



FORT COLLINS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 2001 WORK PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Fort Collins Commission on the Status of Women completed its long anticipated study project on the economic status of women in Fort Collins in 1999. The Commission devoted much time and energy in 2000 promoting the report to various public entities.

For 2001, the Commission plans to continue to promote the Commission report recommendations. To this end, the Commission will continue to work on the problems of childcare.

Along with the childcare issue, the Commission will continue to sponsor two historical activities that will include spotlighting Women's History Month and Women's Equality Day.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

Childcare Activity - The Commission chose childcare as its priority category again for 2001 to collaborate with the City Council and other entities. We have created a task force, which will interface with appropriate departments, to assist in implementing the recommendations made in the Commission report. We plan to provide leadership for a public awareness activity by November 2001, in which the objective is to establish a community coalition on childcare.

Women's History Month Essay Contest - The Commission will again sponsor an essay contest for Poudre School District junior high students. A subcommittee will continue to work with Poudre School District with the coordination of the contest packets in early January. Student entries will be reviewed in February and winners will be selected in March. The winners will be honored at a City Council meeting and presented with certificates and monetary awards. The *Fort Collins Coloradoan* will be notified of the winning essays and encouraged to publish the students' essays in recognition and support of Women's History Month.

Marcile N. Wood - The Commission will again sponsor the Marcile N. Wood award recognizing an outstanding woman in the Fort Collins community who has demonstrated innovation and made considerable contributions to the community. A subcommittee will send out, and review, applications and select a winner and two honorees by July. In

accordance with Women's Equality Day in August, the winner and honorees, along with family and friends, will be honored with a small informal reception at City Hall. When City Council convenes for their regularly scheduled meeting, the winner and honorees will be recognized and presented with a certificate a plaque.

COMMISSION LIAISONS

Colorado State University Liaison – The Commission will work with the CSU liaison, Dr. Karen Wedge, to exchange information and ideas on issues of concern to women in the community.

Relations with the Human Rights Resource and Education Office – The Commission will continue to work with the Human Rights Office, regarding the Commission's mission, history, and activities. The Commission looks forward to continuing the partnership with the City's Human Rights Office and interfacing on projects and issues concerning the city and community.

Relationship with City Council – The Commission will continue to work with the City Council Liaison, Karen Weitkenat, to track the Council's policy agenda and, in the Commission's advisory role, provide information and appropriate comments to the City Council on issues of concern to women in Fort Collins.

Relationship with Larimer County Health Department – The Commission will continue to have a liaison, Kim Walkenhorst, of the EPSDT Program, for the purpose of updating the Commission on its activities and to be able to support the liaison in an appropriate manner.

GENERAL TIME-LINE

December:

Rewrite instructions to teachers concerning the Women's History Month Essay Contest.
Commission retreat and yearly summary and evaluations.
Present annual report to City Council.
Have 200 copies of the Commission report made.

January:

Form committees for (1) Marcile N. Wood Award and (2) Women's Equality Day.
Distribute Women's History Month essay contest packets to junior high schools.
Confirm Women's History Month essay contest prize gift certificates with the Foothills Fashion Mall.

February:

Follow-up with teachers regarding the essay contest (early February).
Collect, review and vote on winners for the Women's History Month essay contest.
Form subcommittee for November public awareness event regarding childcare.

March:

Presentation of awards for Women's History Month essay contest winners to City Council.

April:

Compile mailing list for Marcile N. Wood Award.
Mail invitations to nominate for the Marcile N. Wood Award.

May:

Childcare committees will gather and sort data for 2002 work plan.

June:

Deadline for nominations for Marcile N. Wood Award.
Complete first rough draft of 2002 work plan.

July:

Select winners of Marcile N. Wood Award.
Plan for Women's Equality Day.
Send out invitations for Marcile N. Wood Award presentation and reception.

August:

At City Council meeting:
 Present the Marcile N. Wood Award.
 Proclamation of Women's Equality Day and celebration.
Approve slate of officers.

September:

Complete work plan.
Elect new officers.

October:

Review all subcommittees and task force assignments.

November:

Present work plan to City Council.
Implement public awareness activity.

December:

Present annual report to City Council.
Retreat and yearly summary and evaluations.