



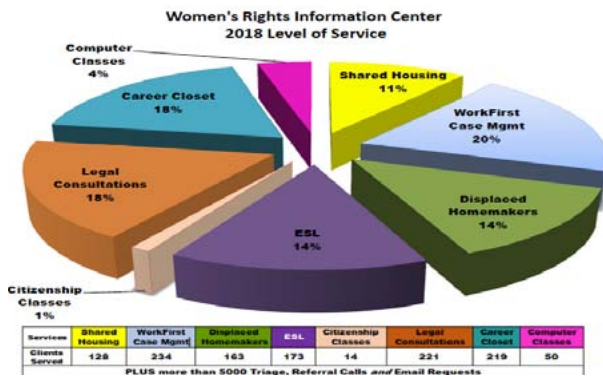
**WOMEN'S
RIGHTS
INFORMATION
CENTER**

FALL 2019

Write to Rights!

WRIC is a place for women in transition to gain career, life and resource-building skills that can change the direction of their economic futures for the better. Our goal is to promote a high quality of life for women as independent earners and self-sufficient members of the community.

Women's Rights Information Center 2018 Level of Service



HELLO FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



At the Center, women can get referrals, career clothing, a resume, coaching and a pep talk... all-important to fulfill our mission, which is to be a place for women in transition to gain career, life and resource-building skills that can change the direction of their economic futures for the better. We offer workshops and classes and legal consults and have Shared Housing, Case Management, ESL and Citizenship classes.

Although we provide all that, it is the kindness and our desire to uplift others that sometimes is our most valuable service. When we serve, we inspire hope, and hope is a powerful motivator and support for folks who may be struggling. Last year we expanded our Shared Housing services significantly, thanks to grants from Bergen County Senior Services and Women United in Philanthropy. As we go forward, we are expanding services this year to provide case management and a victim's advocate for crime victims, thanks to a grant from the Department of Justice. We do this enthusiastically and as earnestly as we can...all while we are trying to complete much needed repairs to our very old building, in order to make our space as welcoming as possible; a building that matches the care and concern we seek to give our clients. We promise to make hope, inspiration and uplifting program a main priority, even as we build a better house for those in need.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership to make our corner of the world a hope-inspiring place and a place that serves those in need to achieve better security in their lives. A Client recently remarked, "Thank you for helping me, my life has turned around 180 degrees, since I came to the Women's Center. I have a job and I'm going to college; I'm actually building a life."

Lil

December 3, 2019 • 5:30 -8:30 pm
Modiani Kitchens • Englewood, NJ

We are hosting our 7th annual event to raise awareness and support our mission of empowering women, to celebrate the success of women as they move forward in their lives AND to gather together to have some fun! We invite the giving community to join us in our mission of supporting women's empowerment

and economic self-sufficiency.

For event sponsorship opportunities or to donate gifts and prizes please go to events page at www.womensrights.org or Susan Bendes or Jan Sprance



SHARED HOUSING IS OFTEN THE ANSWER. . . An 85-year-old woman wanted to stay in Bergen County, where she had lived her whole life, but could no longer afford the region's rents on her fixed income. With her housing search nearing a dead end, she sought help from the Shared Housing program run by the Women's Rights Information Center. The program's director interviewed her and asked for references before recommending she share the home of an Englewood woman who was struggling to keep up with all of her monthly bills. Despite a 20-year difference in their ages, the two women bonded quickly, amazed to discover they belonged to the same church.

The Shared Housing Program has long been the only non-profit in Bergen County to serve as a matchmaker between overburdened homeowners and home-seekers priced out of the traditional housing market, many of whom have as little as \$500 to \$700 a month to spend on housing. Thanks to two new grants, one from Women United in Philanthropy and the other from the Bergen County Division of Senior Services, the Shared Housing program is expanding, planning to increase both its reach and its services. With the additional grant money, Director, Susan Bendes hopes to add follow-up services at 3, 6 and 9 months, and also to increase outreach efforts in the hope of persuading more struggling homeowners to consider such an arrangement. The program, open to men and women of any age, helps prospective roommates identify and avoid potential conflicts by completing a detailed housing agreement together. And if necessary, the Shared Housing staff will guide clients with roommate conflicts once they are living together. "We find homeowners can be very reluctant to opening their home to someone they don't know, even if they are finding it difficult to get by on their own," Bendes said.

Home-sharing can be a solution to the region's shortage of affordable housing, as well as a needed support system for an older homeowner. Advocates for older adults say formal guidance and support, is often needed for such arrangements to be successful.

For info call 201-568-1166, or www.womensrights.org/shared-housing

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOP was held on Aug 28th at WRIC. The discussion focused on what to do and what not to do when approached by Immigration officers (ICE) if encountered in the street or in the home. Many of our clients are vulnerable and scared. But even citizens could be mistaken for suspects and need to understand how to behave in these situations.

The session was very successful and well-received by everyone who attended. The presenter from Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center was informative and engaged the audience in role-playing and interactive discussions. He also provided resources for assistance and how to deal with any immigration issues, including legal advice.

Because it was so successful, we will be holding additional sessions in Spanish and English in November. The workshop dates will be announced once they are scheduled.



Wind of the Spirit
www.wotsnj.org
973-538-2035

NJ Immigrant Justice
www.njimmigrantjustice.org
973-681-8070



A PROBLEM ATTITUDE...CHANGE IT UP!



Nearly half of new hires (46%) fail within 18 months of being hired, according to research in Mark Murphy's book *Hiring For Attitude*. Why do so many fail? It's not a lack of technical skills (11% fail for that reason). Instead, 89% fail for attitudinal reasons—emotional intelligence, coachability, motivation and temperament.

1. Take a deep breath and free your mind of all the chatter.
2. Concentrate your thoughts on something inspirational.
3. Let go of wanting to be anywhere but where you are right now.
4. You don't need more. Appreciate what you have now.
5. Everything that happens helps you grow even if you can't see it now.
6. Stay in the present and enjoy it.
7. Take some deep breaths and stretch your arms into the air.

WRIC CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS

DATE & TIME	PROGRAM
Tuesdays, 11 AM.	Parenting Group
Tuesdays by appt.	Credit Counseling
3 rd Tuesday each mo.	Planned Parenthood
Beginning 9/30 (6 sessions). .	All About Social Security
OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH	
Thursday 10/10	Beautiful You (visiting hair stylist)
Thursdays 10/10-12/12 . . .	Microsoft Office Training
Wednesday 10/23.	Domestic Violence: Awareness and Prevention
Tuesday, Dec 3 rd	Wine & Cheese FUNdraiser

"WHERE MAGIC HAPPENS"



A CLIENT'S STORY

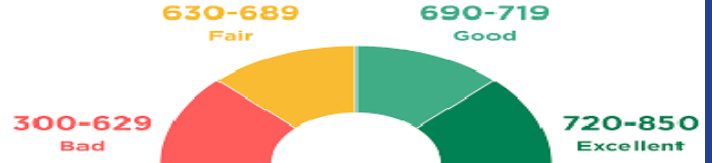
When I found my way to WRIC one morning in 2016, friendly staff welcomed me. At my intake I discovered I qualified for funded computer training. I walked out a few hours later with a new identity – displaced homemaker - and a new schedule for how I'd be spending my Tuesdays and Thursdays for the next four months!

Jan's Microsoft class met all day twice a week and it was just what I needed. I felt professional; I was dealing with stuff, but now I was embarking on a new positive trajectory, even if I had no idea where it would lead! I took advantage of all the extras offered at WRIC - like resume building, learning about transferable skills and LinkedIn, getting new clothes to wear (my size had changed in the interim), and enjoying snacks and lunch with my classmates.

But there were moments when it all seemed too slow and when I felt too broken to keep going. WRIC was always right there with a quick hug and zero tolerance for getting stuck in self-pity! And in class we held each other up with jokes and spontaneous fashion shows on the computer lab runway, reminding each other to "put on the big girl panties". My new career is in nonprofit fundraising and administration. Along the way, I worked several temporary and part time jobs but ultimately landed a position where I could live in my own place, pay the rent, and enjoy benefits.

WRIC was the place where I could move forward and change my life. I was sad when class was over but I have found that what I learned and gained, especially the friendships at WRIC, were for keeps. Thank you all.

HOW DOES YOUR CREDIT SCORE RATE



AND TEN THINGS THAT CAN HURT IT

- Overdue Library Books:
- Requesting a Credit Limit Increase
- Applying for Several Cards at Once
- Not Using Credit Cards at All
- Cosigning a loan/credit card for a friend
- Renting a Car Without a Credit Card
- Unpaid Parking Tickets
- Unpaid Medical Bills
- Getting New Cell Phone Contract
- Closing Credit Card w/a balance

WOMEN'S RIGHTS INFORMATION CENTER STAFF

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Lil Corcoran | Executive Director |
| Kaetlynn Ayala | Case Manager |
| Susan Bendes | Shared Housing Counselor |
| Donna Dalton | Case Manager |
| Karen Dennis | Technology Assistant |
| Cecilia Diaz | Case Manager |
| Ysabel Espinal | Case Manager |
| Lesley Greenblatt | Case Manager, Displaced Homemakers |
| Paula Madera | Housing Counselor, Shared Housing |
| Lisa Maurer | Employment Counselor |
| Jan Sprance | Technology Instructor/Career Counselor |
| Yornelis Tejada | Office Operations Coordinator |
| Martha Velez | Senior Case Manager |
| Jenifer Ippolito | Accountant |
| Miriam Bloom | Grants Manager |
| Sharon Kestenbaum | Developer |

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(201) 568-1166 • www.womensrights.org



For **JOBS** look for this logo at www.womensrights.org

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• **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/womensrightsinfo/

• **Sign up:** <http://tiny.cc/WRIC-SIGNUP>