	Shanghai Red's 2 Templeton Terrace	5:30PM	Kelly Philips kphilips@sugarmanlaw.com
5/13	Informal Networking Dinner	Coyote Café	TBA	Kathleen Garvey wbasnyeevents@yahoo.com
5/16	Collaborative CLE with BAEC on Federal Evidence; Reception to follow	Harry's Harbour 2192 Niagara Street	2-5:00PM	Monica Wallace monica_wallace@nywd.uscourts.gov
5/22	Past Presidents Luncheon	Shanghai Red's 2 Templeton Terrace	12:15PM	Hilary Banker hbanker@burgiokitacurvin.com
5/28	Women in the Law Forum III: Negotiating Your Way to the Top	TBA	TBA	Sakina Riddell sakina.riddell@hotmail.com Molly Mallia mmallia@damonmorey.com
6/14	WBASNY Team for Brush Up Buffalo	TBA	TBA	Betsy Harned ebh@connors-vilardo.com
TBA	WBASNY Team for BAEC Bowling Tournament	TBA	TBA	Monica Wallace monica_wallace@nywd.uscourts.gov
TBA	CLE – Stress/Anxiety/Depression	TBA	TBA	Betsy Harned ebh@connors-vilardo.com
TBA	CLE – Collaborative Mediation & Litigation: New Trends in Matrimonials	TBA	TBA	Bridget O'Connell boconnell@lglaw.com Deanne Tripi dtripi@pmtlaw.com

PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR MORE PROGRAM ADDITIONS AND TBA INFORMATION!!!

THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER OF ERIE COUNTY, INC.



Lisa Bloch Rodwin and Linda Ray

Since opening its doors in May of 2006, the Family Justice Center of Erie County has already served around 2,500 families suffering from the effects of domestic violence. The Center provides, under one roof, a wide range of professionals and services to assist victims and their families. Before the Center opened, victims sought help through a variety of different and uncoordinated agencies. The process, which could be difficult and overwhelming, often became discouraging. Many victims would ultimately give up before the process was complete, frequently leaving authorities unable to prosecute and leaving victims feeling that they had no choice but to return to their abusers.

The Family Justice Center is quickly working to change all that. The Center is a one-stop shop that provides a variety

of services in a complete, efficient and user-friendly manner. Upon visiting the Center, clients can receive counseling, learn about shelter options and coordinate a safety plan. Also directly on-site, clients meet with law enforcement officials, obtain legal services, and seek medical treatment. This coordinated effort greatly increases the chances that victims will remain involved in the process from beginning to end, obtain the help and protection they need, and ultimately seek prosecution of their abusers. In fact, there has not been a single domestic violence

related homicide in Erie County since the Center opened.

Linda Ray, Executive Director of the Center, and Lisa Bloch Rodwin, Chief of the Erie County District Attorney's Domestic Violence Bureau and first Board president of the Center, provided a fascinating tour and detailed description of the services provided. Upon arriving at the Center, clients are taken into "living rooms." Designed to make clients feel comfortable and at-ease, these warmly decorated rooms are outfitted with comfortable couches, chairs, pillows and afghans donated by local individuals and



Donated Books & Toys

organizations. One of the living rooms was sponsored by the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association. A language line is available, which can automatically translate 161 different languages. In the living rooms, clients meet with an intake specialist who answers questions and explains the type of services which are provided both on and off-site.

The Center also features a kid's playroom sponsored by Wegmans and Fisher-Price. There, children are looked after by foster-grandmothers (provided by Catholic Charities) while their parents are obtaining counseling and services. Also, every child that visits the Center leaves with a stuffed animal and a book. This is especially significant since many of these children go directly from the Center into a shelter, and must leave behind their own toys and games. Currently, the

protection, custody and child support. In another room, Buffalo Police Department detectives investigate and write charges for sex crimes, domestic violence and missing children. The Center is also looking to partner with the Department of Social Services, so that clients who qualify may arrange, while still on-site, for services such as public assistance and food stamps.

The Center also features a medical exam room, where a nurse practitioner from UB Family Medicine conducts forensic medical examinations on victims presenting physical injuries. The nurse practitioner documents and photographs the injuries, and makes notations on a body map created specially for each victim. Charts and photographs hanging on the wall explain the signs and symptoms of strangulation injuries. Proper diagnosis and documentation

of a strangulation injury can be especially important in the prosecution of domestic violence crimes, since proof of strangulation may lead to a higher degree of felony conviction. The evidence collected here becomes essential to a victim's civil or criminal case, as many of those treated at the Center would not otherwise seek medical attention. The nurse practitioner also provides medical screens and follow-up medical examinations for victims, many of whom have previously had little to no access to health care.



The Center provides services to those who suffer from all types of domestic violence including stalking, intimate and same-sex partner violence, and domestic violence abuse among the elderly. About eighty-nine percent of the victims served are women, and eleven percent are men. While the Center provides services to all of Erie County, about eighty-five percent of its clients come from the City of Buffalo. However, as more police departments are beginning to refer people to the Center, its number of suburban clients continues to grow.

Importantly, all of the services provided at the Center are free and confidential. The Center receives about twenty percent of its funding from Erie County, about twenty percent from United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, and relies heavily on private donations and foundations. The Center is located on the 14th floor of the Main Seneca Building (237 Main St.). Tours of the Center are given every other Tuesday at either 8:00am and 5:30pm. If you are interested in taking a tour, you can contact Christina at (716) 558-5282 to make a reservation. Also, for more information about the Center, including making donations and volunteering, their phone number is (716) 558-7233. You may also visit their website at www.fjcsafe.org.

— Molly Mallia



Center is working on a program which will provide on-site counseling to child witnesses of domestic violence.

The Center has twelve on-site partners which include the Buffalo Police Department, Crisis Services, Child & Family Services Haven House, and the Erie County District Attorneys. A video conferencing room features a web cam linked directly to City Court. Soon, the web cam will provide a link to Family Court as well. An attorney from Neighborhood Legal Services is on-hand to draft orders of

WBASNY NIGHT AT STUDIO ARENA: MEMBERS SEE "TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD"

Anne Rutland,
State Director
Melissa Foti
and President
Kelly Philips



Past-President
Melissa Hancock
Nickson and Local
Director Deanne Tripi

Lisa Bloch Rodwin,
Tasha Moore and
State Director
Lenora Foote



UPCOMING SEMINARS ON LAWYERS & DEPRESSION

Depression affects 340 million people worldwide and 20 million people in this country every year. Lawyers are particularly prone to depression. A Johns Hopkins study looked at 104 occupations to determine which ones had the highest rates of depression. Lawyers topped the list and were found to suffer from depression at a rate of 3.6 times the rate of the other occupations studied.

Depression disproportionately affects women. At some point in their lives, 10 to 25 percent of women versus 5 to

12 percent of men will likely become clinically depressed.

On April 11th, the Bar Association of Erie County put on a half-day program entitled "Effective Lawyering: Dealing With the Stresses and Strains of Today's Law Practice." A large part of the program was devoted to the important topic of depression amongst attorneys.

In the coming months, WBASNY will sponsor a companion program which will focus on depression in the legal profession with a specific focus on women lawyers. Presenters will include attorney Dan Luka-

sik, who is managing partner at the law firm of Cantor Lukasik Dolce & Panepinto. Dan has gained national, statewide and local attention for his work with depressed lawyers and for his website, Lawyerswithdepression.com. Stay tuned for details.

We urge all members of WBASNY to attend this event and to take advantage of the extensive information posted on Lawyerswithdepression.com. If you have not experienced depression, it is highly likely that you know a fellow lawyer who has or who is currently experiencing it. Find out how to help.

RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY IN THE 2008 WBASNY CONVENTION JOURNAL

For over 25 years, women attorneys in New York State have considered the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York ("WBASNY") their single most important resource in the legal profession. The 2008 Annual Convention attracts over 300 legal professionals from its highly diverse membership. WBASNY is comprised of partners and associates in firms of all sizes, sole practitioners, corporate counsel, judges, educators, elected and appointed officials, public employees and entrepreneurs.

The Convention journal will include statements by the outgoing and incoming presidents of WBASNY, a highlighted section of this year's award recipients, a calendar of the weekend's activities, and other articles of interest commemorating the Convention. It will be distributed to over 300 convention participants and will serve as the permanent historical record of the weekend's proceedings.

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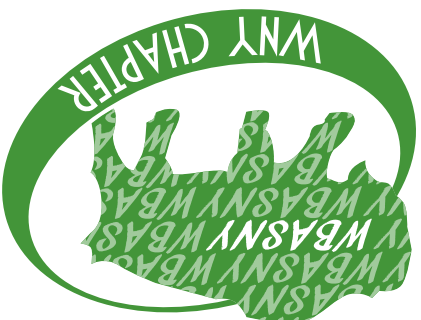
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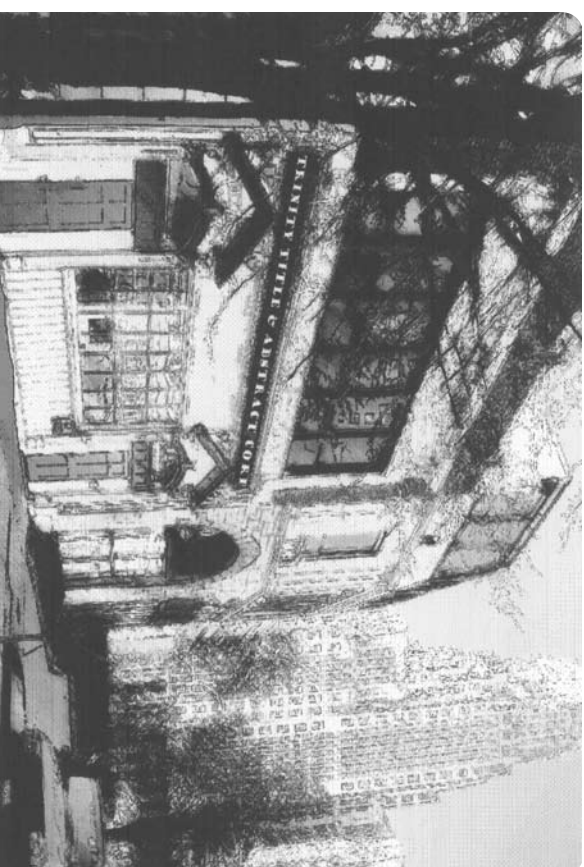
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