

# THE CENTER NEWS

COLUMBIA CENTER FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

APRIL 2009

## Now We're Cooking By Debby Boyer

We have a kitchen! That is exciting for us as we have wanted one for years, but could not get approval from our landlord. This year that changed and the Board took it from there. We worked out what we thought we needed and set out to raise the funds.

The Lord blessed us so abundantly we were able to replace the vanity top in the bathroom as well, so we are very grateful volunteers! This will be such an improvement over how we have done things for nearly five years.

We would be remiss if we did not give special thanks to some of the professionals who helped us either with donations of materials, time or reduced prices. If you have need of services like theirs, please consider giving them an opportunity to serve you.

Jerry Linger of the counter top shop – Kitchen Kraft  
Rob - All-Pro Plumbing  
Ric Lee – RSI Kitchen & Bath  
Kent Baumgartner – Accent Flooring  
Billy Rapp – Rapp Electric  
Kenny Day – Tile installation

Thank you to those of you who prayed with us, gave money or helped in any other way.



The new kitchen is up and running. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make this possible.

## Look How Far We've Come By Yolanda Sekol

As we look back at 2008, we are reminded again how blessed we have been. In so many ways, the Lord has shown His love to our clients through the volunteers here at CWM Columbia.

In 2008, our volunteers served over 4600 hours doing Center work through counseling, staffing, working on finances, involvement with the Newsletter, prep time for various activities, shopping, etc. This is what was REPORTED....much more goes on that never gets included.

We held two basic training sessions, which resulted in eight women graduating. They are much needed additions to our staff. Also, we were blessed by Anita Gamble, one of our counselors, as she conducted an advanced training class on the subject of "Help for Helpers."

Debby Boyer and Janie Bonham were invited to speak to some churches in the area about the Center. These churches have continued to show their support in various ways, which includes large orders for our cinnamon rolls.

Our prayer group continued to meet each Wednesday at noon. This is an ongoing prayer group, so if you have a prayer need or feel the call to pray with us, please join us at that time. You can also call the Center and leave your request. We meet from noon-1:00 p.m.

We had three support groups meeting. In addition to our ongoing Birth Mom group, we had groups studying Making Peace with Your Past by H. Norman Wright and Boundaries by Henry Cloud and John Townsend.

We look forward to what God has for us in 2009!

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### Contributing Writers

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Anna Gross  
Cherie Stott  
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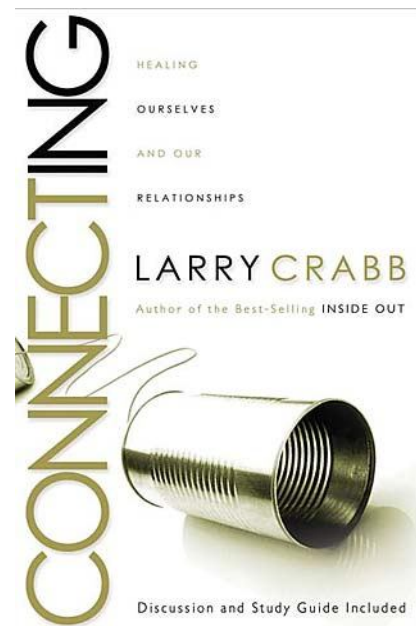
## The Book Nook: Connecting Review By Anna Gross

"We have made a terrible mistake," Larry Crabb writes. "We wrongly define soul wounds as psychological disorders and delegated their treatment to trained specialists. Damaged psyches aren't the problem. The problem is disconnected souls. What we need is connections! What we need is a healing community."

As I read the introduction, I thought he was writing about our Center because that is what our Center is all about. We are using our own experiences, training and building a relationship with our clients who are hurting and with God's leading we have witnessed His healing of our clients.

This book is a must read for counselors. I know it will be an encouragement to you. Crabb shows that how God has worked in our lives will be something He uses as we meet with our clients, whether directly or indirectly. That background and understanding helps us build relationships, and that is the first step in effective counseling. The ways God worked in our own experiences, the lessons He taught us and how He strengthened our faith are all important things to work from. The author includes discussion questions for each chapter, and as we work through them, we will begin to see new tools to use in creating a "healing community."

As the healing begins for our clients, our souls are nourished as well. I hope this encourages you to understand the call on your life to be a counselor. That call is from the Greatest Counselor, our Heavenly Father through His son...JESUS



## Cup of Encouragement By Catherine Shanahan

I would like to encourage those who are thinking about becoming CWM counselors, or are already counselors and may be struggling.

About two months ago I was asked to take a CWM client that was having some severe problems. When Debby asked me to take her I immediately felt that this was the thing to do, I felt the Holy Spirit saying, "yes".

Upon meeting the client I was very encouraged. She did have some very serious issues in her life, but was honest with me about them and seemed sincere in desiring help. We began to meet weekly and were making good progress for about 4 weeks; then we hit a wall and came upon some very strong spiritual blocks. I believed that I knew what was going on and the steps to take to overcome the problems, so I called Debby and discussed this with her. Debby listened to my concerns and was very supportive in my plan to move forward with this client.

My client's issues became very serious over the next three weeks and this challenge was at times daunting. But, with the support of the Lord and my director, I felt confident in continuing in the process of helping my client find freedom in Christ. This process involved quite a bit of time, energy, and prayer. Debby was with me every step of the way, and my client did find victory in Christ Jesus.

I want to encourage all who are thinking and praying about becoming counselors, or who already are counselors. If God pairs you with a client you can be sure that He will give you the wisdom and grace to handle it. Through these past weeks the Lord has led me deeper into His Word and drawn me closer to Him. I had to trust Him in a new way throughout this experience. And He is FAITHFUL!

And He has given us a treasure in our director, Debby Boyer. As a CWM counselor you can feel comfortable going to our director and know that she will be there for you. I am truly grateful for having such a wonderful director, and dear friend in Debby.

*I will be glad and rejoice  
in your love, for you saw  
my affliction and knew the  
anguish of my soul...but I  
trust in you, O Lord; I say,  
"You are my God. My  
times are in your hands,  
deliver me from my  
enemies and from those  
who pursue me. Let your  
face shine on your  
servant: save me in your  
unfailing love.  
Psalm 31: 7, 14-16*

## Behind Every Great Center By Meredith Burgio

"We couldn't have done it [without a lot of help]," Judy Purtell says over a cup of coffee at the Rendezvous coffeehouse.

Judy shares the story of the Center's beginnings, a story many have heard. Or at least they thought they had heard. Judy lists a litany of men that have helped the Center grow with prayer and helping hands. From one-time favors to full-time maintenance, the men behind the Center are the unsung heroes who have faithfully gone above and beyond to serve the women of the Center.

One of the behind the scenes activity that these men faithfully attend to is the weekly prayer that is held every Wednesday at noon. Before the Center was fully up and running, one of the men gathered right beside the women in prayer. They continue to lift up the needs of the Center to the One from whom all blessings flow. And God has always been faithful.

Not only did the men pray, but God used them as an answer to prayer. Debby Boyer's husband donated the carpet for the Center. Marilyn Hogan's husband has done miscellaneous jobs at the Center from the beginning, and continues to be on call for us. Yolanda Sekol's husband, Dave, works on the computers to keep them up and running.

With the fifth anniversary of the Center drawing near, let us be reminded of how important every member of the body is, whether seen or unseen. Prayer, time and dedication, the Center needs each one of these to be whole. We are thankful for every helping hand that has labored to build a solid foundation for healing the women of our community.

## Bunco Fun Night! Come One, Come All!

Join us on June 2 at 7:00 at Centerpoint Church, located right under the Center. We are having a game night for all friends of the Center, and the game is Bunco. You don't have to know how to play...you will in minutes ☺ Our desire is to have an evening of fun and getting to know each other better, and meet new people. I guarantee you that you will laugh, get to know a lot of women, get a prize and EAT!

Each person needs to bring a white elephant gift (something at your house that you do not want but think someone else might...or might not ☺). If you don't have any, a small plant, candle, or jewelry that you no longer wear will do just fine. We would like each 'gift' to be in a bag of some kind. (Deals at Crossroads Shopping Center is a good place to buy very inexpensive bags.)

We are asking for a \$10 donation to play, but if this is a hardship, do NOT let this stop you from joining us, please! Donations are optional. We do need to know if you are coming, and how many are coming with you. Call the Center at 256-1799 or send us an email at colcwm@mchsi.com.

One of the common themes that runs through Intakes is loneliness. This is true for many women, not just clients. The game night will provide a safe environment for clients, friends, counselors, and staff to connect with others. SEE YOU THERE!

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### Cinnamon Rolls

*Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Center by purchasing our delicious cinnamon rolls! Stop by the Center to purchase our rolls for just \$10 a dozen. They can be baked frozen or thawed and then baked. Either way, they are a treat and fun to serve! Thank you for your support!*

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*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*  
Jeremiah 19:11

### Wish List

Forever stamps - Nutritional snack bars - Large bag of wrapped hard candy - Paper towels - Kleenex - Ink cartridge for a HP Laser Jet 1020 - Ink Cartridge for Canon MP210 - Swiffer wet mopping cloths - Pledge Duster Plus refills - Box of blank thank you notes - Yellow 8 1/2 x 11 writing pads - Avery labels: Address 1" x 2 5/8 and shipping labels 3 1/3" x 4"

## Join the Club By Cherie Scott

God has continued to bless the Center in many ways, bringing us new clients, new challenges, and new opportunities...we are grateful.

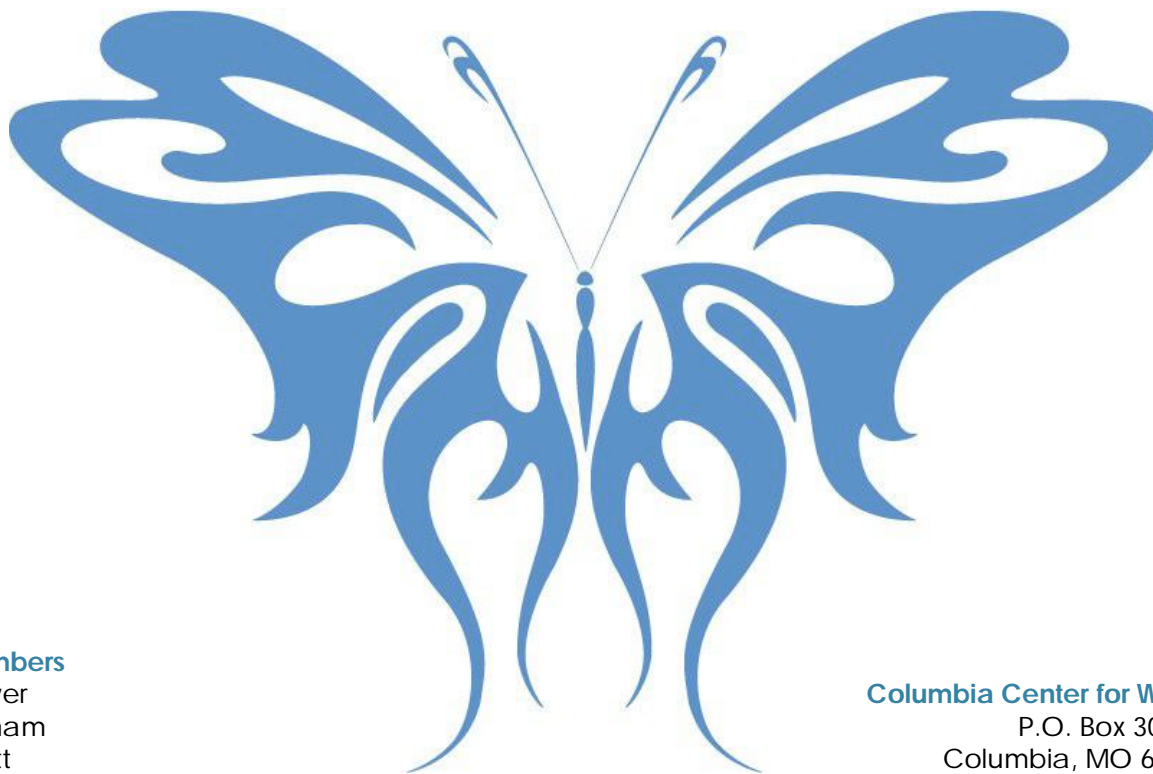
One of our challenges right now is to raise our level of monthly support. Our monthly expenses average \$1200 for keeping the Center open and functioning. Some who have given on a regular basis have had to reduce their amount due to the economic climate in which we live. We understand that. We also understand that the Lord is the One Who provides for our needs. Would you consider being a part of HOW He provides?

The Board is suggesting that we start a "\$10 Club." This would mean a commitment to giving at least that amount each month for one year. If we could count on a good number of new donors to do that, we would continue to meet our needs each month. Some of you already give more than that, and you have been a blessing to us. Some give on a 'sometime' basis, and that is greatly appreciated. It is a truism that it takes many hands to lighten the load...and any donations given on a *regular* basis really encourage us to keep on keeping on.

Would you consider this for a year? God promises to bless a cheerful giver, and we commit to using every dollar wisely for His glory.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this to along with you donation to:  
 CWM Club  
 P.O. Box 30705  
 Columbia, MO 65205-3705



### Board Members

- Debby Boyer
- Janie Bonham
- Cherie Stott
- Nancy Fedorchak
- Alice Schawo
- Yolanda Sekol

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