



e-Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

May 2007

Published by the Visibility/Publicity Committee—Commission on the Status of Women
PO Box 3136, Greensboro, NC 27402-3136
Editor: Commissioner Linda Waddell, Chairperson, Visibility/Publicity Committee

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the second edition of the Commission's **e-Newsletter**. We hope you enjoyed reading the first edition and will find this publication even more informative. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) continues to address issues that support a unified goal toward improving the quality of life for women in Greensboro and the Greater Greensboro community.

Since launching the Commission's "**Vial of Life**" project, the Services for Seniors Committee has distributed packets throughout the community. Positive responses have been received and interest is growing. The Commission office received a call from an elderly woman who stated, "having the **Vial of Life** packet saved my life." She requested additional packets for other family members. The data contained in her packet provided emergency personnel with enough pertinent medical information to administer proper treatment and alleviate the need for transport to the hospital. The **Vial of Life** truly spoke for her when she couldn't speak for herself. Because of the significant impact the **Vial of Life** can have in providing important medical information during a health-related crisis or accident, the Commission is seeking funds to be used to increase availability of the packets for distribution to church and social organizations, doctors' offices, and medical emergency centers.

The CSW Legislative Committee keeps us abreast of any state or national legislative decisions that impact the lives of women. This enables us to address the pertinent concerns and present our recommendations to City Council.

The Commission sponsored a Gender Violence Symposium on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, which brought together a diverse group of agencies and individuals working in the area of domestic/gender violence. As a result of the overwhelming success of the symposium, the Commission is planning a follow-up session in the Fall of 2007.

Thank you for your support of the Commission efforts to advocate for the concerns and needs of women in Greensboro and the Greater Greensboro community.

Jeanne E. Hudgens, Chairperson, Commission on the Status of Women

www.greensboro-nc.gov/Departments/Relations/women

Inside this issue:

Gender Violence Symposium

Gang Violence in Greensboro

CSW Commissioners Speak Out

Legislative Updates

CSW Commissioners

WIRR Readers

Community Events

NOTEWORTHY

- Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meets on the third Tuesday of each month in City Council Chambers, 1 p.m.—2 p.m. The meetings are open to the public.
- See CSW website for other links and resources.
- Please contact CSW office for any questions:

Phone: (336) 373-2390
Fax: (336) 373-2505
Agnes Roseboro, Administrator
E-mail: csw@greensboro-nc.gov

June/July 2007 City Council Meeting Dates



June 5
June 19
July 17

CSW EVENTS

Gender Violence Symposium Held April 17, 2007

More than 65 professionals attended and participated in a **Gender Violence Symposium** sponsored by the **Greensboro Commission on the Status of Women** held at the Central Branch of the public library. The purpose of the symposium was to discuss the breadth and depth of how violence from child abuse and gang formation to domestic violence and elder abuse pervades the Greensboro community.

A panel discussion, moderated by City Councilwoman Yvonne Johnson, featured speakers on **Elder Abuse, Girl Gangs, Financial Services, Immigration Services,** and included a **Domestic Abuse Survivor**. The discussion continued in a more focused way as participants broke into four "round-tables" to address the following questions:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we need to be?
3. How do we get there?

At the conclusion of the round-table discussion, each group reported their findings to the entire Symposium. "I've not seen so many professionals from the field in one place at the same time," noted one participant. "Alarming information about violence in our schools," noted another. "What a valuable symposium, we must continue meeting," said another. Professionals who met for the first time at the symposium are continuing to meet and share their resources. As a result of information presented, the judiciary is considering the adoption of new courtroom procedures. The Commission is planning to convene the next Symposium in September 2007.

For further information contact:

Julie Lapham, Chairperson
Domestic Violence Committee
(336) 379-1000
Email: jlapham@juno.com



NEWS ALERT

Gang Violence In Greensboro—Guilford County

Gang violence is on the rise in every major city in the U.S. A survey performed by the Justice Department in 2005 revealed that there are at least 21,500+ gangs existing in the entire U.S. The survey also shows that 20% of students, ages 12-18, reported the presence of street gangs in their schools. Although the average age range is 14-26, research shows that there are members as young as 8 and as old as 50. **What is a gang?** According to a publication entitled *Gangs in Guilford County*, a gang is "a group or association that consists of at least, but not limited to, three or more persons who may or may not have a common identifying name, sign or symbol and who collectively or individually engage in, have engaged in, or have attempted to engage in criminal activity that creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation." Gang members can be male or female; however, it is reported that they are accepting more females into full membership. Gang structure consists of different levels of membership, which represent a specific status within the gang's organizational structure.

As citizens, we need to be informed and become aware of the signs or symbols that indicate gang activity in our schools and neighborhood. **Why do juveniles join gangs?** (1) lack of parental supervision; (2) meet needs not being met in home, school or community; (3) protection/security; (4) supplies discipline missing at home; (5) lack of positive influence; (6) sense of belonging.

Gang prevention programs that are in place in Greensboro target juveniles who display at least three of these six conditions:

- **regularly associate with known gang individuals**
- **family members are/were gang members**
- **wear gang colors, use the symbols or gang signs**
- **perform poorly in school**
- **have one or more arrests**
- **use drugs.**

The Greensboro Police Department has assigned three detectives to the Special Intelligence Section to concentrate on gang intervention, prevention, and enforcement issues. These measures include in-service training within the police department to educate all personnel on current gang trends in our communities. However, the first step in prevention and intervention efforts is to educate. If you would like to learn more about gang-related issues or suspect gang activity is taking place in your community, contact:

Greensboro Police Dept : Sergeant M. Craig McMinn (373-2650) ; Detective Ernest Cuthbertson (attends community meetings and educate you on gangs-graffiti, signs, etc.)
Guilford County Sheriff's Office-641-5967
Guilford County Department of Court Alternatives-931-0415
Greensboro Park's and Recreation-Hope Project-297-5019

Ninety-three percent of young people surveyed, who were identified as gang members, do have common moral values and believe in GOD. One small effort on the part of concerned citizens, whether it involves seeking an increased awareness and understanding of gangs, serving as a positive role model for a child in your community, or just contacting one of the departments listed above to report any suspicious activity, will make a difference in life of a child and the well-being of our community now and in future.

CSW COMMISSIONERS

SPEAK OUT

Commissioner Spoma Jovanovic—**Handcuffing and Shackling of Juvenile Offenders**

In February 2007, CSW approved a resolution condemning the indiscriminate policy and practice to handcuff and shackle youth, who appear before District Judges in the Guilford County Court-house. A detailed letter and resolution calling for an immediate change in policy was sent to the Human Relations Commission for their deliberation and action. We recognize that many, if not most of these youth who are being publicly humiliated as a standard practice, are cared for and reared primarily by Greensboro’s women. On behalf of those mothers and caretakers, we reject the current standard as demeaning and unwarranted in its scope.



Commissioner Shirley Foster—**The Don Imus Story**

The Don Imus story has brought to the forefront the sexism and racism that prevails long after Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “*I Have a Dream*” speech and Maya Angelou wrote “*Phenomenal Woman*.” CSW believes it must speak out on the verbal attack of the Rutgers Women basketball team and the attack on all women. When a man makes a negative remark about any woman, he is more than likely to make a negative statement about any woman of any race, color or creed. Imus was the voice that we heard; his is not the only voice speaking. Many American women have felt the sting of jokes and negative remarks. There is not an American woman who has not been touched by verbal and/or physical domestic violence whether it has happened to her or someone she knows. We must change, support, and communicate with our female leaders. We must end our own racism and prejudice among women of different races, colors, creeds, and socio-economic status.

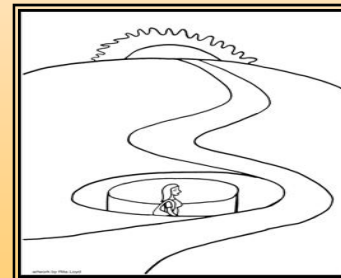


CSW invites your comments and concerns. Let us work together to uplift all women. Contact us at (336) 373-2390.



ART THERAPY

Are you interested in using line drawings for the purpose of art therapy—art that communicates messages of healing and self love. Artist and writer Rita Loyd works with women’s abuse centers, and they have asked her to create line drawings of her art for them to use in art therapy settings for victims of domestic violence. View samples of her images at http://www.nurturingart.com/lineart_preview/line_art.html or <http://www.NurturingArt.com>. You can use as many of these images that you would like; there is no cost. For additional information contact Rita Loyd at: jsloyd@bellsouth.net



**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
MULTI-COUNTRY STUDY ON WOMEN’S HEALTH
AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**



This report presents initial results based on interviews with 24,000 women. Report findings document the prevalence of intimate partner violence and its association with women’s physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health. Data is included on non-partner violence, sexual abuse during childhood and forced first sexual experience. Download or view the entire report at http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/index.html.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

LEGISLATION IN THE HOUSE

REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Legislators are working on numerous bills, which seek to reduce domestic violence across our state. The House unanimously passed legislation (**House Bill 42**), which would add *stalking* to the list of offenses a judge must consider before granting a pretrial release and would increase the reporting requirements on homicides where the victim and perpetrator have a personal relationship.

The House has also passed two other bills: **House Bill 46** would determine whether security guidelines are needed for domestic violence shelters operated by state-funded agencies and to provide, where feasible, private areas for domestic violence victims who are needed for any court proceeding where the defendant will be present. **House Bill 47** would make it a felony for some suspected abusers to violate a protective order and contact victims while possession a gun, knife or other deadly weapon. These bills are now being considered by the Senate.

The newly created **Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence** made 16 recommendations just prior to the start of the session and comes on the heels of sweeping changes to North Carolina's domestic violence laws in 2004. Bill sponsors point to recent statistics that also call attention to the growing problem of domestic violence and the need to enact these new laws. The **North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence** reported that at least 79 people were victims of homicide related to domestic violence in 2006. The number, based on reports from advocates and family members across the state, was 70 in 2005 and 82 in 2004.

LT. GOVERNOR WORKS WITH LAWMAKERS TO REQUIRE SEX OFFENDERS TO REGISTER E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Raleigh: Lt. Governor Bev Perdue, Senator Julia Boseman, Representative Bruce Goforth and Representative Karen Ray introduced legislation requiring convicted sex offenders to report their e-mail address and other instant messaging and online identifiers to the Sex Offender Registry.

"This is an important tool to protect our children and others from dangerous internet predators who want to do them harm," said Lt. Governor Bev Perdue. "Child predators have turned to computers to help them commit these heinous acts, and we must do all we can to prevent these crimes from happening."

Once the online identifiers are provided to the Sex Offender Registry, they will be provided to electronic mail services and other internet services in order to screen online users. Sex offenders would also be required to notify the local sheriff's office if they make changes to their e-mail address or any other online identifiers. Failing to do so would be a felony offense.

The Sex Offender legislation would also include these other key provisions:

- Adds Felony Child Abuse to the list of Sex Offender Registry Offenses when:

- the crime involves prostitution of a juvenile by a parent or someone else providing care
- a sexual act upon a juvenile by a parent or legal guardian.

- A court could order a sex offender to forfeit professional, business, and privilege licenses for failing to register.
- Creates a grant program for law enforcement agencies when they develop innovative programs to track and monitor sex offenders.
- Allows for more efficient notification to a local sheriff's department when a sex offender does not receive an active prison sentence.

"These additional steps will help our law enforcement agencies stop sex offenders in their tracks and make it more difficult to prey upon our children," added Perdue.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, incidents of child exploitation in North Carolina increased from 225 in 2005 to more than 400 in 2006.

GREENSBORO COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Over 30 Years: Enhancing the Lives of Women

Mission Statement

To improve the status of life for women in Greensboro.

2006-2007 Commission on the Status of Women

Jeanne E. Hudgens, Chairperson (District 3)
Jane C. Cauthen, Vice Chairperson (District 4)
Dorthula 'Dottie' Alston (District 1)
Angela E. Carmichael (District 5)
Mari Pino del Rosario (District 4)
Shirley Foster (District 1)
Marietta C. Gaines (District 1)
Spoma Jovanovic (District 1)
Julie Lapham (District 3)
Dottie Neely (District 5)
Cynthia M. Pinnix (District 2)
Doris D. Vincent (District 2)
Linda Waddell (District 2)
Linda R. Wilson (District 3)

OUR HISTORY

The Greensboro *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)* was established in 1973 as an advisory group to the Greensboro City Council. The Commission works with local, state, and national organizations on issues that may impact the economic, social, and physical well-being of women. Fifteen volunteer commissioners, who are appointed by the City Council to serve three-year terms, oversee the Commission's efforts. While the Commission does not offer direct services, it identifies the needs of women and barriers to women's advancement. The work of the Commission is accomplished through its various committees. Committees may conduct studies, suggest areas of concern, assist in the investigation of complaints, identify existing agencies which can address the recognized needs, and support new initiatives that seek to improve the quality of life for women in Greensboro.

WIRR READERS



The WIRR (*Women Improving Race Relations*) Reader's Group of the Commission on the Status of Women ended its year by discussing *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario. "Based on the Los Angeles Times series that won two Pulitzer Prizes. This is a timeless story of families torn apart. When Enrique was five, his mother, too poor to feed her children, left Honduras to work in the United States. The move allowed her to send money back home so Enrique could eat better and go to school past the third grade. She promised she would return quickly, but she struggled in America. Missing his mother, Enrique decided he would find her, and set off alone with little more than a slip of paper bearing his mother's North Carolina telephone number. Without money, he made the dangerous trek up the length of Mexico, clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains. He and other immigrants, many of them children, are hunted like animals. To evade bandits and authorities, they must jump on and off the moving box-cars they call the "Train of Death".



NEW COMMISSIONERS

Angela E. Carmichael (District 5)
Dottie Neely (District 5)
Cynthia M. Pinnix (District 2)

It is an epic journey, one which thousands of children make each year to find their mothers in the United States—from the publisher's description. Pearl Durham hosted the April gathering.

This year's book selections provided for interesting dialogue... consisting of: *Islam: A Short Story* by Karen Armstrong; *The Diary of A Young Girl*, by Ann Frank (this book was selected to coincide with the Public Library's annual One City, One Book selection); *Dreams from My Father*.

A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama, *Dreaming Me: From Baptist to Buddhist*—One Woman's Spiritual Journey by Jan Willis; *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jean Wakatsuki Houston; *House of Sand and Fog* by Andre' Dubus and ending with *Enrique's Journey*.

The group's May meeting will focus on a discussion of books for 2007-2008.

The WIRR Readers meet at 3 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month, September—May, in members' homes. This group has been meeting for 12 years.

New members are welcomed!!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

1301 Alamance Church Road, Greensboro

Sponsored by

**Moses-Cone—Wesley Long Community
Health Foundation**

Improving Our Community Health

Keynote Speaker: Tyler Norris

Topics of interest

- Access to Care
- Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention
- HIV/Aids
- Infant Mortality
- Mental Health
- Physical Activity & Nutrition
- Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment (including Tobacco Use prevention)

Registration cost is only \$20 per person and includes continental breakfast and lunch.

For further information contact:

Wesley Long Community Health Foundation

Phone: (336) 832-9555

Fax: (336) 832-9559

Un Festival Latino Opening Doors of Opportunity

**FREE to the
PUBLIC**

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2007

Noon to 4:00

FANTACITY INTERNATIONAL MALL

4925 West Market St, Greensboro NC



City of Greensboro's
Human Relations Department
in partnership with
FaithAction International House
&
FantaCity International Mall

For more information:
(336) 373-2038

HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL



FAITHACTION INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
A Center for Cross-Cultural Learning & Service

More details on back

**ENTERTAINMENT, LIVE MUSIC,
LOCAL BUSINESSES & HUMAN SERVICE VENDORS**

CHILDREN 'S AREA

**Sabor y Cultura
Live Music**

Recruiting and Training Volunteers to Serve as Immigrant Advocates

In partnership with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Faith Action International House is offering a series of one-day seminars that will teach you how to recruit and train volunteers to serve as advocates (or cultural brokers) for immigrants and refugees. The seminar content will include:

- An overview of the roles of immigrant advocates and cultural brokers.
- Strategies for recruiting bi-cultural volunteers who can serve as brokers/advocates
- Strategies for blending the roles of brokers/advocates into the overall operational policies of your organization.
- Review of a complete Cultural Broker/Advocates training sequence.

Cost: \$25, includes morning coffee, lunch, all handouts and training materials.

Time: Starting at 9 a.m. and ending no later than 3 p.m.

Location and Dates:

June 21 in Charlotte Metro area at Fairfield Inn, 3033 Cloverleaf Parkway, Kannapolis, NC

July 26 in Raleigh Metro area at Sleep Inn Choice Hotel, 105 Commerce Parkway, Garner, NC

For registration information, contact Julia Holt at:

336-379-0037 extension 1# or

email fa-seminars@earthlink.net

The 5th Biennial Guilford County Community Faith Summit

Discovering

"Common Ground"

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

1301 Alamance Church Road, Greensboro

- Keynote Speaker
- Breakout Sessions
- Networking

For further information contact:

Angelia Ijames, Community
Partnership Coordinator for
Welfare Reform Liaison Project

691-5780 ext. 108 or angeliai@wrlp.net