

## 1990 WORK PLAN

### FORT COLLINS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The purpose of the Commission is to 1. Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council to affect and identify legislation for policy changes which would enhance the status of women in Fort Collins; 2. To act as advocates on behalf of women in Fort Collins to recognize, validate and educate the community on the unique critical and unresolved issues facing women today. To carry out the two major functions for our work this year we have organized into three committees. We are presenting this workplan under three committee headings Basic Needs, Legal, Economic and Government, and Outreach. We are focusing on the following activities for 1990.

#### **BASIC NEEDS COMMITTEE**

The Basic Needs Committee would like to focus on a more narrow scope of activity for 1990.

The issues we would like to address during 1990 are as follows:

1. Investigate the existence and availability of parenting support groups within the community including schools, churches, places of business (employers) toward enabling the provision of more such groups to address the expressed needs of parents. It is hoped that such new groups would be parent-run and utilize existing facilities.
2. This committee will continue to work with the Child Care Coalition and other groups to commemorate The Week of the Young Child in April, as well as continuing to seek solutions to the child care dilemmas of our community and its working poor.
3. This committee would also like to investigate what exists in the community relative to education of single mothers (the single largest group in poverty), and to assess the adequacy of available resources.
4. The Basic Needs Committee is concerned about the occurrence of domestic abuse and would like to investigate (along with any other committees) programs now in place to address the needs of the victims and the perpetrators (including Crossroads, the Women's Center, the Crisis and Information Helpline). It is our desire to encourage full funding of these programs.
5. The Basic Needs Committee will continue its efforts to provide the City Council with input on women's issues as they relate to the basic needs of the members of this community on an as-needed basis.

#### **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The Outreach Committee must be responsive to emerging needs of the community. It requires a synergistic relationship with other agencies in the city to discover the needs of women and so advise the Council. A letter has been

sent to a number of local agencies, describing the Commission and its goals for 1990. The committee plans to do the following:

1. Continue "Womans/Pace", a weekly column in the Triangle Review providing the Commission a vehicle to inform the community of available resources and raise appropriate issues.
2. Continue to support the June Friedman Women's Resource Center at the Fort Collins Public Library. The "Womans/Pace" column provides continuing support for this important resource.
3. Co-ordinate Women's History Month in March to heighten the community awareness of women's contribution to history and culture. We are negotiating with Eleanor Gehres, of the Denver Public Library to display the Women in Colorado History exhibit at the Foothills Fashion Mall during the month of March 1990.
4. Continue the Women in Your Own History Essay contest established three years ago for junior high students.
5. Organize a forum to research the specific needs of senior women citizens as they apply to the new Senior Center. This forum would gather information on location, facility design, services and fee assistance needs for senior citizens. Information from the forum will be reviewed and the City Council advised of the results.
6. To support Poudre R-1's continuing efforts to include women in history in their curriculum by referring ideas from the National Association of Women's Commission and bibliographies and text from the National Women's History Project. Advise Poudre R-1 on new ways to counteract gender-bias in the schools.

As a responsive committee we will continue to assist the Commission committees in reaching their goals by holding forums and otherwise disseminating information. When new situations arise, we will be responsive to them and organize forums or other means to assemble information to advise the council.

#### **LEGAL, GOVERNMENT & ECONOMIC SUBCOMMITTEE**

1. To continue to collect detailed current information on the economic situation of women, to review these data for their implications for the welfare of children, families, business and the general community, and to share this information with the City Council, in the form of recommendations for strategies for improving the economic situation of women.
2. To explore ways to improve the economic situation of women in the city by:
  - A. Working to increase the sensitivity of employers to the need for equity and fair labor practices for women.
  - B. Exploring and recommending to council strategies for encouraging new employers coming into the community to offer equity and fair

labor practices for women.

C. Designing and seeking sponsors for workshops for women on improving their economic situation in the workplace.

D. Encouraging women to seek training and education for non-traditional jobs which may offer greater income possibilities, and to apply for such jobs when they become available.

E. Constructing a plan for doing a Court Watch in local Domestic Relations Court, to be certain that gender bias is not reflected in the Court's decisions. To provide this information to the Judicial Performance Committee of the Colorado Bar Association.

3. To be alert to actions that should be recommended to the City Council in order to continue to improve the City's record as a community where women are able to achieve economic security and comfort.

The Commission will continue to make its work known to local agencies and organizations. We look forward to another productive and successful year.