

Open Door Campaign



women&familylife
CENTER

The Women & Family Life Center empowers women and their families to face challenges and transitions in their lives with grace and dignity.

Opening Doors to Hope for 25 Years

Within our safe and intimate setting women, men, and girls find the courage to face their worst moments and their biggest life changes. Support groups, educational workshops, wellness programs, and our unique guided referral service help more than 1,000 people each year to:

- Navigate emotional, legal, and financial hardships
- Access a strong network of peer support
- Move from crisis to new strength



Navigating financial hardships and emotional transitions

Jane's Story

"Always ask for help." That is Jane's advice to women who find themselves in transition. She came to the Center as a divorced mother of two, making less than \$10 per hour with a tax levy and wage garnishment – the result of job loss, family mental health issues, and eventually divorce. Jane was matched with a trained budget coach and found the confidence and skills she needed to create a secure future. "My coach made me do my homework. It was challenging, but she offered me hope and no guilt. I've been able to maintain my budget and manage a recent rent increase. While there's still work to be done, I know how to fix things."



Moving from crisis to new strength

Sarah's Story

When Sarah's alcoholic, verbally abusive husband escalated to threatening their young girls, she knew she had to leave. We teamed Sarah with a lawyer from our Lawyer Time program and a domestic violence counselor. Their guidance enabled her to file for separation, file a restraining order, and maintain rights to the home so she did not have to choose between housing and safety. "It was a difficult first step to walk into the Center. But I know now, as that one door opened, many horrific doors closed."

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~ SARAH



Accessing a strong network of peer support

Emily's Story

"My sweet, kindhearted daughter's learning disability makes school hard and she often doesn't have a sense of accomplishment. But she continues to work hard – harder than most kids her age. Watching her finish the Girls Coach Girls Run race yesterday brought me to tears. She expressed a sense of accomplishment and pride in herself that I have never seen before. This moment, I believe, will be a springboard for her. Thank you for this beautiful program!"

“There are few community organizations that meet real needs in current times as well as the Women & Family Life Center. This is an important grass roots mission, which I am happy to support.”

~ ANNUAL FUND DONOR

Why We Need Your Help Now

A rapidly growing demand for our services necessitates substantial investments in both our facility and our programs that are above and beyond the scope of our annual budget. On the occasion of our 25th Anniversary, there has never been a more critical time to show your support.

It's been 15 years since we last invested in preserving or upgrading our special facility. Every dollar invested in the facility directly impacts the effectiveness or capacity of the dozens of programs we offer.

80% more Shoreline families are at financial risk than 5 years ago. Last year we helped 400 families navigate complex financial, legal, and emotional issues – twice the number from 3 years ago.

Domestic Violence is the leading cause of injury to girls and women ages 15-44. 100 women facing domestic violence took their first steps to safety at the Center last year – double the number from the year before.

Rates of depression have doubled in the past 10 years among women and girls. In the past year, 250 girls, new moms, and retired women gained self-esteem and built a supportive network in our wellness programs.



Open a Door Today

Your support of the OPEN DOOR CAMPAIGN will allow the Center to bring our strengths – our impassioned staff and volunteers, our deep relationships in the community, and our comforting facility – to new heights of impact.

In addition to our annual operating budget, our goal is to raise \$500,000 to meet rapidly growing and critical community needs.

Refurbish the Center

- Renovate to improve & expand program capacity
- Expand parking & install exterior lighting
- Remediate structural deterioration

Program Expansion to Serve At-Risk Families

- Fund new Referral Navigator position
- Launch database for confidential case files

Join the Campaign!

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Opening Doors to Hope for 25 Years CENTER

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"I think you just saved my life. I called five agencies and each one said they couldn't help me. You didn't say that. I am so thankful for your help."

~ GUIDED REFERRAL CLIENT



Thank you to those who have already committed to the Campaign: The Guilford Foundation for a generous matching donation; individuals who have pledged support; and businesses who have offered pro bono or below cost services.

COVER ART: Original oil painting by Eileen Eder.
Prints available for sale to benefit the Center.