



Winter 2010

## TCWRC offers help with workplace violence law

On Jan. 1, a new law – Senate Bill 928 – which provides employment protections for victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking, took effect in Oregon.

Under the new law, employers may not refuse to hire otherwise qualified individuals or take actions against them because they are victims of domestic or sexual assault or stalking.

Further, the law requires employers to make reasonable safety accommodations for victims unless it can be proven that it would cause unreasonable hardship on the employer's business operations. Such accommodations include transfers, reassignment of duties, schedule modifications, changing work telephone numbers, installation of locks and other actions.

The impact of domestic violence on the workplace became particularly evident in the Portland area in late 2009, following two separate shooting incidents in which domestic violence victims were attacked by their abusers while they were at work.

Domestic violence can affect both the victim of abuse and her coworkers in a number of ways.

- 96% of employed domestic violence victims experience problems at work related to the abuse and 30% lose their jobs, in part due to domestic violence.
- Victims of domestic violence may be stalked by their batterers at work, miss work due to injuries caused by domestic violence or may need time off to obtain legal relief. Some may need to flee their homes and leave the area without notice and may be intimidated by their abusers in ways that are detrimental to their performance. The effects can profoundly impact their productivity and the morale of a workforce.
- Abusers who attempt to harass,

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## Wild Flower growing strong

*Thrift boutique serves bargain hunters while teaching work skills*

It's 11 a.m. on a Thursday morning and Wild Flower Thrift Boutique on Main Street in downtown Tillamook is alive with activity. In the back, workers are sorting and pricing items. Out front, several customers are scouting bargains and leafing through the racks of clothing. Upstairs, a class is under way. The ambiance is more reminiscent of a small department store than a thrift shop. And, according to Manager Melissa Finnell, that's the idea.

"We try to make things cozy and nice for both our shoppers and our staff," she explained. "I believe anything can look beautiful if it is displayed correctly. And we try to price things so that they are in the middle of the thrift store market. We know everyone is in a crunch these days and they need to stretch their dollars."

The Wild Flower Boutique opened in 2006 to help raise funds for Tillamook County Women's Resource Center and to provide resources for clients of a number of social service agencies and organizations in the area. It started out in a small space on the east side of Main Avenue, but soon

moved to larger quarters across the street.

"We have a total of about 7,000 square feet on four levels," Finnell explained. The showroom encompasses about 1,500 square feet of that. The basement is used for storage and provides space for furniture restoration work. Upstairs, there is an office area, classroom and art studio, and a half-flight up there is a space Finnell calls "Mosaic World."

"That's where we take donated tiles and broken glass pieces, break them up and turn them into artwork," she explained.

According to Kathleen Marvin, executive director of Tillamook County Women's Resource Center, most of the profits from The Wild Flower are reinvested back into the store to provide job and life skills training to staff and clients referred by Oregon Department of Human Services. The Wild Flower has become an on-the-job training center where people entering or re-entering the workforce can get training and real-world experience.

The rest of the shop revenue – from \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year – goes to help support the Women's Resource Center shelter, Pacific House, for survivors of domestic violence.

Finnell said two jobs at The Wild Flower are partially supported by DHS, through its

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# From My Desk

*“What stood out in (2009) ... were back-to-back murder-suicides involving husbands and wives, estranged boyfriends and girlfriends, and their children.*



*“Between Nov. 5 and Dec. 2, 18 people lost their lives. All eight male suspects committed suicide; seven women were killed; two young children were shot and killed along with their mothers and an adult son died trying to protect his mother.”*

*– From the Jan. 2, 2010 edition of The Oregonian*

For those of us working to eradicate domestic violence, 2009 was a very difficult year, as the above news report illustrates. All of us live with the knowledge that our clients live in peril. But, there has seldom been so much dramatic proof of that as during the past few months.

In addition, the economic challenges of 2009 have contributed to the stress levels experienced throughout our community.

In the past few months, we have been busier than we have ever been in my eight years of being at our center. We have seen a 33 percent increase in requests for services.

Additionally, the families we serve have fewer resources for creating new, violence-free lives. They are finding it far more difficult to obtain jobs, secure housing and meet their basic needs. As a result, the families we are serving are in need of more services and frequently stay involved with our programs for longer periods of time than in the past.

One thing has not changed, however, and that is the willingness of so many of you to step up and help.

Our shelter – Pacific House – offers an excellent example. The holidays at the shelter were brightened by your heartwarming generosity. Thanks to your donations, our clients enjoyed all the makings of a traditional Christmas: holiday food, gifts, decorations and a tree. A difficult time for people moving through crisis was made brighter as a result of that generosity.

We continue to be encouraged by the true concern and generosity of Tillamook County’s citizens. These qualities give us reason to believe that we will continue to be supported in our campaign to end domestic violence through providing victim services and raising awareness.

*– Kathleen Marvin, executive director*

## Stalking is serious problem

January is National Stalking Awareness Month. Stalking is generally defined as a course of conduct directed at a specific individual that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.

It is a crime that is pervasive and dangerous. It can include watching, following, telephoning, text messaging, tracking, confronting, using electronic monitoring, taking photographs or video and a wide variety of other behaviors.

Stalking is frequently undetected because, in many cases, stalking behaviors are not identified as criminal. In fact, most victims do not report that they are being stalked. Intimate partner violence-related stalking is the most common type and the most dangerous. And most cases of stalking last for an average of two years.

In Oregon, stalking is listed as a Class A misdemeanor. It becomes a felony only if the offender has a prior conviction for stalking or for violating a court’s stalking protective order.

It is also important for victims of stalking to remain diligent about protecting their personal information that could be saved in databases. For more information about this, sign up to attend the Jan. 28 Internet and cyber safety seminar sponsored by Tillamook County Women’s Resource Center. (See Page 3)

For a list of precautions to take if you are being stalked, go to the Web site of the National Center for Victims of Crime, at [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org).

### Stalking Facts

According to the Stalking Resource Center of the National Center for Victims of Crime:

- 3.4 million people over the age of 18 are stalked each year in the United States.
- 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week, many daily, using more than one method.
- 30% of stalking victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.
- Persons aged 18-24 years experience the highest rate of stalking.
- Weapons are used to harm or threaten victims in 1 out of 5 cases.
- Intimate partner stalkers frequently approach their targets and their behaviors escalate quickly.
- 11% of stalking victims have been stalked for 5 years or more.
- 1 in 4 victims report being stalked through the use of some form of technology.
- 76% of intimate partner female homicide victims have been stalked by their intimate partner.
- 10% of victims report being monitored with global positioning systems (GPS) and 8% report being monitored through cameras or listening devices.
- 89% of female homicide victims who had been physically assaulted had also been stalked in the 12 months before their murders.
- 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization and more than half lose 5 days of work or more.
- 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of victimization.

## Workplace law

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threaten or injure victims at work can, at the very least, cause disruption in the workplace. At worst, they can create a dangerous environment for the victim, co-workers, clients and the general public. Domestic violence may also result in vandalism and damage to business property. As an employer, legal liability may become an issue for you if, after having been alerted to the possibility of workplace violence, you fail to take adequate steps to protect em-

ployees.

The Women’s Resource Center recently conducted a seminar with some Tillamook County employers to brief them on the new law and on the impact of domestic violence in the workplace.

TCWRC has information about the new law available for local employers on request. In addition, we are available to provide support and training for employers and staff in how to recognize and deal with domestic violence and violence in the workplace.

# Community Outreach

## Go to our new Web site at **TCWRC.Net**

**T**illamook County Women's Resource Center has a new Web site with a new Internet address:

[www.tcwrc.net](http://www.tcwrc.net).

"We are very excited to be launching our new site," said Executive Director Kathleen Marvin. "The site is designed to be easy to navigate, with lots of helpful information and links and with more photographs and information about us and our services," she said.

Marvin said development of the new site was made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women and dovetails with TCWRC's major outreach effort currently under way.

Actual site construction was done by Tillamook consulting firm Northwest Media Consultants, which developed much of the content and took the photographs. Another feature of the site, Marvin noted, is that it was built on templates that will allow staff at TCWRC to keep it updated without the necessity of any special technical knowledge.

"That means we will be able to keep it much more current than we were able to do with our old site, and that will help us be of even greater service to our community."

Among some of the features on [tcwrc.net](http://tcwrc.net) are the following:

- Detailed information about TCWRC services;
- A separate page for the shelter, including a slide show "virtual tour;"
- A separate page for the Wild Flower Thrift Boutique, including a slide show;
- Information about donation and bequest options;
- Information about TCWRC's board and staff;
- Copies of newsletters and the financial report;
- Information about domestic violence and sexual assault;
- Information about our 2009 Tillamook



County domestic violence telephone survey and highlights of its findings;

- Helpful links to state and national resource Web sites;
- Buttons throughout the site that make it easy to donate to TCWRC online.

Marvin said large portions of the site will gradually be translated into Spanish and those translations will also be posted to better serve the Hispanic community.

"The site will continue to be improved and enhanced as we go forward," she said. "We invite your ideas and suggestions."

## Cyber Safety workshop scheduled Jan. 28

The Internet and other digital environments are tremendous tools, but they also present tremendous potential danger.

On Thursday, Jan. 28, two renowned experts on Internet and digital safety will be the featured presenters at two free seminars to teach adults and children how to protect themselves online.

The "Cyber Safety" seminars will be from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. at the new Tillamook Bay Community College campus on Third Street adjacent to the fairgrounds.

The events are being sponsored by the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center. Although the sessions are free, advance sign-up is requested to ensure there is adequate space. To sign up, contact Romy Carver at (503) 842-8294.

"This will be an especially valuable opportunity for parents concerned about the safety of their children online," said

TCWRC Executive Director Kathleen Marvin. "But it also will be very useful for adults who are concerned about such things as cyber stalking or other types of online security threats."

Online identity theft, digital stalking, Internet sexual predators and computer data security breaches are among some of the dangers of the online environment, even as Internet social media, texting, Twitter and e-mail are rapidly replacing older methods of communication, particularly among youth. Modern technologies, including phones, Internet, texting, email and GPS, make it easier than ever before for friends and foes to find personal information and location.

The two "Cyber Safety" sessions will discuss how youth and adults are using the Internet, including the virtual worlds of social networking sites like Facebook, gaming, and photo sharing. Each session will

cover a variety of technologies and provide safety tips.

Presenters will be Sarah Tucker, technology safety specialist with Safety Net; the National Safe & Strategic Technology Project of the National Network to End Domestic Violence; and Teresa Atkinson, the technology safety program coordinator for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Tucker – considered a leading national authority in the field – addresses all forms of technology that impact survivors of stalking, sexual violence and domestic violence. Atkinson works with nine western states offering technical assistance and training on technology-related stalking and safety. She also trains for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. She has done training for such groups as the National Center for Victims of Crime and the National Sheriffs Association.

# Fund Raising

## His pottery makes the 'Soup Bowl'

*Astoria artist  
'fired' by desire to  
help community*

**A**storia-based artist and Clatsop Community College instructor Richard Rowland first discovered the medium of pottery as a student at Pacific University in Forest Grove.

"I took a pottery class and the responsiveness of the clay just pulled me in. The way it could hold the memory of my touch. It became a passion and I never really wanted to do anything else after that," he recalled.

Now, 35 years later, Rowland said he has never regretted his choice for an instant, even when it was difficult to make a living with his art.

"I never really thought about money or career," he said. "I could not quit. You don't have a choice if it is your calling. You must trust your instincts."

Those instincts also led him to merge his art with his commitment to community. For the past three years, he and other potters from Astoria and the Long Beach peninsula have crafted hundreds of pottery bowls that have been used as a centerpiece at the annual Tillamook County Women's Resource Center "Soup Bowl" fundraising event. He also has created bowls for a similar Astoria event for the past eight years.

This year's Tillamook Soup Bowl will be held April 17 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Old Mill Marina in Garibaldi.

Rowland and his potters are creating 150 bowls for the event. There are expected to be 15 to 20 soup makers, 20 bread makers and five dessert makers preparing all the food, which is donated.

"Our capacity is about 200 people and we have sold out every year," said TCWRC Executive Director Kathleen Marvin, who recently took part in one of Rowland's bowl firings.

"Tickets should be available by mid-March and we encourage everyone to buy them early. There have been many disappointed people who have waited too long and missed out in the past."

The price for all-you-can-eat soup,



Richard Rowland in his Astoria pottery studio.

homemade bread, dessert and beverages PLUS the privilege of taking home a one-of-a-kind bowl is just \$40, or \$15 for the meal without taking home a bowl.

Rowland said he plans to attend the event, as well.

"I wouldn't miss it," he said. "I like to try every food and see the people using what we have created as a community."

Rowland said most of the bowls for the event were created in his Anagama wood kiln in Astoria. The rest were fired in the stoneware kiln at Clatsop Community College.

"The Anagama wood firing process is an ancient form of ceramic firing that migrated from China to Japan via Korea in the 5th Century," he explained.

Rowland said he and a friend built his outdoor kiln – known as the Astoria Dragon Kiln – in 1981, using discarded cannery brick gathered from the Columbia River. Rowland employs the same place-based ethos in the kiln's operation. He gathers local wood from the river, the ocean and even commercial sources – reflecting the diversity of wood sources found in the contemporary community – to fire his creations in the kiln, thereby infus-

ing something of the locale into his pottery.

"When the wood is burned in the kiln, the fly ash that is created drifts through the kiln, becomes glass and is infused into the work," he explained. "Some artists spend a

lot of energy trying to control this through the use of specific types of wood. I prefer a process that mixes the woods to achieve a more complex surface."

Rowland said his bowls are of every conceivable

earthen color, from brown and gold to blue, yellow, salmon, white and gray. And his glazes are as varied as the colors.

He said he strives to push the limits of the art as much as possible, while still ensuring that the bowls have utility and can be cleaned by the owner.

Rowland said his art is his means of exploring his community and enjoying a life that merges the past, the present, the aesthetic and the natural environment into a rich tapestry.

"When an artist is able to create something that merges the natural materials with the utility of the object and, at the same time, helps the community, it puts even more meaning into the work," he said. "For me, it's what it's all about."

# News Briefs



Valentine items at the Wild Flower.

## Holidays at the Wild Flower

The Wild Flower Thrift Boutique did very well over the holidays. A lot of shoppers came in looking for bargains and the store gave away about \$1,000 worth of goods, including blankets and coats, to those in need.

Valentine's Day items are now on display and the store will hold a 3 for 1 clothing sale the first week in February.

## Volunteer training

Volunteer training begins Jan. 26 with an orientation session and runs through February. Sessions are from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday nights at the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center office. In addition, there will be a session from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Volunteer Coordinator Eleanor Watkins at the office at (503) 842-9486 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or email her at [tcwrc4@oregoncoast.com](mailto:tcwrc4@oregoncoast.com).

Prospective volunteers undergo a preliminary interview prior to training. Once trained, you are qualified to work on the Hotline, at the front desk, do public speaking or work in the school outreach program, among other things. In addition, there are many volunteer opportunities that do not require any special training, such as helping out with clerical work or lending a hand at fund-raisers.

## Renter help

For the first time, TCWRC is holding a "Ready to Rent" class in January and February. It is designed for individuals with poor credit histories or criminal records who may have difficulty finding housing. It also will be for those who have experienced violence.

The class will teach the skills necessary to

obtain a rental and to keep it. It will serve both TCWRC clients and those referred by a number of other local agencies.

## Cell phone drop spots

TCWRC has a variety of locations where you can donate used cell phones in good working order. Following are drop sites:

- Tillamook Safeway
- Bells Office Supply in Tillamook
- Radio Shack in Tillamook
- Video Audio Connection in Tillamook
- The Wild Flower Thrift Boutique
- Kiawanda Community Center in Pacific City
- Food Basket market in Garibaldi
- NCRD in Nehalem,
- Muddy Waters Café in Tillamook
- Community Warehouse, Portland
- Les Schwab, Tillamook
- Ocean Edge Vacation Rentals, Manzanita
- CART'M in Nehalem
- Oregon Coast Bank, Pacific City.

## Hospital staff training

On Jan. 12, TCWRC conducted domestic violence training for Tillamook County General Hospital staff. This was the second such training session provided to the hospital staff. Topics covered included basic DV awareness education with an eye to what health care practitioners need to know in order to recognize abuse and help their patients.

## Law enforcement training

Staff from TCWRC will take part in a domestic violence training session on Jan. 20 sponsored by the Sheriff's Department for law enforcement personnel. Our part will be domestic violence awareness and how our services can assist victims.

## Make a tax donation

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs in the State of Oregon receive support when taxpayers choose to make a contribution on their state income tax return.

This will be the first year that the "Stop Domestic and Sexual Violence" funds check-off will be rotated off the front page of the Oregon tax form in order to make room for other causes. However, you can still donate in on the tax form by simply writing in the code for domestic violence on the form. The code for the fund is 22. Funds raised are distributed to member programs throughout the State of Oregon, of which we are one.

# Winter Calendar

**J**anuary is Stalking Awareness Month. See story on Page 2. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

**Wednesday, Jan. 20,** Tillamook County Women's Resource Center staff will conduct domestic violence training for law enforcement personnel at the Tillamook County Sheriff's Department.

**Thursday, Jan. 21,** Tillamook County Coalition to End Domestic Violence (TCCEDV) meets from 1-3 p.m. in the Hatfield Room at Tillamook County Library main branch.

**Tuesday, Jan. 26 through February –** Volunteer training. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Eleanor Watkins, (503) 842-9486 or email [tcwrc4@oregoncoast.com](mailto:tcwrc4@oregoncoast.com) to apply.

**Thursday, Jan. 28,** Cyber Safety Seminar, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Tillamook Bay Community College. (See story on Page 3). To Sign up, contact Romy Carver at (503) 842-8294.

**February,** Meet Soup Bowl potter Richard Rowland and collaborating artists in February. Check [www.TCWRC.net](http://www.TCWRC.net) for details.

**First Week in February,** 3 for 1 sale at the Wild Flower Thrift Boutique, 114 Main, Tillamook.

**Thursday, Feb. 4 and Thursday March 4,** Tillamook County Coalition to End Domestic Violence (TCCEDV) meets at 1 p.m. at the 911 Meeting Room, 2311 3rd St., Tillamook.

**Saturday, April 17,** The Soup Bowl fund-raiser will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Old Mill Marina in Garibaldi. (See story on Page 4.)

# The Wild Flower

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job training program. Other workers transition in and out through MTC Works, which helps train and place the unemployed or under-employed.

In addition, there are volunteers who come in to help. And there is always plenty for them to do, she noted.

"We receive donations from the public, from businesses and from other charitable organizations," she explained. "Then we sort through everything to determine what is usable and what is not. We clean everything, except upholstered furniture – which we are not equipped to do – and we refurbish and repair things. We do that all right here on premises. Then we price things and put them out on the floor."

Finnell said some volunteers come in to refurbish old wood furniture or to help with sewing.

"At the end of the season, we take old coats that didn't sell, cut them up and turn them into purses or book bags," she noted.

She said they would do more of such things if there were more volunteers to help.

"Right now, we just have one gentleman who comes in when he can to help refurbish furniture," she said. "We could sure use more help with that. We also really need some creative seamstresses to volunteer and we need the help of someone who is eBay savvy to help us with our pricing."

She said the store usually has plenty of supplies to work with, all donated, but there is one thing they never have enough of.

"We always need good used furniture," she said. "That's our lifeblood."

Clothing is also popular, but she said a lot of it is simply given away to people in need who come in as referrals from local human services agencies or organizations.

"We provide clothing for the homeless, for flood victims, people going back to

## The Wild Flower Thrift Boutique

Address: 114 Main Ave., Tillamook

Phone: (503) 842-2996

Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Items that CANNOT be accepted for donation: stuffed animals, computer components, reference books and encyclopedias and upholstered furniture that is dirty or in disrepair. All other items welcome.

work or those trying to set up again after a tragedy," she said.

Finnell recalls one woman who came in recently as a referral who needed a coat.

"We gave her this very nice heavy coat. She was just beaming and said, 'This is for me? Really? Really?' She just couldn't believe it."

Finnell said she learned how to run a thrift store the old fashioned way: by being a shopper.

"I've always looked for bargains my whole life. I've spent my life shopping at garage sales and thrift stores. I learned what works and what doesn't," she said.

She said she runs the store like a traditional retail outlet. For instance, when seasonal items come in, her staff puts them away so they can bring them out and display them all together in a more appealing fashion when the season is appropriate.

Additionally, she said, every item in the store is color coded and tracked. If it stays on the floor too long, it goes straight to the bargain bin.

"There's nothing worse than coming into a store and seeing items that have been sitting there for months. We don't let that happen. We always try to keep things fresh."

Finnell said The Wild Flower has developed a close-knit group over the years.

"As people come here to work, they become like a family," she explained. "And even after they have moved on, they stay in touch. We have one gentleman who comes by a couple of times a week just to take out our garbage. He says he does it just to stay grounded. We have become a comfort to so many folks."

Marvin agreed.

"When we first opened The Wild Flower, we were just thinking of it as a way to provide financial support for the new shelter," Marvin explained.

"But since then, it has evolved into so much more. It has brought so many unanticipated benefits to the community. It has become a way to provide information to people, to meet local job training needs and to offer meaningful support for people re-entering the workplace. And it has become a touchstone for many who have received help and then gone on to rebuild their lives."

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the  
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*A thrift boutique benefitting the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center*

**Open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
114 Main St., Tillamook • (503) 842-2996**

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Women's Resource Center**

P.O. Box 187  
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This project is supported by Grant No. 2008-WR-AX-0038, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



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