

## LAWYERS FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS:

### *Supporting Women in the Shelter*

The Cleveland Bar Association's Women in Law Section approached Priscilla Franklin, Moriah House - Women and Children's Shelter Director, about providing legal services to women in need. Starting in May 2015 lawyers from all over Cleveland are giving their time to answer legal questions posed from women residing in our Shelter.

Guided by Ann Porath and Mary Beth McConville from Legal Aid, these female lawyers are providing an invaluable resource to our clients.

In their first session in May, they served half the current adult population in the Women and Children's Shelter. The issues and questions they addressed included:

- Eviction
- Family disputes over housing
- How to file a divorce complaint
- Child custody
- Supplemental Security Income application process



*Member of the Women in Law Section speaking to a client about legal matters.*

"Mostly, we listened," said Rebecca Bennett, Chair CMBA Women in Law Section. "We learned from recent training sessions, much of the help that these individuals need is in navigating the 'systems' in which they are dealing. Imagine having to cut through red tape and navigate government agencies when you don't even have your documents in your possession because you don't currently have a home. We hope that our continued monthly presence at the Women and Children's Shelter will be of help."

With each session the Women in Law have seen higher participation and more challenging questions. They are pleased to know their services and time are appreciated and needed.

## MONTH'S MOST NEEDED ITEMS In-Kind Donations

In an effort to meet all the needs of our clients and programs of the WSCC, we ask for in-kind donations from you and the community. The In-Kind Donation program will focus its efforts monthly on a special request. These items will be something needed especially that month.

### UPCOMING REQUESTS

#### September:

Men's casual clothing and shoes. WSCC receives donations of suits and ties, but often times not casual clothing for the clients who need appropriate weather clothing.

#### October:

Small household appliances and dishes. WSCC clients will move into new homes with little money to purchase dishes, coffee makers, alarm clocks, toasters and small microwaves.

#### November:

New socks, underwear and sweatshirts for WSCC's Giving Tree Program. This is the only time of the year WSCC asks for and distributes NEW undergarments and sweatshirts. These are distributed to hundreds of needy families in December.

## FALL IN-KIND DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations of new and/or gently used items.

### Fall Clothing

- \*Plus sizes always needed
- Diapers (esp. larger sizes)
- Baby Wipes
- Small Household Items
- Toiletries

### IN-KIND DONATION REMINDERS:

Due to limited storage space, we can accept no more than **TWO** bags per donor.

Donations are accepted Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 2:00PM.

WSCC can only accept **NEW** baby car seats and playpens.