

"Women Together": formed to meet needs of women

BEAVERTON - The real needs of women; what are they and

how should they be met; these questions were posed as the new women's resource center got underway in Washington County last week.

Over 60 women met at Pacific University to discuss what they, as women, wanted. Issues that have concerned women during the past decade, women's lib and feminism, these were left aside.

"We looked at women, whoever they were, at what they wanted and needed," said spokeswoman Judy Schilling, speaking for the group.

A new center, to be called "Women Together" was organized. Pacific Univer-

sity is giving them free space in the basement of Bates House on College Way.

The center will make referrals, help women connect up with other people and get new groups going, according to Ms. Schilling.

Consciousness raising groups have already been started. These groups are a means whereby women can come together, talk, explore their feelings and get support from others. Currently groups are going in Beaverton; Aloha and Gaston.

Another area that concerns the center is divorces for low-income women. Right now, Ms. Schilling said, these women cannot

get a divorce through legal services, which had to cut back on the budget, reprioritize needs and divorces came out last, she said.

The center also will get into career opportunities for women who want to change their lifestyles, juvenile rights, rape advocacy and work for a women's shelter home.

Ms. Schilling sees the home as a real necessity in the county. Working out of the Community Action Agency, she has seen lots of women come in, black and blue from beatings.

"These women have been beaten up by their husbands and have nowhere to go,"

she said. "They need the basics of survival, a place to live, food to eat. I have seen lots of women who want to get out of their present situation, but have nowhere to turn."

The shelter home would offer women protection, for a short time, until they can pull their lives together, Ms. Schilling suggested.

All in all, the women's resource center will be a place just for women, "a place where they can share ideas and needs, a place that will offer real resources to them," Ms. Schilling said.

Thus far, nothing has existed for women in the west end of the

county. There are a lot of women isolated, living out in the hills who need this kind of a center, according to Ms. Schilling.

"In Washington County," she said, "the invisibility of women remains, in the lack of services available for women which speak to their needs, in the lack of social possibilities, and the lack of cultural and educational activities which are of special interest to women."

Women interested in learning more about "Women Together" should contact either Turie Funkhousen at 357-6151, extension 286 or Judy Schilling at 648-6646.

Officers for the group



Judy Schilling

have been chosen. Carolyn Howard and Turie Funkhousen will be co-chairpersons. Barb Foster is secretary and Myrna Pole-

netz is treasurer. The center will be staffed by volunteers, at least in the be-

ginning, Ms. Schilling said. "We are applying for Ceta funding to hire a full time coordinator," she said.

At its meeting at Pacific University, Women Together became a non-profit corporation.

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