



# A CALL TO ACTION!

## Help Us Strengthen the Women's Center

The Women's Center

### *A New Beginning for the Women's Center*

Thanks to our faithful supporters, we were able to successfully come through a serious financial crisis that nearly closed the Women's Center.

The Women's Center board, staff, and volunteers are moving forward with our doors open and our eyes to the future. We are actively designing and implementing strategic plans that are working. With our programs serving hundreds of women in need each week, *we have you to thank for helping to keep our services going.*

In just 6 months, we've received much needed support from individuals, foundations, and financial institutions, including Boston Community Capital. We even had our highest fundraising income ever in a one month period. This critical support helped to stabilize the Women's Center.

And though our doors remain open, the Women's Center is still in need of your financial support. We must raise an additional \$110,000 by year end to meet our 2005 budget.

We are now asking you to please consider making a fall 2005 contribution. Please send your tax-deductible donation today. The Women's Center is counting on your support.

Please know your support does more than keep the doors open – it ensures our programs can help serve a women's community in need of support, encouragement and a place to belong.



*Martina Bouey, Board President,  
Celia Gilbert, Donor & Nicole Marcotte,  
Development Coordinator*

### *A Sense of Belonging at the Women's Center*

I have always seen the Women's Center as a community. When I moved to Boston in 1999, it wasn't long before I found the Women's Center. I walked through the doors and immediately knew that I wanted to be a part of this unique community – **one that supports women where they are and helps them get where they dream to go** – a perfect example of feminism in action!

Over the years, as a volunteer and later as a member of the Board, I worked with other women of color to try and realize the vision of true diversity of the Women's Center. Now, as Program Manager, my main goal is to enhance the Women's Center as a community in which *all* women feel a sense of belonging.

To do this, I am working closely with staff, board, and the community on several key initiatives. We are incorporating racial justice into our programming, introducing topics and trainings that speak to a diverse group of women. We are taking Women's Center support groups into the community to reach more low-income women, women of color, and elders. We are nurturing our relationships with feminist, health related, social service and church based organizations to strengthen our services collectively. And we are building a network of support among the countless women who contribute their time and energy to the Center.

As we reach out to more women and connect to new organizations, a truly diverse group of women will walk through our doors and feel the same excitement, energy and potential I felt many years ago coming to the Women's Center for the first time.

Thank you,  
Gabrie'l J. Atchison, Program Manager



*Gabrie'l J. Atchison, Program Manager*

**The Women's Center Board,  
Staff, and Community warmly  
welcome Gabriele'l J. Atchison to  
the staff as Program Manager.**

## COUNT ON ME TO HELP THE WOMEN'S CENTER!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:  \$1,000  \$750  \$500  \$250  \$100 other \$

My donation is in honor/memory of: (name) \_\_\_\_\_

(address) \_\_\_\_\_

(phone) \_\_\_\_\_ (email) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to The Women's Center. Mail to 46 Pleasant Street Cambridge, MA 02139

## The Volunteer Experience

I began my volunteer internship at the Women's Center in June. I thought I had a good idea of what resources exist for women. I'm a student in the Human Services/Counseling Program at Lesley College, and one of Lesley's strengths is that it deals in real-world specifics.

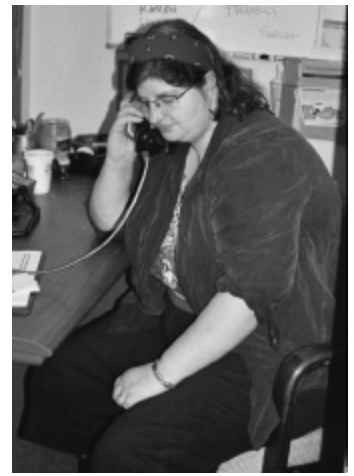
From the moment I started by first shift, I discovered everything I *don't* know.

The Women's Center has amazing programming and resources, including support groups, workshops, information on shelters, legal aid, counseling, housing, and a lot of other obscure-yet-useful things. I was very impressed and excited to absorb all of this new information.

But then, gradually, I relearned a lesson from long ago. I remembered how important *direct* knowledge is.

You see, as volunteers, we provide peer support and critical referral information to women reaching out for help. We contact and visit shelters, community centers, and resource centers, finding out what they are like, how they feel, and what they offer. When we refer women to resources, we know their needs are being met. We spread our direct knowledge to the community—infusing the women's movement with grassroots empowerment. Why is this work important? *Because we, as volunteers, aren't working for the Women's Center, we're part of it. Because when I was younger, I needed emergency shelters. Because at some point in our lives, we all need the Women's Center.*

Sincerely,  
Kate Martin, Volunteer Intern



Kate Martin, Volunteer Intern

**Become a Women's Center  
volunteer or group facilitator!**  
To learn more, contact Gabriele'  
(617) 354-6394

### NEW PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

**Creative Arts for Black Women** – with  
Lace Campbell, Call to register

**YogaKids** (ages 3-5) – with Melanie Mano  
Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:30pm, 10/5—11/9

**Beginner Yoga for New Moms** with Leise  
Jones – Fridays in October, 5-6pm

**Feminist Brown Bag Series** – Kyle Pena,  
Women of Color AIDS Council (10/7), Lisa  
Krinsky, LICSW director LGBT Aging Project  
(10/11) / Immigration Law Clinic – held  
offsite (10/13) / Nancy Murray, Director of  
Education, ACLU(10/18) / Mary Regan,  
Housing Organizer Administrative  
Coordinator, Cambridge Eviction Free Zone  
(10/20) / Domestic Violence and African  
American Women: Insight In to Cultural  
Differences Katherine D. Morrison, Ph.D.  
Wellesley Centers for Women (11/15)

**For our full calendar of events, please visit  
[www.cambridgewomenscenter.org](http://www.cambridgewomenscenter.org)  
or call our Helpline at 617-354-8807.**

### Fall Calendar Highlights

#### OCTOBER - Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Wed., 10/19 6pm *Trafficking & Slavery in Our Neighborhoods*  
with Carol Gomez

Thurs., 10/20 noon *Mary Regan*, Housing Organizer  
Administrative Coordinator, Cambridge Eviction Free  
Zone (as part of our Feminist Brown Bag Lunch Series)

Fri., 10/28 7pm Claudia Acevedo, Guatemalan Woman's Rights  
Activist, "*Gender Based Violence and Sexual Identity In  
Guatemala*". Location TBA (Suggested Donation \$20 to  
benefit the Guatemalan Solidarity Committee)

Sat., 10/29 1pm Halloween Party for kids ages 2-7 and moms

#### NOVEMBER

Sat., 11/5 *Community Service Project with On The Rise*  
please register

Tues. 11/15 noon Domestic Violence and African American  
Women: Insight In to Cultural Differences Katherine D.  
Morrison, Ph.D. Wellesley Centers for Women

Fri., 11/18 8pm *Healing Our Hearts: Coping with the Holidays-*  
facilitated by Donna Owens and Gabriele'l Atchison

**For dates and times of ongoing support groups and other  
offerings, please visit our website or contact our Helpline.**

The Women's Center  
46 Pleasant Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139

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