

Northern Trust Bank hosts annual meeting for Women in Distress

Women in Distress has come a long way since Edee Green and a group of concerned citizens organized its first refuge for homeless women in a modest four-bedroom house on Sistrunk Boulevard in July, 1974.

But even though the organization has grown (with presently 62 beds in "safe shelters"), the need has far outgrown the ability of the organization to house the abused women and children whom it serves.

That was the bad news that was revealed at the recent Women in Distress annual meeting hosted by Northern Trust and its President Ray Leightman.

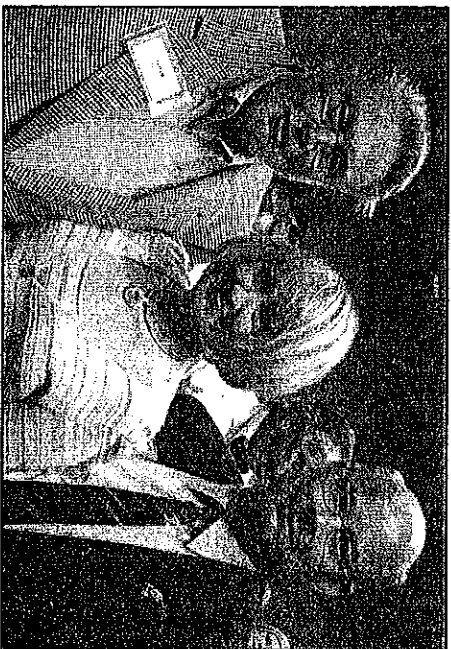
But there was plenty of good news to impart as well. Women in Distress Executive Director Mary Riedel announced that the organization has purchased a center in northern Broward County, which will be able to accommodate 132 beds, twice the number of existing beds available.

This couldn't come soon enough, as 857 people were turned away from the shelter last year, due to lack of shelter space.

Board member Carla Albano has lead efforts to accomplish the expansion plans, an effort that has been going on for more than 18 months.

In addition to the new facility, WID also will maintain four established satellite outreach centers in Hallandale Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Coconut Creek and Pompano Beach. The organization also operates its Blooming Sales thrift store in Margate.

WID operates a 24-hour crisis line, available by calling 954-761-1133. If you would like to get involved in helping WID or joining the WID Auxiliary, now more than 100 members strong, call the administrative office at 954-760-9800.



Jack and Janet Boyle, couple at left; with Thom Bamberak at the annual meeting guest. (Janet Boyle established a \$1 million endowment for WID in 1999, to ensure the future operation of the organization.)



Board member Julia Yorburgh, left, news anchor on WTVJ-NBC 6, left; with Mary Riedel, CEO of WID; and Josette Van Putten, Vice Chair of Northern Trust Bank and WID board member.



Carol Molnar, left, 2008 WIDA board chair; with Ray Leightman, president of Northern Trust Bank on Las Olas Boulevard, which donated its space to WID for the annual meeting.