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Spruce Run News (June 1980)

Spruce Run Staff

Spruce Run

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June 1980

HELLO TO EVERYONE AT SPRUCE RUN!

Note from Nancy's desk: I need to share some exciting news with each and all of Spruce Run. I have been with our organization since early 1976 and have watched and agonized and celebrated with many crises - interpersonal, intrapersonal, within and without the agency. I've viewed our work from three perspectives - volunteer counselor, Steering Committee and staff. There have been certain periods when I have been scared for our future and the realization I've reached is that I'm not scared any more. We're making it and we're doing it real well. That knowledge was affirmed at the National Coalition's Washington Conference and continues to be affirmed in the respect we command from and of ourselves and other service providers. Thank you each of us.

FUNDRAISING

According to June, we need to raise \$2300. locally this year in order to meet budgeted expenses, so your help is desperately needed in the areas of contributions, ideas and womanpower.

Events since January have netted us approximately \$650.: \$30. from the UMO Valentine's Day bake sale, \$125 from the Old Town flea market, and \$500. from the Mother's Day carnation sale. Thank you to Terri L. and JoAnn B. for coordinating these events.

* We are holding a yard sale at Ann's home on June 20th and 21st. Donations
* may be dropped off at either the Spruce Run office or June's home. Potential
* fundraisers for the future include: a run-a-thon with sponsors, a concert
* in November with, hopefully, Paul Stookey, and a booth at the Bangor Fair.
* This will require volunteers to cover a 14 hours/day/ 2 week period. Sounds
* like fun. If you'd be interested in participating in any of the above,
* please call the office at 945-5102. *

An exciting idea which is being pursued is to obtain a VISTA grant which would include an employee focussing primary energy on fundraising.

VOLUNTEERS

Applications are now being accepted for the next crisis counselor training group. The group is probably to begin late August/ early September. Please encourage any interested friends to apply.

We are losing two valuable contributors who will be sorely missed. Ann is moving from the Bangor area and has been covering the office hotline on Wednesday mornings along with night-time coverage. Ann observed that Pine Tree Legal referrals for pro se divorce come in primarily on Wednesdays (their intake day) and that many referrals have been inappropriate. She advised that perhaps some advocacy with Pine Tree was in order. Sue B. is working on it.

Marcia will be moving out of state as soon as she is able to sell their home, located within walking distance of the University in Orono. If you know of anyone who might be interested, this would be a way to help repay Marcia for all that she has given Spruce Run.

Terry Y. is gone for the summer, but is eager to reunite with us Sept.1

Thank you Gail A. for your fine work in writing this newsletter. Gail volunteered for only 3 weeks and took this on as a special project. Anyone interested in producing the next newsletter?

STEERING COMMITTEE

The search for new members continues through television and radio PSA's. Ann S. will be taking on the position of interim chair, replacing Terri who has left to have a baby. Good luck to both the out-going and in-coming chair.

Mary, who has been working on a workshop to train police officers listening skills and to heighten awareness concerning domestic violence is quite pleased with the progress being made. Bangor police chief Woodhead has proved very cooperative and has designated Sgt. Dick Stockford to be the training officer. Success in this area is of vital importance and the existence of such a program indicates the impact being made by Spruce Run.

Welcome to new Steering Committee members Susan B. and Donna B. Your energy and enthusiasm is refreshing.

STAFF

Nancy is taking hotline shifts until Connie is prepared to woman the phone. She promises not to be directive with phone callers... or at least try...

Our child counselor Donna, has decided to relocate out West. Donna achieved an excellent rapport with the kids, emphasizing the self-help model of service delivery and helping both kids and mothers become aware that they can take control of their own lives. She strongly recommends a new book in the office, Divorce is A Grown-up Problem, by Janet Sinberg - both for clients and members of Spruce Run. Good-bye Donna - Thank you for your commitment and strength.

Welcome to Connie! Connie will begin June 23rd as our new Child Development Counselor. Monies for her first week of employment have been made possible through a donation by the church school children of All Soul's Congregatioal Church. Connie will be relocating from Skowhegan and we are looking forward to her arrival and the addition of energy and skill to our staff.

The funding for the position of Public Education Technician is no longer available through CETA. This is an extremely important position and there may be a possibility of future funding through VISTA. Community information and education remains an important component in Spruce Run's program of services. Anyone with an interest in being part of public education should contact the staff.

Carol, who held this position in another life, is now job-sharing the position of Community/Shelter Counselor with Sarah. This idea came about in acknowledgement that both were equally capable and would also, through splitting the workload, be able to have more time to pursue other interests. An unexpected benefit has been the use of each other as sounding boards. After all- who else can understand the specific problems of "your" job as much as someone who has "your" job. Both of them are exploring the possibilities of creating a support group for abused women. This group

will meet for a 10-week period and give clients an opportunity to learn that they are not alone.

Nancy and Carol attended the first National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Conference with representatives from Puerto Rico and every state except Hawaii. They found the conference extremely enjoyable and enlightening.

Spruce Run's conference on Family Violence, held at Bangor Community College on April 26th was very successful. Maria Roy, author of Battered Women and founder of Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, New York was the keynote speaker. Members of the panel included representatives of the counseling communities in 3 states. Interaction among participants was extremely dynamic and one outgrowth of the day has been the creation of a men's support group. For more information on this group, call 945-5102 Or 947-0496.

Our continued thanks to the ever popular CETA for giving our office 2 excellent resources, Cathy and SueB. Cathy realized at an early point in her life that counseling is an area in which she would like to build a career, and Spruce Run is benefitting from her eagerness. Sue B. is busy being an administrative assistant which involves handling bookkeeping, typing and "counseling the counselors" - supplying an interested ear when the crisis nature of this organization gets to the minds and stomachs of the best of us. Upon completion of her CETA grant in November she hopes to obtain funding to work as a paralegal for Spruce Run. Her present job has been made somewhat easier by the donation of a filing cabinet. Any office furnishings are greatly appreciated - especially cans of coffee to keep the entire office moving along.

Sue B. has recently earned, declared, and otherwise been dubbed with a new title: Office Momma.

Last minute Bulletins:

Terri and Don had a boy on June 3rd - Gabriel Joseph. Congratulations!

Also - Congratulations to Cathy upon graduation from Bangor High.

If your membership is running out, please renew - we need you.

We also accept small change.