

## **WOMEN'S CENTER/HARBOR HOUSE FINANCIAL INFO**

**August 2012**

The Marquette Women's Center and Harbor House is the only frontline organization in Marquette and Alger Counties serving traumatized survivors of domestic and sexual violence. In 2011 we provided almost 3,400 shelter nights and responded to 5200 crisis calls. We have sustained that mission through an extremely difficult period for our organization.

Our board, staff and volunteers are determined to resolve our monetary problems, assure they do not recur, and maintain this 39-year old center and shelter for homeless women and children fleeing domestic and sexual abuse.

### **The Need: \$100,000 to get us back on our financial feet by:**

- Eliminating old debt incurred during previous administrations;
- Ending cash-flow problems;
- Providing a financial cushion for emergencies and unexpected expenses related to caring for our clients and maintaining two older buildings.
- Meeting the increased demand for our shelter and services due to the economic climate.

### **Background of current financial problem:**

- Starting approximately eight years ago, funding began to run short for operating expenses not covered by major grants. The economy soured, reducing reliable funding sources.
- In 2008-09, as the recession hit full force, WC/HH personnel filed four lawsuits against the then-WC Executive Director and Board of Directors.
- Unfounded allegations of financial mismanagement and malfeasance\* in those suits and poor communication with donors caused further loss of funds. (\*Financial mismanagement claims were without merit. Audits with local auditing firms every year since 1981 disprove those claims and are available on request.)

### **Corrective Steps Taken:**

- In July of 2011, an all- new Board of Directors was elected, including three "founding mothers of the Women's Center" and two former WC Directors.
- The last of the lawsuits have been settled.
- A "barebones" staff continues to provide quality services to our homeless women and children.
- We are consulting with local appraisers, bankers, attorneys, debt managers, realtors, and contractors to find sound solutions.
- We've developed a Debt Management Plan, Accounting Manual, Finance Committee and Fund Development Committee.
- We continue to seek new sources of funding through additional grants and fundraisers, including the Chefs Against Domestic Violence Evening of Elegance.
- We are working to maximize income from rentals in our South Front Street building.
- We plan to explore opportunities that will generate sustainable and ongoing income for the Center and HH by September 30, 2013.
- We expect to develop a business plan for our Pak Ratz resale store by April 1, 2013.

### **Summary:**

Our wonderful community has already started to respond to our needs. Individual donors have responded beyond the call of duty. Recent fundraisers have been successful, and others are in the works. But it's clear that we need to do more to get us on a sound financial footing.