

History of Women In Need, Inc.

Early 1980s

A group of Greenville citizens became concerned about the lack of resources for family violence victims in this area. This group consisted of a Department of Human Services (DHS) social worker, police personnel, several business owners and clergy. After surveying the needs, the group met again and reported that: many times when police intervened in a family violence crisis, they brought the victim and children to the police station where they sat all day or night until they left. Usually victims had no money, and sometimes family and friends were not an option to stay with because of the danger involved. Often victims had no options.

The group of concerned citizens held a town meeting, which was attended by nine people. The town meeting was held to report the needs of family violence victims to the public. A committee was formed to see if there was any funding available to provide shelter and services to victims of family violence. Two local businesswomen, Doris Jones and Mildred (Mo) Bates, made the first contribution of \$5,000.00. An additional \$4,000.00 was raised by the committee through local donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses in Greenville.

1983

With this \$9,000.00 a non-profit corporation was formed and a Board of Directors organized. The Board applied to Texas Department to Human Services for funding and received their first grant. With these monies, a shelter down payment was made and basic needs such as shelter, clothing and food were provide. In this phase, the shelter was staffed by board members and other volunteers.

1984-1985

An Executive Director was hired, and a shelter director was the next staff position filled. Free office space was donated. The office space did not work out so the offices were moved back to the shelter.

1988

A new Executive Director was hired and services were expanded to include counseling, legal advocacy, information and referral services and a volunteer program. Offices were leased and moved from the shelter to downtown so WIN could start a non-residential program (for men and women who need services, excluding shelter).

1989-1992

WIN became a United Way funded agency. The Gladys Clayton Foundation funding began. Several grants were received and additional staff members where hired. The Greenville Resale Shop "My Sister's Closet" opened in downtown Greenville, Texas.

1993-1998

New grants received allowed WIN to help victims with first months rent, delinquent utility bills and propane. Helping Hands outreach office was established in Rockwall, Texas. WIN bought the office and Resale space with a payout of ten (10) years. FEMA funds began as a part of the WIN program. Staff was extended to include a legal advocate, receptionist and shelter personnel. WIN began a partnership with the Green Thumb Program that provides additional staff, which continues today. The Quinlan Outreach and Resale Shop was opened. New grants received allowed WIN to help victims with first months' rent, delinquent utility bills and propane. Helping Hands outreach office was established in Rockwall, Texas.

1999

As the Board realized that the number of victims served increased, the shelter did not meet the community needs. A capital campaign began. With the first monies raised, land was purchased to build a new shelter.

2000

Ground was broken for the shelter and a new 5000 sq. ft. building was started. Money was raised from businesses, foundations, individuals, many fund raisers, and the last \$160,000.00 was donated by the Meadows Foundation. The Commerce Outreach and Resale Shop was opened.

2001

In October 2001 WIN moved into a \$500,00.00 facility that will house 45 victims of family violence that is debt free. All the furnishings were either donated or purchased with grant or donated monies. In December 2001 the WIN staff moved into a 1600 sq. ft. office addition to the shelter that is also debt free. The Commerce Outreach and Resale Shop moved into a larger building with a better location.

2002

WIN purchased land next door to the shelter to build a new Resale Shop that will move from downtown location. The move in date was scheduled for 2003. This land was also debt free. The buildings downtown and the previous shelter have been sold.

A Summer Program is started for children in the shelter (June-July) with McKinney Homeless funds dispersed by V.T.D.

2003

The WIN Board of Directors decided it would be too costly to build the Greenville Resale Shop on the property at 3304 Stonewall Street and listed the property for sale. The property was sold. A long-term (five year) lease was taken on a 5,000 square foot building in downtown Greenville at 2601 Johnson Street. On February 22, 2003, "My Sister's Closet" began the move into the Johnson Street location. The Johnson Street location was a better location because it provided more retail and work space and was nicer for our clientele and staff.

The Commerce Resale Shop was relocated into a shopping center on Live Oak Street. The building has 4,700 square feet, more parking and a better location.

The Quinlan Resale Shop re-negotiated another lease on the current property.

2004 - 2007

The Outreach Program was extended to focus more on Black and Hispanic communities.

A new Outreach Coordinator was hired with Office of the Attorney General (OAG) funding to provide Hunt County Community Education and a Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program to Hunt County ISDs.

A new manager and staff were hired for the Greenville Resale Shop. Quinlan Resale Shop and Greenville Resale Shop were co-managed.

Problems developed in the shelter's foundation, producing cracks in walls over doorways and in concrete floors. The completed repairs cost in excess of \$22,000.00. The money for repairs was borrowed and repaid. Budget and funding sources continued to grow.

Rockwall WIN in 2005 started providing DV Direct Services out of Helping Hands office space located on Williams Street in Rockwall Texas. The Advocate provided services on a part-time basis (4hrs a week).

2008-2010

WIN in 2008 continued to provide nonresidential and residential domestic violence services to Rockwall County families from the Helping Hands bldg located at 102 S. 1st Street Rockwall Texas.

2011-2014

Rockwall County Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program offered in Rockwall County Schools started in January 2011. Community Education was then being offered in both Rockwall and Hunt County Communities.

2015

Rockwall WIN moved locations and began providing their Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program, their Community Outreach Program and their Direct DV services from 1350 E. Washington Street Rockwall, Texas in August 17, 2015. WIN's Regional Resale Store Manager is now managing the Quinlan, Commerce, Greenville and Rockwall Boutique Store and has hired Asst Mgrs for each store. The Prevention Program has expanded and currently there are 2 Education Specialists (one for Hunt and one for Rockwall County) and 1 Community Education Coordinator covering both Hunt and Rockwall County.

2016-17

April 2017, Women In Need (WIN) was challenged with an opportunity to purchase a permanent location in Rockwall County. The new nonresidential permanent location is located at 904 N Goliad Rockwall Tx 75087. WIN's BOD together with WIN's Executive Director determined to

conduct a Capital Campaign in which the Capital Campaign's proceeds would go towards the mortgage payments of WIN's new nonresidential shelter location. The mortgage was in the amount of \$350,000. WIN had served the Rockwall community for over 13 years, without a permanent location, but fulfilling its mission to help and educate families broken apart by violence to live by nonviolent means. Now with the increased number of survivors coming forward for help; it was determined WIN in fact needed this centrally located, permanent, safe refuge to help empower family violence survivors.

2017-2020

Hunt and Rockwall County Teen Dating Violence Prevention Education Program is now being offered throughout the school year in both Hunt and Rockwall County ISDs. Community Awareness and Education is offered in both Rockwall and Hunt County Communities.