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Fort Wayne Women’s Bureau

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Fort Wayne Women’s Bureau

By Michael Kosar
Background

• Non-profit agency status in 1976 and received status in 1978
• Mission: advancing women through advocacy, education, and economic empowerment
• Provided services to more than 450,000 people in northeast Indiana
Main Services

REACT Rape Awareness Program
- Include 24/7 Rape Crisis Hotline
- Serves rape, sexual assault victims, and their friends/family

Women’s Enterprise
- Helps women to find a job, create own job, and create jobs for other women

Transitions
- Dedicated to addicted women and their children
- Help addicted women through their addiction such as substance abuse
Common Barriers

• Challenges especially when speaking about and educating on taboo topics
• Hard to reach individuals sometimes due to stigma of rape and sexual assault
• Since non-profit organization it is hard to be fully staffed in tough economic environment
Overcoming Barriers

• Looking at new funding sources
• Ways to expand current fundraising events
• Once there are enough funds, hire more staff to assist victims of crime especially women
Conclusion

• Although there are some barriers when reaching out to crime victims, the Fort Wayne Women’s Bureau is continually improving to provide proper and adequate services for those victims in need.