



“What Does She Need?”

The 2007 Women’s Coalition of Washington Annual Conference

On October 10, 11, 12, the *Women's Coalition of Washington* hosted their annual conference at *Mt. Springs Lodge and Conference Center* near Leavenworth WA. The event was magical; from the lofting sounds of an angels harp to the extraordinary display of the opulent colors of Autumn; the conference was amazing.

Mt. Springs Lodge, located in Plain, WA. gloriously portrayed the Cascade



Mountains and the Great Northwest in all her magnificence. The main campus consists of six separate log structures; each a marvelous work of art. *The Beaver Creek Lodge* is a full service restaurant that provided delicious creations accommodating most everyone’s personal taste and special needs.

The main campus provided accommodations for 35 of our overnight guests. The other 11 off-site accommodations, beautifully appointed vacation homes, housed 35 guests.



What Does She Need?

This question relates to the women we see everyday; Our mother who says “she” doesn’t drink too much, our daughters who are afraid to tell us “she” is pregnant. “She” is our sister who is hiding her bruises. “She” is our neighbor, our co-worker. We think of her as faceless and unknown living on the streets, but “She” is one of us, living right here. What does she need? She needs to be acknowledged and she needs our help.

The Keynote Presenters

Laurie Kanyer MA, touched our hearts by validating our need to express and heal our grief and loss. Laurie also a breakout session and provided the closing plenary.

“...moved me on a very personal level.”

Dean Poppe, Ph.D., a kind, soft spoken man who talked about the complications chronic pain and comorbidity present. Dr. Poppe presented two consecutive breakout sessions.

Anne Forbs, Director of the Alcohol Drug Help Line (ADHL) shared the historical journey of both the women and men pioneers in the field of addiction.

Without exception, the keynote presenters passionately communicated their knowledge. “She” has always been with us and “she” has been the inspiration behind our work.

Inside this issue:

What Does She Need Conference Review	1,2
2007 Conference Evaluation Data	2
Sponsors of “What Does She Need?”	3
Photography by: Karen Foley	4

Special points of interest:

- Actual conference comments
- Front page photos are of *Mt. Springs Lodge and Conference Center: Aspen Lodge and Cornerstone Lodge*
- Next issue will highlight, Guests Honored at the conference

Conference Review (continued from Page 1)

What does she need?

Was the question all the conference presenters answered.

Continued page 2

Tamara Ochoa, CDP, suggested “she” needs an open mind and experiential group therapy.

Karen Foley, MSW, CDP, suggested “she” might benefit if the CDP, DV, and MH providers could develop supportive community networks.

Cheri Speelman, AA, CDC, Aids Outreach Specialist talked about diseases among drug users and prevention. 4 hour BBP certificates were issued on site.

Cindy Obtinario, BA, helped us understand the impact of domestic violence (DV 101 & beyond).

Heidi Morgan, BA, stirred the pot with a discussion about how sex is portrayed and promoted through media.

Jannie Choquette, MS, shared her ideas about the need for parenting education.

The Myth of Self Sufficiency: **Safe Babies, Safe Moms**, and the **Parent/Child Assistance Program (PCAP)** talked about “her” goals and how “she” can be successful.

“...good tools to use for self and

Mary Testa-Smith, MS, CDP said “she” not only needs counseling “she” needs a healthy compassionate counselor; revisiting

“...wonderful closing sessions”

counselor burnout.

Mary Dessein CDP, NCACII, through story telling and angelic harp music reminded us about “her” need for meaning.

Tanya Ruckstuhl-Valenti LCSW, MSW, presented thoughts about “her” need for spirituality and counselor self care.

Finally, **Allison Kristman-Valente, MSW** reminded us that “she” isn’t always the expectant mother, sometimes she is the grandmother or the girlfriend you’ve had for 35 years. “She” just might be a woman who needs Senior Services.

In summary, what she needs is a compassionate, holistic assessment. She needs food, shelter, medical treatment, education, employment, and a safety net to catch her when she falls; again and again.

That safety net is a community willing to see her and to help address her personal needs as well as the needs of a growing family. “She” needs professionals willing to be healthy compassionate role models.

Story by: **Christy Richardson**

Pacific Treatment Alternatives, Safe Babies, Safe Moms, Everett, WA

Conference Outcomes

The conference was evaluated by all attending. The keynote and workshop presentations were evaluated independently. Utilizing a scale with a range from great, good, and to not helpful, 98% of the attendees said it was **Great and enjoyed it all.**

The Women’s Coalition of Washington conference committee would like to thank everyone for attending and we sincerely hope you will consider joining us again

next year.

Tentatively mark your calendars for this same time, October 2008, and watch our website for the save the date notice and upcoming events.

“ All speakers were heart warming”

Data results compiled by

Brenda Emigh-Allen, Residence XII, Kirkland, WA

Visit our website for:
news, updates, membership info.,
and upcoming workshops

WomensCoalitionWA.org



would like to thank all the sponsors who helped support and make possible the 2007 conference, "What Does She Need?"

Silver Sponsors:



- ♦ *Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse*
- ♦ *Pacific Treatment Alternatives, SAFE BABIES, SAFE MOMS*
- ♦ *Residence XII*
- ♦ *Triumph Treatment Services*

Major Sponsors:

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Gifts & Auction Items:

Ann Forbs *Laurie Kanyer*
Beth Dannhardt *Residence XII*
Hazelton *Brenda Emigh-Allen*
Pacific Treatment Alternatives, Safe Babies, Safe Moms
Triumph Treatment Services
And everyone else we forgot to mention -

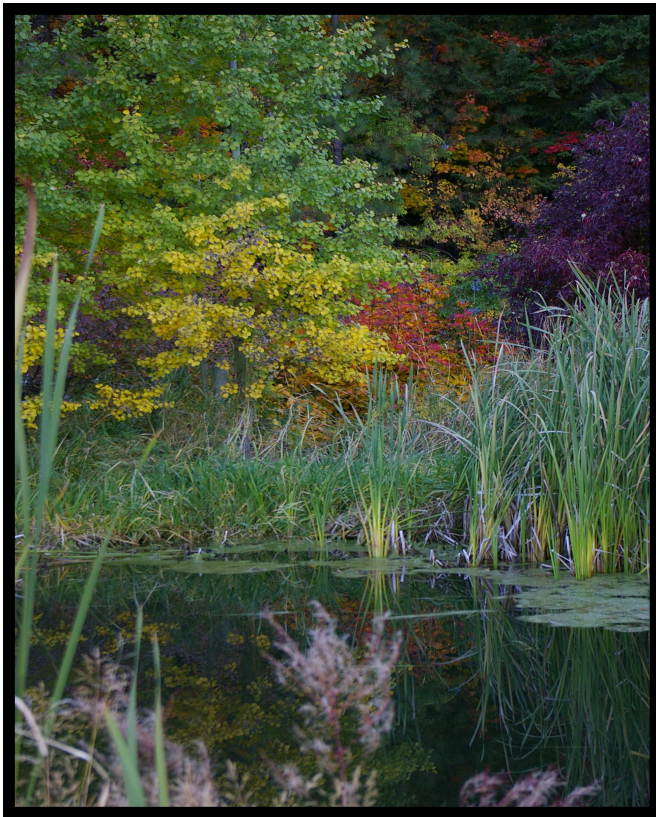
Thank You

A special Thanks!

To Theresa Wilson for singing "Wasted"
and to both Theresa Wilson and Karen Foley for their duet performance of "Do You Know?"



Beth Dannhardt for introducing the conference; Anne Forbs and Cindy Obtinario for presenting the memorial and honorary awards.



Photography by
Karen Foley MSW,
photographer,
songwriter, singer,
Interpretations of Fall

**Enjoy these beautiful
Photographs**

Karen asks,

*“What’s so plain
about Plain,
Washington?”*



The Women's Coalition of Washington
ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN WITH ADDICTION AND RELATED ISSUES