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Spruce Run News (February 1979)

Spruce Run Staff

Spruce Run

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SPRUCE RUN ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER _ February 23, 1979

We thought it might be a good time of year to let you know what has been going on at Spruce Run since our last newsletter.

We would like to welcome the following newly trained group of volunteer counselors to our association: Sarah, Barbara, Peggy, Terrie H. and Judy. If you are interested in doing volunteer work in the following areas: grant writing, office help, resource and child development or transportation, please contact Martha McD at the office-947-0496.

Cornelia E., who worked very hard as a volunteer, steering committee member and a training group leader, has moved and is now in Germany. Edna and Mary B.'s CETA grants have run out and they are no longer with us. Linda True left for Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Martha Mitchell is the new public education consultant, bringing the number of full time staff up to five. One of her first assignments was to organize a bake sale, which took place Feb. 14th at the student union on the Orono campus. We made \$110.27. We are very grateful to all who once again came thru and baked for the sale and we would like to give a special word of thanks to the women at the shelter who also contributed baked goods.

Martha McD will begin training her third group of volunteers on Feb. 27th and Donna will be co-leading the sessions for the first time.

Just to give you an idea of what's been going on in the office, Joan reports that Spruce Run has made 59 new client contacts since the new year. Thirteen women and eighteen children have used the shelter facilities, while 16 new clients have come to the office for pro se divorce counselling. We have served clients from as far away as Millinockett to the north and Lewiston to the south.

Mary C. has been hard at work completing a grant application for the Maine Council for the Humanities and Public Policy. We have high hopes that this one will come through for us.

Good news! The Bangor Jaycees have given Spruce Run enough money to get a second phone line. This will enable us to service clients and make business calls without tying up the crisis line.

We feel it is important that you are aware of a new policy change by Spruce Run. As of February 16th, pro se divorce clients interested in divorce counselling services, will be asked to make a \$5 donation if they are able.

Two separate bills will be introduced into the 109th Legislature. They have not been assigned L.D.#'s and are not printed up yet.

1. \$400,000 Appropriations request- This money will be earmarked for direct services for victims of domestic violence. The money would go to the Human Services budget and be contracted with groups such as Spruce Run for direct services. The bill is being sponsored out of the Senate by Nancy Randall Clark(D), Freeport and Mary Najarian(D), Portland.

2. An Act Concerning Abuse Between Family or Household Members- This bill deals with substantive changes in the law. Key changes include:

- victims may personally file Petition with Court assistance, and begin the process of seeking protective orders.
- emergency protective orders shall be available until a hearing may be scheduled.
- notice of any protective orders shall be given by the Court to the police department having jurisdiction.
- violation of some protective orders (after notice to the defendant) shall be a Class D crime.
- warrantless arrest is to be used, without prejudice in domestic violence calls, upon probable cause.
- record keeping for domestic violence calls will be separate. Officers will have immediate telephone access to records of present court orders and past domestic violence record.
- police officers will be required to receive specific domestic violence training. Large departments must establish domestic violence crisis teams.
- officers must remain on the scene until immediate physical danger has passed and then transport to medical facility and notify victim of legal options.
- when Criminal action is pending, temporary protective orders will be available as a condition of pre-trial release.
- violation of the temporary protective order is a Class D crime.

The bill is being sponsored by Representatives Richard Morton(R) Farmington, Barry Hobbins(D) Saco, Charlotte Sewall(R) Newcastle and Elizabeth Mitchell(D) Vassalboro.

Please support our work by becoming/and or renewing membership to the Spruce Run Asso:

_____ \$3. Regular Member
_____ \$5. Sponsored Member
_____ \$10. or more. Sustaining Member

Return\$ with: Name _____
Address _____
Tel.# _____