

The Women's Center of Fayetteville

Empowering * Counseling * Educating * Promoting Self-Sufficiency

230 Hay Street * Fayetteville, NC 28301 * 910-323-3377 * www.wcof.org

To make a donation to the WCOF, please call our office at (910) 323-3377. We thank you for your support!

Market Yourself For Less!



The Women's Center of Fayetteville is pleased to offer our members and clients Marketing Services to help build name and product recognition

within the community. Services offered range from logo, business card and brochure design to creation and placement of print and radio advertisements. Also available is complete "Grand Opening" event planning which includes, press releases and media follow-up, invitation design and mailing, catering arrangements and guest speaker securement. Fees are determined by type of services needed and a discount is given to Partners In Progress members. For more information, contact Stephanie Kennedy, Marketing Director at (910) 323-3377 ext. 28.

How Sweet It Is....

Nicole Sullivan left the military five years ago after 13 years of service to be with her children. She started baking cakes for friends and word of mouth spread and her business tripled. She knew she was on to something big, so she started looking for retail space. She came to WCOF looking for help, and realized she had much research to do. After completing her business and financial plans, she applied for a loan through the Center, and The Sweet Boutique opened its doors one month ago. Nicole does 80% of the baking along with two other employees. She is excited when customers come through the door and taste her scrumptious carrot cake and legendary old-fashioned pound cake. In addition to running her bakery, she offers wedding cakes and specialty orders. Nicole is happy with her success and by the end of the year hopes to triple her business and employees. In two more years, she also hopes to open her second bakery. "The Women's Center gave me the tools to be successful," says Sullivan. Join Nicole for the GRAND OPENING on March 15 at 1:00 pm at 1400 Walter Reed Rd.



A Dream Realized



A young couple in their early 30's with 3 children came to the mandatory orientation for the Lease to Home program 12 months ago. It so happened that The Women's Center of Fayetteville had a home available; a 3 bedroom 2 bathroom house in a very nice location in Fayetteville, fenced in yard for the kids to play and a large corner lot. The young couple moved in and after two months of living in the home they began the counseling process. Three months into the process, the young couple decided to get married and continue their fresh start.

The young couple will be soon closing on their first home. They went through the credit and mortgage counseling, and are ready to be first time home owners with the help of a well known credit union. Their loan is fixed and their mortgage rate is very affordable. They have accomplished the American dream.

The WCOF is still in contact, as post counseling is very important to The Women's Center of Fayetteville. Purchasing a home with an affordable rate is possible. We can help those who want to help themselves, and this young family has proven once again that with some assistance, it is possible."

Knowledge Is POWER!

Get empowered with the Women's Center of Fayetteville! We support individuals increasing their employment marketability by going back to school, and we offer educational assistance to help them get started.

Assistance is available to displaced homemakers who meet the eligibility criteria:

- The person provided unpaid services in the home (such as caring for children or other family members), while dependent on either a family member or government assistance.
- The person has lost this financial support or will lose it in the next two years
- Spouse lost their job, they are getting divorced, separated, their child support is ending because child is turning 18, etc.
- The person is unemployed or underemployed.

If a person meets these criteria, we can help them cover educational or employment-related costs, such as books, uniforms, tuition, immunizations, registration fees, required testing, etc.

We also have educational assistance to help women entering a health care educational program. Low-income individuals and displaced homemakers have priority, but all are welcome to apply. Again, these funds can cover costs not covered by financial aid – immunizations, required equipment, uniforms, books, fees, etc.

For more information, please contact Jessica Strong, New Choices Director, at (910) 323-3377.

WCOF Announces Microloan Program

The Women's Center of Fayetteville was recently awarded a grant through Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. This grant serves to create a revolving loan pool for inexperienced and less qualified borrowers for startup and expansion businesses. The loan amounts range from \$500 to \$5,000.

There is a fixed interest rate of 12% and payment is monthly for a term of 1-3 years, depending on amount.

A minimum credit score of 600 is required along with a co-signer and 24 months of consistent payment history.

All loans are granted after review by separate loan approval committee. Please contact our office for more information or email rmanuel@wcof.org.

Funded in part by a collaborative agreement with the Small Business Administration



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March 7th and 8th from 10am-9pm

Bring in your clothing donation to 2800 Raeford Rd. and receive a coupon courtesy of Stein Mart.

Donations also accepted

At our Unruly store at 114 Hay St.

Unruly
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