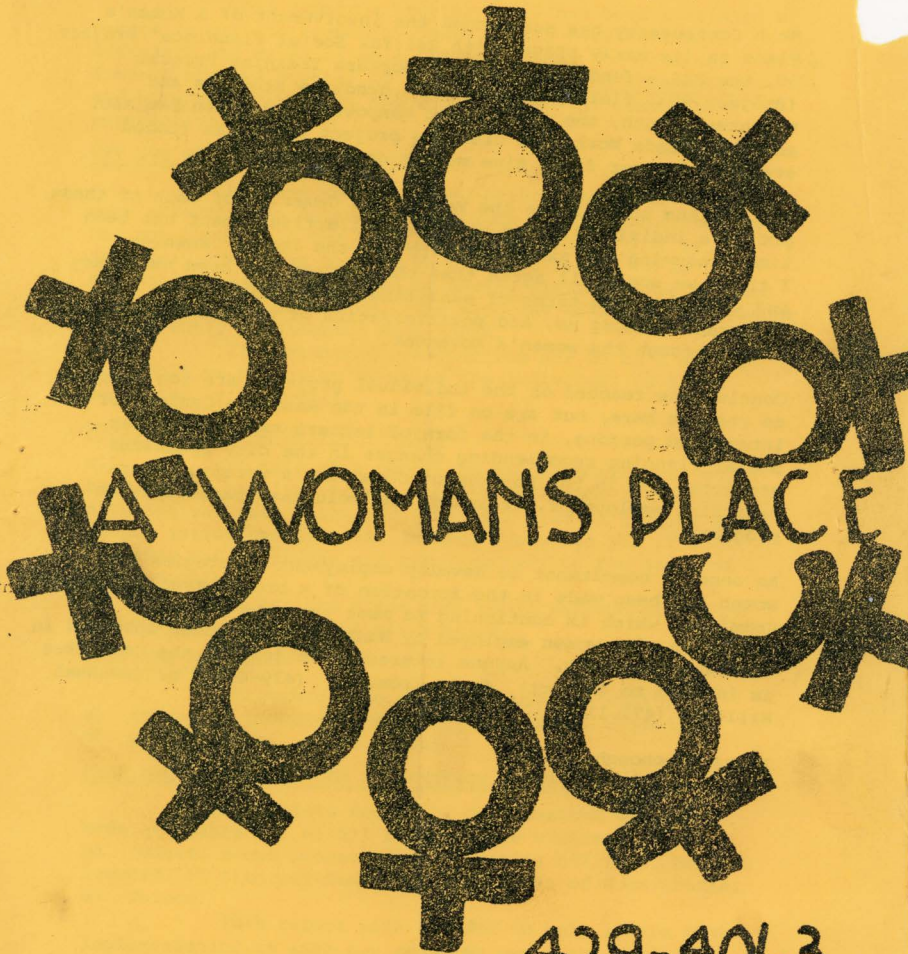


1225 BARRINGTON ST



429-4063

JULY

EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Much controversy has surrounded the involvement of A Woman's Place in its early stages with Halifax Social Plannings' Project 50, the CES - funded Restoration Workers Training Program (Project 80), field placements for graduate students and volunteer youth, the now defunct Manpower funded Pro Feminae, and the Canada Works job creation project which has funded staff during our first nine months operation.

The efforts to evaluate the merits and demerits of each of these projects individually and of their collective impact has been time consuming and exhausting, to say the least! However, I think we would all agree that the process has been necessary and worthwhile in terms of sensitization to individual differences among us, and politicization of our commitment to all women through the women's movement.

Conclusions reached on the individual projects are too numerous to recount here, but are on file in the Resource Center for all interested persons, in the form of letters sent to Halifax Social Planning recommending changes in the city sponsored projects, and in the Employment Committee's working papers regarding employment, training, and volunteer participation programs.

An ongoing commitment to develop employment strategies for women has been made in the formation of a broad based Employment Committee which is continuing to meet over the summer, initially with women employed by Manpower, and women involved in the labor movement. Anyone interested in joining the Committee is invited to contact: Gayle Cromwell (429-4063, or Savannah Williams (477-1173).

Alexa McDonough

UNISON

This summer a special study has been initiated by Unison (a private community-based agency serving female offenders and wives of male offenders) and The Criminal Justice Project of Nova Scotia, to look at Sentencing Alternatives and Diversion (informal and formal) from the community's perspective.

WHY ARE WE DOING RESEARCH HERE?

We know that jail and prison sentences have not been effective as deterrants to crime, that rehabilitation has not occurred in the majority of cases, and that it is extremely expensive to keep an offender locked up in an institution, as opposed to having him/her serve his/her sentence in the community. The Attorney General's Department is currently considering such ideas.

If sentencing alternatives are to be a success a supportive community in which the individual is to be sentenced is essential.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE PROJECT?

- 1) To talk with people in the community who would be directly involved or who would be affected if sentencing alternatives were initiated. We will also be talking with people inside the criminal justice system to see if their opinions and attitudes are complementary to the needs of the community.
- 2) To explore areas that would warrant Diversion as opposed to sentencing alternatives.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Throughout the summer we will be visiting:

- a) community groups/agencies, b) victims of crimes,
- c) offenders, d) trade unions

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION RECEIVED?

A complete report of our research will be made available to: a) all participants visited, b) judges, crown prosecutors, probation officers, police, lawyers, c) Attorney General's Department of Nova Scotia, d) Unison.

This report will be used to help insure that implementation of such new programs meets the needs of

the community sector.

Contact Person: Chris MacKenzie, Unison
P.O. Box 981
Halifax, N.S.
429-1397

Project jointly sponsored by: Unison and the Criminal
Justice Project of Nova Scotia and the Attorney
General's Department.

SOON ... A DOOR OPENS TO ABUSED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Women and children as victims of domestic violence is a problem that tends to remain behind closed doors. Many of our laws, procedures and prevailing attitudes keep it that way.

A new development in Halifax will offer one positive approach to the problem. In September, a "transition house" will open its door to physically and emotionally abused women and children.

The service is designed to provide "transitional" (temporary) shelter, security and counselling. In a non-violent supportive atmosphere, it will give the residents an opportunity to plan future alternatives.

The program is being coordinated by Halifax Transition House Association, a non-profit voluntary organization who have been working toward this goal for the past three years. The project is being financially supported by government and private sources. Donations from individuals are needed (furniture, household/kitchen items and money!!) and encouraged.

A WOMAN'S PLACE FUNDING AND STAFFING

At the July 12 General Meeting, it was agreed that we proceed to negotiate with the Association For Family Life for our \$10,000 grant to be approved for allocation from August 1978 through March 1979 as follows:

CoCoordinators Salaries and Benefits (Info-Referral/Resource Center Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator each 3/5 time)	\$7560
Operating Expenses: Facilities (rental, phone, etc)	\$1040
Admin. & Programming (supplies childcare, transportation, postage)	\$1400
<hr/>	
Total	\$10000

Anyone interested in more information about the proposed positions and/or in making application, should leave word at the house (429-4063) or contact a member of the Interim Administration Committee (Ad Hoc until duly constituted in the Fall under the new guidelines. Pat Langmaid (423-1337) Lyn Murphy, Alexa McDonough (424-2526, ext 25) or Margie Vigneault (423-6162)

Consistent with our philosophy that "all members share in the financial responsibility for keeping A Woman's Place viable as an independent membership-based community resource" through fundraising projects, grants proposals, sound management, and conserving measures, everyone is urged to contribute her ideas, and more importantly time and energies to the Committee's efforts to secure stable long range funding beyond the March '79 expiry of the Association for Family Life grant.

Funding Report (1978-79)

The second floor facilities can be occupied and utilized on a rent free basis by A Woman's Place, as long as the following revenue can be generated and expenses met for operating costs of Forrest House in the coming year:

Operating Expenses:

1978 (actual to May, 1978)	\$800 monthly
1979 (project 6% increase)	850 monthly

includes heat, electricity, water, taxes, insurances, maintenance, principal and interest on \$22,500 loan)

Projected Revenues: (as of Aug. 1/78)

Assured:

Basement/1st floor (Bargain Box)	\$500 monthly
3rd floor, back office (Paralegal)	50 monthly
Association for Family Life (AWP Co-ord./Admin)	100 monthly
Total:	\$650 "

Required:

3rd floor large front office)	\$150 monthly
3rd floor small front office)	
or	
S.O.S. for families	50 monthly

Possible:

Resource Centre (Sec. of State terminates July 31/78)	\$100 monthly
Room Rentals for meetings, seminars, workshops, etc.	
Weekend "package" for complete 2nd floor	

If the Women's Liberation movement shot members for reactionary thought, I would have been led blindfolded to the wall Tuesday afternoon... that's when I discovered I was a hypocrite.

I'd been invited to lunch with the boss of a friend of mine, an amusing, charming man who not only professed to be for Women's Lib, but actually backed his words with action. Singlehandedly Tom got the pay upped for all the women in his company, and now he's working on desegregating the executive ranks. He was the kind of enlightened male any girl would be delighted to be asked out by.

So how was our date? Conversation was lively, the restaurant chic, life was wonderful - until Tom asked the waiter for separate checks. "A woman as liberated as you will undoubtedly want to pay for herself, so I'm not even going to try to argue you out of it," he told me. I, of course, felt obligated to respond with a warm smile, a gracious assurance that of course I'd pay - but inside I was outraged. Separate checks! How... demeaning! How expensive!

For clarification, I'll call my first indignation reaction No. 1. It was, however, quickly replaced by reaction No 2 - shame. Here I was, a demander of equal rights, status and respect, sulking like a schoolgirl because a man refused to be Mr. Benevolent. What a two-faced hypocrite I was! But then came still a third state of mind - refusal to suffer over reaction No 1. Why should I blame myself for feeling the way years of conditioning had taught me to feel? Maybe this time I'd paid my way with a forced feminist smile, but from now on, if dates confronted me with checks, they would also be faced with one disgruntled girl. No longer would I pretend to like a situation I really abhorred.

Confessions of an Emotional Reactionary (Continued)

Reactionary or not, backward "feminine" feelings cannot simply be hung out of sight like last season's coat. All anyone can do is be aware of prejudice, analyze the reasons for it, and realistically work at bringing outdated reactions into line with new ideologies. For centuries women have measured their worth by the amount of money spent on them; that a man is generous with a woman he respects is so much a part of collective female thought that I don't see how anyone can expect it to disappear on command.

In any cultural movement, intellectual awareness precedes emotional acceptance. People know what's right long before they feel it. So I say to my fellow emotional reactionaries in the women's movement (come on, I know you're out there); No more self-castigation over that choking sensation when the check arrives. Maybe by the time our granddaughters are our age, the who-pays-for-whom question, like orchid corsages and homecoming queens, will be a curious relic of the unliberated past. Meanwhile, we're the generation worrying about who pay for the Junior Mints at the movies and who picks up cocktail tabs. It's a difficult era - particularly for those of us who enjoyed the old way (all right, I loved having a man treat me to a lavish evening). Who can blame any of us for dragging our purses? At any rate I'm not going to worry about my "hypocrisy" any more...I need time to adjust to new ways, and any man who can't sympathize will simply have to date someone else!

Something To Think About: No 2

Studies have shown that seventy-five percent of all textbook illustrations exclude women entirely and when they are shown, they are drawn significantly smaller and in the background performing stereotyped activities such as cooking, cleaning or passively standing by watching male activity. (reprinted from "About Face: Towards a Positive Image of Women in Textbooks")

A Woman's Place supports the "Transition House" concept and our volunteers who answer telephone calls realize that a very practical need in the community will begin to be met when the "House" starts operation in September.

CLOSING STATEMENT:

As most of our readers are aware, A Woman's Place will be closed from July 28-September 11, 1978. The past year has been eventful, lots of laughter, tears and hard work went into making AWP a real "Woman's Place". The staff, past and present, of AWP want to publicly thank all the women who have come into Forrest House as visitors, rehab. workers, volunteers; those taking part in committee or program activities as well as the telep one callers. All these women proved that AWP is a worthwhile endeavor and justified its place in the women's movement.

See you in September.
The Staff, July, 1978

PROGRAMS FOR FALL:

The following is a tentative list of programs starting in the fall. The dates and times will be provided in the September newsletter.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Assertive Training | 5. Coffee and Conversation |
| 2. Life Skills | 6. Single Parent Group |
| 3. Six health education seminars | 7. Prepared Childbirth |
| 4. Lunch hour films | 8. Pre-Natal Classes |

The United Nations has proclaimed 1979 as the International Year of The Child. Are there any programs which you would like to see at AWP in this area of concern. Funds are being allotted by the federal government for the International Year of The Child, but we must make plans early and get our proposal in for consideration if we hope to receive funding. Let's hear from you!!

The entire booklet containing the philosophy policy statement of A Woman's Place-Forrest House and all the working papers and descriptions of the committees will be available by the time you read this newsletter.

VOLUNTEERS:

A Woman's Place will be operating from September onwards, primarily on volunteer staff. We need women to put their energies, talent and intellect to work in AWP. Many of us feel uncomfortable in handling distress calls, or talking to troubled women who come to Forrest House. Without volunteer staff, AWP will be unable to provide these supportive services for women.

To this end, the general meeting voted on the implementation of Orientation Group sessions which will concentrate on three main topics in order that volunteers and other interested women can become more familiar with AWP and its functions..

The Orientation Group sessions will begin as soon as AWP re-opens in September and run for three consecutive weeks, with topics as follows:
Philosophy of Women's Movement, Organization of AWP
Information/Referral, Use of Resource Centre
Social Action Workshop

If anyone is interested in helping to organize or participate in these sessions please contact Gayle Cromwell at 429-4063 until July 28, or at 865-0464 in the evenings, or Janet Eaton at 455-2384.

Volunteers are needed to staff the telephone, greet visitors, keep the library and resource centre up to date, newsletter preparation, rehabilitation of the house, etc. AWP will be as good as the women who staff it. Is one of those women you!! Please use the contacts listed above if you wish to help.

Committee activity is also a meaningful way of contributing to AWP. The following is a list of the Standing Committees and Task Groups. Again please use the above contacts if interested.

Admin/Funding, Program, Social Action, Services, Health, Child Care, Education, Employment.

We've begun to get our act together at A Woman's Place !

Guided by our newly adopted philosophy, supported by our modified operating structure, and strengthened by the sense of purpose and commitment which has emerged from our first year of struggling together, we eagerly anticipate reopening in September and entering our second year of operation.

A solid core of active volunteers has helped bring us to this point. Support of every imaginable kind has been forthcoming from sources too numerous to mention, for which we express our sincere thanks. It must be said - and gratefully acknowledged- that staff members (those who have stuck it out from the beginning and those who joined us midstream to help pick up the pieces) have provided tremendous leadership in this start up phase of A Woman's Place.

We regret our inability to satisfy all of our critics. We acknowledge the contribution of criticism constructively offered, and welcome it as an essential element in our continued development.

The active involvement of women holding diverse interests but committed to supporting one another in working toward common goals is the essence of the women's movement and the key to realizing A Woman's Place as an equal partner and a fully contributing member of society.

Para-Legal will be closed from July 25 - August 14, 1978.

Paralegal office hopes to sponsor a project called "General Budgeting" funded by Consumer & Corporate Affairs sometime in the late fall. If you wish to support a project of this type in a time when proper money management is so crucial please write a support letter to The Director, Paralegal Info Centre, 1225 Barrington St, Halifax, N.S.

Your support will be our support to you.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1.50 till DECEMBER

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A WOMAN'S PLACE
1225 BARRINGTON ST
HALIFAX, NS

PEGGY MORRISON
SITE 20 BOX 4
R R 4 ARMDALE
N S BIL 4S4

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____

TELEPHONE _____



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