



TWTC ATTRACTS NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

U.S. Drug Czar Comes to TWTC



John P. Walters with TWTC Executive Director Dr. Jewell Oates

John P. Walters, Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), toured The Women's Treatment Center on Wednesday, June 16, 2004.

As the nation's "Drug Czar," Mr. Walters coordinates all aspects of federal drug programs and spending. Director Walters wanted TWTC's perspective on substance abuse treatment in the trenches.

He met with Dr. Jewell Oates, staff, members of the Board of Directors, and a representative of the IDHS' Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse. He also heard the personal journeys of three women who completed treatment programs at TWTC and are now on staff at the Center, helping other women overcome substance abuse.

Sen. Durbin Sends Staff to TWTC

Staffers from Illinois Senator Richard Durbin's office toured the Center in June, in support of Senator Durbin's ongoing efforts to increase funding for treatment.

The Senator, well known for championing women's issues concerning health and economic factors, has made drug treatment for women a top legislative priority.

Legislative Aides Dena Morris and Elissa Levin from Washington, D.C., and Kai Love, Director of Constituent Services in Chicago made a fact-finding visit to learn about the impact of spending cuts on delivery of treatment. Funding for women's drug programs has been slashed by more than 35% since 1995, nationwide.

International Visitors Learn From TWTC

The U.S. Department of Commerce sponsored recent international visits that included the Women's Treatment Center.

From Russia came visitors concerned about the heroin epidemic in their own country, who wanted to learn about the Center's approaches to treatment to uninsured clients, a growing problem since medicine is no longer socialized in Russia.



Director Walters with TWTC Board member Gail Morse (left).

From Great Britain came nurses who work in a comparable center in England. They were interested in the types of problems encountered here in the treatment of women addicts.

TWTC also had a visit from the People's Republic of China, arranged through the State Department. The representative, a high ranking official in Field Service Corrections, was here to learn about alternatives to incarceration for women with children.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Women's Treatment Center (TWTC) is to provide comprehensive, compassionate, clinically appropriate chemical dependency treatment for women and their children.

The scope of this treatment includes social services, medical care and mental health services, which are offered without regard to race, creed, color, sexual orientation, disability, national origin or ability to pay.

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Executive Director

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The Women's Treatment Center

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Reasons to be Thankful

We see the women as they come in, defeated, ashamed, defiant, adrift. We see their children, apprehensive, scared, brave. And we bring to bear all we know, all we have learned and hope for the best. Sometimes, when we are beset by the daily problems and crises of running a treatment center, we don't always see the miracles happening before our eyes.

So it is that sometimes, it takes seeing ourselves and our work through others' eyes to appreciate what we do.

This year's Stars Event is a perfect case in point. When we heard the success stories of our ten Stars read to the audience, heard the tumultuous applause, saw our Stars standing proud and beautiful, when we heard the magnificent Mary Mitchell of the Chicago Sun Times speak of the difference treatment makes, we are reminded of how important and life-transforming the work we do can be.

When we see an audience filled with friends and supporters who believe so much in our mission, we are buoyed by their faith. And we are immensely grateful for their continuing support, whether in the form of donations, participation in the auctions, purchasing playground squares or spreading the word to friends.

We could ask for no stronger

*From the Desk of Jewell Oates,
Ph.D., Executive Director of
TWTC.*

supporters than our Board of Directors. Our Chair, Andrea Kramer, members Artemis Anos, Gail Morse, Joseph Bigane, Judith Byrd, Eloise Cornelius, Jo Ann Klak, Allison Levin, Carolyn Wade and Cheryl Wilson involved friends, family and firms to make this year's celebration a remarkable success.

The recognition that the Center has been receiving from other quarters -- the government, our foreign colleagues -- has also been immensely gratifying, because it tells us that we are on the right track. We are continually striving to improve the services we provide to the women and children who live here. That others see what we do as worth knowing about and emulating is both humbling and encouraging, and we are pleased with this recognition.

There is, of course, still much to do and many more needing help who come through our doors.

Still, seeing our clients successfully complete school, get jobs, and return to their communities as healthy, contributing families makes us thankful that we do what we do. And it renews our faith in our mission.

We look forward to your continuing support -- thank you!

HELP US REACH YOU BETTER!

As you can see, lots of wonderful things have been happening at TWTC. Help us reach you sooner with glad tidings by sending us your email address. By using email, we can let you know more quickly about upcoming events like "Peter Pan" and other happenings, without the extra expense of postage. Send your email address to:

ygoin@womenstreatmentcenter.org

STARS EVENT A MAJOR SUCCESS



Meet the Stars of TWTC, 2004: (From left to right) Pam W., Francina J., Kimberly B, Dr. Jewell Oates, Michelle C., Rhonda R., Trina C., columnist Mary Mitchell of the Chicago Sun Times, Patricia B., Shanton M., and Ambia W. (Missing: Victoria W.)



Executive Director Jewell Oates with Mary Mitchell of the Chicago Sun Times (above, left) who gave the evening's keynote address, and Dee Alexander (above, right) whose singing set the tone for the festivities.



Roberta Kramer kept the bids coming at the live auction.



Jennifer Welsh, representing Atty. General Lisa Madigan's Office, introduced the 2004 Stars.



Three-year-old Savonea (above) is thrilled when her mother Ambia is honored. 2004 Star Rhonda R. told the audience she owes her recovery to her sister Jacqueline (right), who rose to send the love right back to Rhonda.



Left: TWTC staff enjoy the evening. Standing, left to right: Linda Wells, Urainner Moffett, Karen Elliot, Lisa Parks-Johnson, and Cheryl Pugh. Seated, left to right: Marion Scott, Lillian Brown, Erin Cloyd and Darla Scott



Making sure that everything runs smoothly are TWTC staff (above, left to right) Richardetta Williams, Yolanda Goins, Phyllis Burrell, Nina Brazelton-Cooper and Annie Ison.

TWTC's Next Theatre Event: Peter Pan!

Join TWTC for the beloved musical *Peter Pan*, at the Cadillac Palace Theatre on February 6, 2005.

Treat your children, grandchildren and even your self to this magical tale. Details for ordering tickets will appear in our fall newsletter. And may we suggest: *Peter Pan* tickets make great Christmas presents!

TWTC's Unsung Heroine

The staff, women and children of TWTC congratulate Andrea Kramer, Chair of TWTC's Board of Directors, on being named one of Cook County's Unsung Heroines this past spring. This award, presented by the Cook County Commission on Women's Issues, is given to women whose contributions to their communities, families and professional endeavors

are so vitally important, but are so seldom recognized.

Nobody knows better than we do how much of her time, energy and resources Andrea Kramer gives so freely to others. Her strong leadership has helped TWTC survive and thrive. We can think of no one more deserving of this recognition than she.



140 North Ashland Avenue
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TWTC WINS "QUALITY COUNTS" GRANT

TWTC's children, and their parents, will soon reap the benefits of the Center's successful bid for funding from the Quality Counts Child Care Program. This program, sponsored by the Day Care Action Council of Illinois and funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care & Development, makes grants for the purpose of improving the quality of child care.

The funds awarded will be used to purchase a computer, printer, digital cameras and other equipment. According to Erin Cloyd, Director of Children's Programs, this equipment will be used to document interactions between children, caregivers and parents to improve parenting skills, as well as capture the precious moments young children can provide. Daycare staff have found that

many of our parents do not have pictures of their children. Thanks to this grant, we can give them the chance to start recording their children's lives at this important stage.

Ibrahim Tolbert (left) in a playful mood, with his mom, Linette Harris.

