

WOMEN'S SURVIVAL CENTER

2005 WSC Office Locations: Bloomfield Hills and Pontiac

WSC Service Area: Oakland County

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



Women's Survival Center (WSC) provided direct family law representation in 2005 to Oakland County men, women and families surviving domestic violence, threatened with denial of access to their children, or having special needs. WSC partnered with area shelters, HAVEN and Common Ground Sanctuary, and with the Oakland County Bar Association and Legal Aid

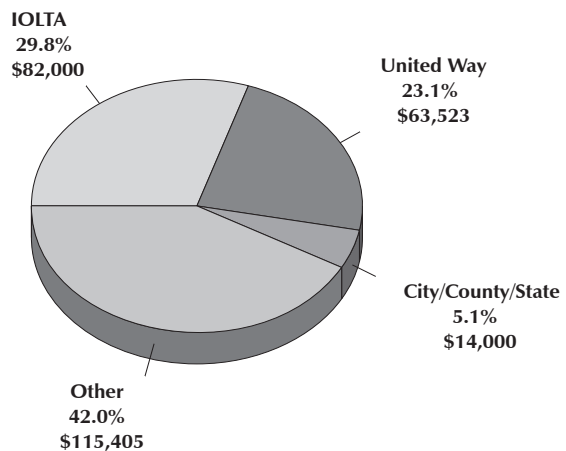
A young man attending WSC's pro se clinic sought legal assistance after his spouse left Michigan with their only child without court permission after she was served with divorce papers. The wife and child were finally located in Georgia. WSC assisted the father in obtaining a divorce judgment that included a liberal parenting time schedule to allow the father to maintain his parental relationship and see the child on a regular basis.

and Defender Association (LAD) to coordinate legal clinics, give direct legal services, and provide pro bono representation. In 2005, Women's Survival Center

began its "Ask The Lawyer" program, a monthly event at the child care center in Pontiac, where parents signed up for private legal consultations with a Women's Survival Center attorney. 2005 was the last full year of operation for Women's Survival Center. At the time of the 2006 printing of this report, Women's Survival Center had decided to close. The agencies listed above as well as Lakeshore Legal Aid, courts, funders, and others worked with Women's Survival Center to assure that all existing cases, clinics and other pending Women's Survival Center legal services received support so that needed client services would continue throughout the closing of the organization.

A young woman was severely abused throughout her short marriage. Kept isolated in her home and beaten over several days, she finally escaped when she was taken in the car to a gas station and sent inside by her husband to buy bottled water. The woman took the opportunity to run for her life and left the gas station with only the clothes she was wearing. WSC helped the woman locate safe shelter and get and maintain a Personal Protection Order to protect her from the abusive husband.

WSC Sources of Funding for 2005: \$ 274,928



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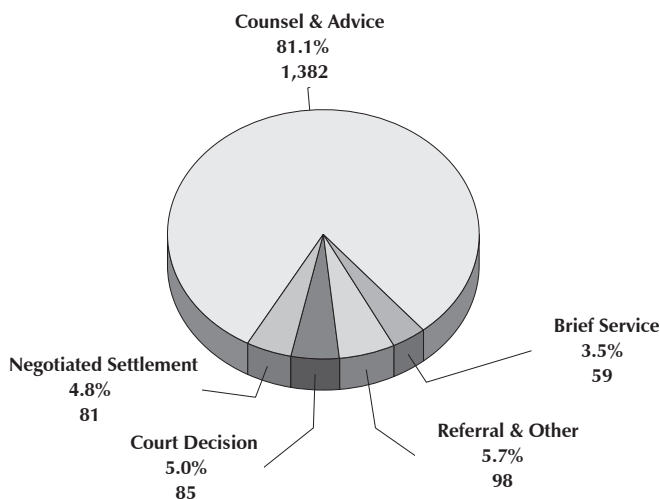
Community Outreach and Collaboration. A major part of WSC's outreach to the community was working with other domestic violence shelters and legal organizations in the area, including monthly legal clinics at HAVEN, an Oakland County domestic violence shelter. Legal clinics at the shelter eliminated barriers such as lack of transportation and child care for shelter clients and helped educate clients about their options or begin legal action to keep themselves and their children safe. At the legal clinics conducted by Women's Survival Center, volunteer counselors, social workers, or counseling interns were available to assist clients in addition to the pro se, direct legal representation or pro bono help offered. Women's Survival Center was also active through the local HELP Program (Help End Legal Problems), a coalition of local agencies which includes a local office in the courts, regular outreach to domestic violence shelters, and community education and training on domestic violence issues.

Client Age	
18 & Under	50
19-59	1,603
60 & Over	52
Groups	0
Total	1,705

Pro Bono Support. WSC worked with LAD and the Oakland County Bar Association to create a joint attorney recruitment campaign. The collaboration produced brochures describing the legal aid programs and their division of legal services in Oakland County. The joint campaign was successful in recruiting several local pro bono attorneys willing to help those in need of family law assistance. In an effort to encourage attorneys to offer pro bono assistance WSC also teamed up with Common Ground Sanctuary to offer training to attorneys interested in serving pro bono family law clients but needing more substantive skills. As a result of these efforts, WSC was able to assist over 180 Oakland County residents secure a pro bono attorney in 2005.

Client Ethnicity	
White	887
Black	544
Hispanic	57
Native American	6
Asian	16
Other	195
Total	1,705

WSC Types of Service in 2005



WSC Cases Closed in 2005: 1,705

