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LIFESTYLES

WRC plans Mother's Day Celebration of Women

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Observer Reporter

Women's Resource Centre staff and volunteers are beginning to plan a Celebration of Women slated for Mother's Day.

"We're looking for women who have a talent they would be prepared to include in this event," WRC co-ordinator Melanie MacDonald said.

"Singing, dancing, comedy, serious, any type of performing arts would be welcome."

The event is a fundraiser for the centre and Luna Women's Wellness Clinic.

It has been a challenge to keep the WRC doors open since funding cuts drastically reduced their budget in 2004.

The community has been very generous and MacDonald felt this type of event would give back to the community while still raise funds for the centre.

"We're looking to tap into the many talented women in the community," she said.

However, she is also looking for backstage volunteers.

Depending on the scope of the evening's activities, a venue has yet to be determined.

If space permits, the evening could also include visual artists' work such as sculptors and painters.

WRC maintains several ongoing free programs such as the Luna Clinic which now offers, in addition to existing services, birth control at a minimal cost to clients. The clinic operates Thursday afternoons from noon - 4 p.m.



Second year UNBC Quesnel campus BSW student Sheila Anderson, left, learns office and life skills from WRC co-ordinator Melanie MacDonald.
Annie Gallant photo

Currently the centre has an anger management course and in March a self-esteem, assertiveness course will be offered.

In partnership with UNBC, WRC is celebrating International Women's Day, March 8, with a presentation

by Jen Marchbank, who is part of SFU's travelling speakers bureau.

Marchbank is with SFU's Women's Studies department and is a published author on women's issues.

WRC offers drop-in services to women in counselling, advocacy work, housing issues and women in crisis as well as providing a meeting place for community women's groups.

The sexual assault crisis line, which has been in place since 1999, is staffed 24 hours a day providing support for men, women and children who have been sexually assaulted or abused, 983-2300.

WRC just received \$3,000 funding for promotion of this service.

The centre also welcomes women in their volunteer program, where various life and office skills are taught.

Should women require more information on specific subjects, WRC's lending library contains resource books and material which has recently been updated and expanded.

Perhaps one of their biggest challenges is maintenance and upkeep on the building, which they own.

Always appreciative of community support, MacDonald said Rotary Club of Quesnel has committed to rebuilding the wheelchair ramp on the front of the building.

Although the challenges are great, MacDonald is happy to report the WRC doors remain open.