

Fact Sheet 2008
The Keeler Women's Center
2220 Central Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66102
913.906.8990
www.mountosb.org/kwc/

Who are we? The Keeler Women's Center is a ministry of the Benedictine Sisters, of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas. Three Benedictine Sisters staff the Center. They collaborate with two interns from the KU School of Social Welfare and an average of 60/+ volunteers each month.

What is our Mission? Our mission is to empower women in the urban core of Kansas City through education, advocacy, personal and spiritual development.

How do we fulfill our mission? We partner with professional volunteers and other non-profit organizations to provide a wide variety of programs and services.

Who do we serve? We have no boundaries. Anyone who wants to attend our programs may attend. We serve women and men from throughout the metropolitan area and beyond. We make decisions based on the needs of women but we also serve men, although some support groups and programs are limited to women. Whenever possible, we provide childcare for women attending our programs or receiving services here.

How many do we serve? In an average month we serve about 300 women, 20 – 25 men and offer childcare to approximately 20 children.

What programs and services are offered and who are our partners? Our programs are holistic and designed to meet the many needs of women. They include:

- Counseling, offered in partnership with Catholic Charities
- Addictions and Domestic Violence education and support group, offered in partnership with Friends of Yates/Joyce Williams Shelter for Battered Women
- Parenting classes, offered in partnership with the Wyandot Center
- The *EXCEL* program, offered in partnership with Synergy Services
- Basic Literacy, offered in partnership with Literacy Kansas City
- Nutrition classes and cleaning workshops, offered in partnership with K-State Extension Society
- Pregnancy Testing and Consultation, with the Wyandotte Pregnancy Clinic
- Support Group for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one, in partnership with St. Luke's Hospice
- *Financial Fitness* classes, in partnership with Empowerment Consulting and the Women's Department of Labor
- *All My Money* series, in partnership with Project Eagle
- *Would You Hire You?* in partnership with Deb Enterprises
- Counseling for survivors of Sexual Assault, in partnership with the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, (MOCSA)

- Support group for Spanish-speaking Survivors of Domestic Violence and also *Alcoholics Anonymous* for Spanish-speaking women, in partnership with El Centro
- Workshop for potential home owners, in partnership with Guadalupe Centers, Inc.
- Support group for moms with postpartum depression, in partnership with The Postpartum Resource Center of Kansas
- Relaxation Workshop, in partnership with Radiant Health
- Workshop on skin care and make up for the workplace, in partnership with a Mary Kay representative
- We partner with Duchesne Clinic to help uninsured Kansans receive health services.

Are there other ways volunteers assist us? Yes, volunteers assist with hospitality and childcare. They also offer massage, spiritual direction, presentations about holy women, education and support groups for women, a support group for case managers, *Dress for Success* workshops, *Afternoon at the Spa*, *Bible Prayer with Real Life Issues*, a *Writing for Life* workshop, a monthly *Women Writers group*, tutoring, *Easy English*, etc. Many of our programs are on-going. Other programs are added from time to time as we have new volunteers.

Does the Center do any outreach? Yes, we provide a weekly life-skills program for women at the Wyandotte Detention Center. We also offer regular programs at Donnelly College.

How are we funded? Most of our funding comes through a grant from the ministry fund of the Benedictine Sisters which helps provide the three staff members. Donations from individuals and foundation grants help with hospitality, program and other expenses.

How can someone volunteer to assist at the Center? Volunteers can call the Center at 913.906.8990 and ask for Sister Carol Ann Petersen, director, or Sister Jeannine Neavitt who is in charge of volunteers.

How can someone make a donation to the Center? Donations to the Center can be made out to Mount St. Scholastica, Inc. for the Keeler Women's Center. Information about memorials and other gifts is available on our website, www.mountsb.org/kwc/ .

How can someone get more information or be placed on the mailing list to receive regular information about what's happening at the Center? Call the Center or e-mail us at kwc@mountsb.org. We also keep an updated listing of current programs on our website at www.mountsb.org/kwc/ .