



WOMANLINE TODAY

Summer 2011

Celebrating Forty Years of Service

This Spring marked the fortieth anniversary of the founding of Womanline. Known originally as Birthright of Dayton, an affiliate of an international movement, it was the vision of Jane and John Britt, a local social worker and educator.

Initially operating out of the Britt's home, then South Park Methodist Church, volunteers staffed phones, answering questions from hundreds of women. Help was provided for everything from pregnancy, labor and delivery, to adoption, employment, to maternity clothes, and transportation.

In 1976 the agency moved into a building on Brown Street and changed its name to Womanline to reflect a more holistic approach, placing equal emphasis on the emotional, social, spiritual, as well as physical needs of women. That move was followed ten years later to another building nearby.

Throughout the agency's first fifteen years, 30,000 volunteer hours were logged, over 50,000 clients sessions held, and 200,000 phone calls for assistance taken.

In appreciation of the agency's volunteer efforts to bring help to the community, President George Bush in 1991 awarded Womanline the 528th Daily

Point of Light of the Nation.

In 1996, the Board purchased the historic Kratochwill building in the Oregon District, and turned it into the current home of the agency.

Over the past twenty years Womanline has narrowed its mission, focusing on the emotional needs of women, especially those who were sexually abused as children. In addition to its counseling services, the agency began to address the problem of abuse of children. During the past ten years, *I Can Tell* program staff members have taught thousands of young children how to recognize the signs of abuse and find trusted adults to tell.

In 2008 Womanline became accredited by the Council on Accreditation. This was an important milestone, as it meant the agency could be certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and begin billing Medicaid for low-income clients. As very few of the agency's clients can afford the full cost of counseling, this new source of revenue has helped to extend our services to more women in the community.

As we celebrate our fortieth anniversary, let us pause to remember the woman, whose vision led her to found the agency.

Jane Britt, who along with her husband, John, founded what was originally called Birthright of Dayton, died on November 3, 2010. She was born on Spetember 8, 1931 in Wausau, Wisconsin.



She received her Masters in Social Work degree from St. Louis University. In 1969, Jane was selected as one of the top ten women in Dayton by the Dayton Daily News.

The University of Dayton recognized her contributions to the community in 1997, when she was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humanities.

Jane served as the first director of the agency, resigning in 1978 to take a six month sabbatical with her husband in Ireland. She continued to be involved the community in numerous ways until her retirement from public life.

LETTER

from the

Director

As we look back over the past forty years, we indeed have much to celebrate. Most importantly, what we must celebrate is the human spirit, the compassion, the hope for all humanity that our founders, and countless others who followed their lead, shared.

Though our mission has evolved over the decades, that same combination of hope and action still drives us today.

While women today have so many more resources at hand than their mothers, the social and emotional challenges women face today far exceed what their parents could have imagined. The social fabric that held families and communities together a generation ago, today seems stretched to breaking. The stress created by an economy that fails so many, puts women and children at a greater risk than we could have imagined forty years ago. There is no question that most women have the internal fortitude, the strength, and the intellectual, social, and emotional capacity not only to survive today's challenges, but thrive. Sadly, however, not all women do.

Each day our counselors work with women, who face still the specter of abuse that occurred in their childhood; who struggle to contain the hurt; who find it hard to keep on going each day; who wonder if there is a point anymore to trying, or even to go on living.

The question we ask ourselves is, "Can we offer these women hope; do we have the resources at hand, the skills to help them visualize a better life, to set a goal, and in the end reach it?" I know that for some who call out for help, we are lacking what they need. But for most we can help them untangle the scars of their past, to gather up their innate strengths, to begin to believe in themselves, and make changes in their lives.

The long history of Womanline is distinguished by the way others have given their time, their resources, or both to carry on a mission that is today no less critical than it was in 1971.

To all of those who have shared and supported our work over the years, to all of those who envision a community where children grow up safe from abuse, and survivors have hope of being emotionally, socially, and spiritually whole once again, and support our today, let me say, thank you.

2011 Young Women Leaders Honored

Four years ago, Womanline in collaboration with the women's centers at the University of Dayton and Wright State University, and Sinclair College created an award to recognize young women leaders, who in the tradition of women before them, have stepped up and begun to improve the lives of others. The young women recognized by the award embody compassion, affirmation of the dignity of all people, a commitment to social justice, and a passion for service.



Jill Bucaro Kristen Hammaker Brittany Katalenas

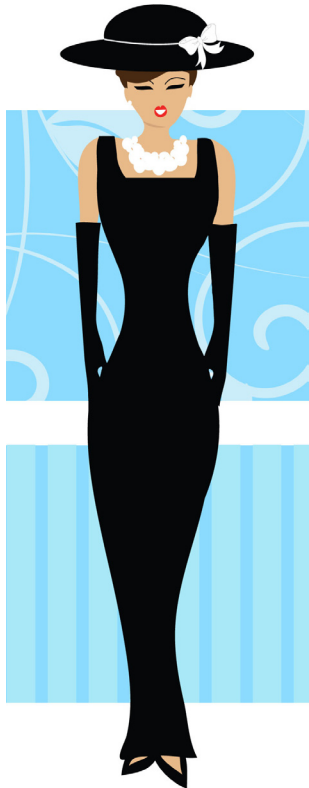
Jill Bucaro, a UD senior, spent five weeks in Zambia, working with students in impoverished rural schools. Upon her return to Dayton, she couldn't forget about the teachers and students, and decided she needed to do more. Over the course of the next several months she organized friends and family members, and began raising money and collecting school supplies. She worked with UD students and people in the IT Department to refurbish laptop computers (high on the list of items teachers in Zambia asked for). The following summer she packed everything she had collected into eleven suitcases and headed back to the south central African country.

When Kristen Hammaker, a UD senior, found that many students in East Dayton (where she grew up) were not succeeding in school, she decided to put her heart and skills toward making a difference. She took off a semester from school, and worked as an intern and volunteer at Ruskin Elementary School. At the end of the semester, she continued her community work by volunteering at East End Community Services, where she led activity groups for children. Back on campus, she used her organizational skills to develop a commuter organization as an official resource for off-campus students.

Brittany Katalenas, a Wright State Lake Campus student, became concerned about single parents who were faced with quitting school because they could not afford child care. As president of the Women Supporting Women group, she encouraged and led members in the creation of a scholarship fund. This involved plenty of work, from conducting surveys, leading the fundraising committee, convincing the Athletics Director to let them sell concessions at games, asking for donations, and running bake sales. In addition, Brittany volunteers at the Family Crisis Network's domestic violence shelter.

It is the selection committee's hope that other young people will be inspired by these women and follow them in a long tradition of women helping others and working to make the community and the world a better place. Nominations for the 2012 Young Women Leaders award will be accepted beginning in January. If you know a young woman who deserves to be recognized, check the Womanline web site, www.womanlinedayton.org in January, 2012.

2012 Annual Fashion Show



The Womanline Auxiliary is already busy planning next year's annual luncheon. The luncheon will move to a new venue at the Dayton Marriott. The 2012 theme is *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and the members are thinking up all sorts of entertaining ways to play with that theme.

In keeping with the theme and allowing guests to have more time on their Saturday afternoon, the event will be a brunch served at 11:00 A.M. As in the past, the event will include a raffle and fashion show.

If you would like to be a part of the planning or help out with the luncheon in any way, just call the Womanline number, 223-3446, and let us know.

The luncheon will be on May 5. Tickets go on sale in late March, 2012. If you are not on our mailing list, call Julie at 223-3446.

Good mental health is an important part of a woman's overall health.

Your mental health is as important as your physical health. In fact, new research is showing us how closely the two are connected. Taking care of your mental health can help you feel better physically. And taking care of our body is important to your mental health.

40th ANNIVERSARY FUND DRIVE

Like most non-profit organizations, Womanline has felt a financial pinch over the past several years. With 70% of our funds coming from individual donations, United Way, foundations, and our annual fundraising event, the economic downturn has meant a decline in support we have relied on for the pasty forty years.

Since 2007, support from these sectors has dropped 12%. Though not the largest in dollar amount, the single largest decline has been in United Way funding, which is 38% less than what it was five years ago.

With accreditation and certification (see article on the front page), we were able to begin billing Medicaid in 2009. With an aggressive business plan, revenue from counseling in 2010 doubled the average for the prior five years. Although we see continuing growth in revenue earned from Medicaid and insurance, sustaining our counseling program will always depend on donations and foundation support. Even though most of our clients live on limited incomes, they do not qualify for Medicaid, and therefore pay a small percent of what it costs us to provide counseling.

To help us overcome this loss in essential support, the Board of Trustees initiated this spring a fund drive to raise \$1,000 for each of the forty years Womanline has been serving the community.

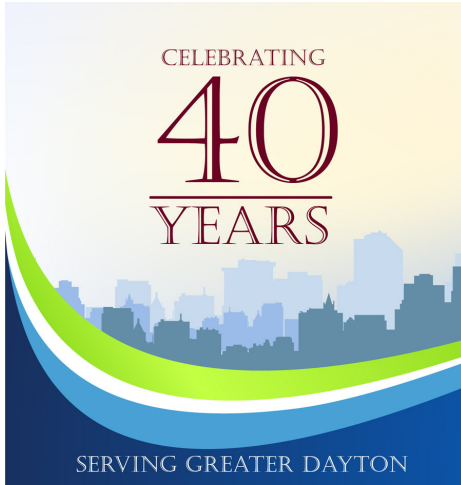
In the first six weeks of the drive, we have raised \$3,200 or 8% of our goal, but have a long way to go to meet our goal of \$40,000.

We need your help to continue our mission.

You can help by making a one-time donation in any amount, either by check or by donating online. If you want to do more, you can create a fundraising page on our web site and ask family, friends, co-workers, and others to sponsor you. Another way to raise money to support our work is to create a team of people, who will work with you. To make a donation online or to learn more about personal fundraising, go to our web site, www.womanlinedayton.org, or call John O'Bryan, at 223-3446.



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Join Us For A Great Italian Dinner at Franco's



Womanline is pleased to be chosen by
Franco's Ristorante Italiano
as charity of the month for August.

Join us for dinner on

August 1
From 4:00 to 9:00

10% of the cost of your dinner (alcohol excluded) will go to support Womanline.

Get together a party of friends. Reservations accepted except for patio dining.

*Located at 824 E. Fifth Street
in the Oregon District.*

web: www.franco-italiano.com Phone: 222-0204

Voted Best Italian Restaurant by readers of Active Dayton