

WOMEN'S SURVIVAL CENTER

2004 WSC Office Locations: Bloomfield Hills and Pontiac

WSC Service Area: Oakland

Service Population: 88,582 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



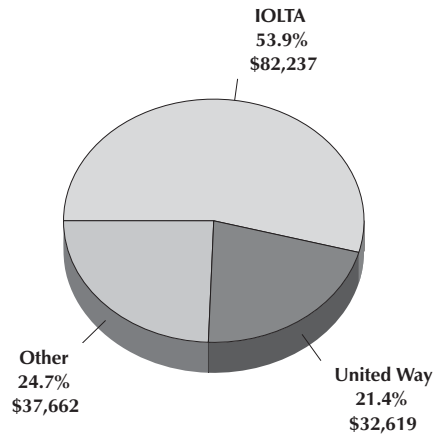
Women's Survival Center (WSC) provides direct family law representation to Oakland County women and families who are survivors of domestic violence, are threatened with denial of access to their children, or have special needs. WSC's services include free legal clinics, assistance obtaining Personal Protection Orders and follow-up services, in addition to information and referral, counseling services, and child care.

WSC partners with area shelters, HAVEN and Common Ground Sanctuary, and with the Oakland County Bar Association and Legal Aid and Defender (LAD) to coordinate legal clinics, direct legal services, and pro bono representation. WSC is also active through the local HELP Program (Help End Legal Problems) coalition of local agencies which includes a HELPLINE phone system, a local office in the courts, regular outreach to domestic violence shelters, and community education and training on domestic violence issues.

A divorced father obtained custody of his children during their holiday visit with him by falsely telling the court the mother had abandoned them. The mother spent weeks unsuccessfully trying to see the children and correct the situation by contacting the police and filing complaints with the Friend of the Court. Her efforts had not worked because she did not know how to properly navigate the legal system. WSC immediately filed an emergency motion for custody and parenting time. Within 4 days, the mother regained custody of her two young children who are now back with the parent they have lived with their entire lives.

A mother contacted WSC seeking protection from her abusive husband. The husband often threatened to kill the mother or take away their infant child. After a beating that left the client unconscious, WSC assisted the mother in obtaining a Personal Protection Order and successfully defend it in court against the husband's objections. WSC later also helped the mother obtain a divorce. The mother was finally able to live with her child without fear and has begun steps to support herself and her child by returning to school.

WSC Sources of Funding for 2004: \$ 152,518



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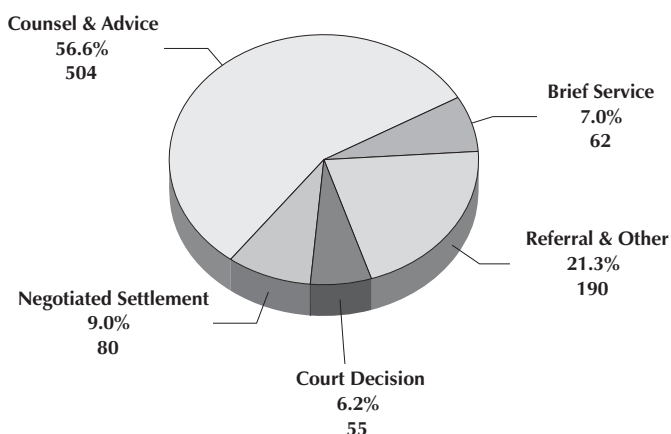
Community Outreach and Collaboration. A major part of WSC's outreach to the community is working with other domestic violence shelters in the area and legal organizations such as Legal Aid and Defender and the Oakland County Bar Association to ensure that the family law needs of Oakland County residents are being met. Holding legal clinics monthly at HAVEN, an Oakland County domestic violence shelter, eliminates many barriers such as lack of transportation and child care for shelter clients who need legal assistance. The ability to meet with an experienced attorney in a safe environment helps domestic violence survivors assess their options or begin legal action to keep themselves and their children safe. At the legal clinics conducted by WSC, volunteer counselors, social workers, or counseling interns are available to assist clients in addition to the pro se, direct legal representation or pro bono help that is offered.

Client Age	
18 & Under	6
19-59	869
60 & Over	16
Groups	0
Total	891

Pro Bono Support. In 2004, WSC worked with LAD and the Oakland County Bar Association to create a joint attorney recruitment campaign and brochures describing the division of legal services in Oakland County. The joint campaign was successful in recruiting local pro bono attorneys willing to help those in need of family law assistance. WSC and Common Ground Sanctuary also worked together to offer training to pro bono attorneys interested in serving family law clients but needing more substantive skills to do so. The training offered detailed information about divorce practice in Oakland County and encouraged the attorneys to offer pro bono assistance by taking direct representation cases, working on the Helpline or in WSC legal clinics.

Client Ethnicity	
White	619
Black	201
Hispanic	38
Native American	5
Asian	9
Other	19
Total	891

WSC Types of Service in 2004



WSC Cases Closed in 2004: 891

