



THE WOMEN'S CENTER AT CCM

NEWSLETTER

Volume XII, Number 1

“WONDERFUL WOMEN OF MORRIS” CELEBRATED AT WOMEN’S CENTER

March is National Women’s History Month. It is a time to recognize the contributions of women. The Women’s Center is honoring this year a woman whose work has saved the lives of many in Haiti and inspired many to good work by her example.

Carol Hawthorne operates Dayspring Ministries out of her home in Chester. They provide food clothing, medical supplies and household goods to the poor in Haiti. She has done this for over 15 years from boat people, through political rebellion and now an earthquake. In addition, this non profit group of volunteers has provided a school bus, a school, an orphanage, and a medical clinic.

Carol will share her story with others on March 19th at the Student Center of County College of Morris. The event will be from noon to 1 pm and all are invited to attend. The program is free but registration is required. Contact the Women’s Center via womenscenter@ccm.edu or 973-328-5025.

PRIVATE MEDIATION & DIVORCE

Mediation is defined as “a means of resolving differences with the help of a trained, impartial third party. The parties, **with or without lawyers**, are brought together by the mediator in a neutral setting. A mediator does not represent either side and does not offer legal advice. Parties are encouraged to retain an attorney to advise them of their rights during the mediation process. The mediator helps the parties identify the issues, gather the information they need to make informed decisions, and communicate so that they can find a solution agreeable to both. Mediation is designed to facilitate settlements in an informal, non-adversarial manner.”¹

So what does this really mean for parties who want a divorce? They can jointly select a private mediator, meet with him or her and mediate **all** the issues of their marriage, **before** filing a Complaint for Divorce. These issues can include alimony, custody, parenting time, child support, college costs, assets, debts, liabilities, etc., all the issues of the marriage. Many divorcing spouses do not realize that they can mediate first. They can first have an agreement resolving all the issues of the marriage and then file for an uncontested Divorce. The time it then takes to obtain the actual Divorce is weeks, not a year or more. In addition, the cost to mediate is far less. Statistically, post divorce litigation is significantly lower in mediated cases.

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Mediation is a joint effort; both parties must agree to participate. Mediators facilitate communication so that each party is given the opportunity to be heard. Because the setting is non-adversarial, emotions are defused and the parties can focus on the real issues. The parties speak for themselves, can air their differences and create innovative decisions regarding the outcome.

The only requirements for success in mediation are that both parties have the desire to cooperate, are willing to participate fully in the process, and wish to achieve an agreement. In mediation, the parties are in the driver's seat of their divorce.

1. This constitutes the "descriptive material" referenced in Rule 5:4-2 (h) that each divorce litigant must receive and certify as having received (using certification forms).

This article was authored by Catherine F. Riordan, Esq.

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**The Women's Center at CCM
County College of Morris
SCC 115**

Mission Statement:

**To serve the varied needs of
women in their quest for
economic self sufficiency.**

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The Women's Center at CCM is a nonprofit organization serving displaced homemakers, single mothers, and other women. It is sponsored by the County College of Morris. The program is funded by the NJ Division on Women and the United Way of Morris County. The legal education services are funded by a grant from the IOLTA Fund of the NJ Bar Foundation and the Morris County Bar Foundation.

Career Corner

Interviewing: The Phone Interview

More interviews are being conducted by phone to accommodate busy recruiters' and hiring managers' schedules and to reduce the costs. Having a strategy to address phone interviews will increase your opportunity to advance in the interview process.

You might not have to obsess about what you will wear, you will be able to refer to your notes about the company, and you will be able to jump on the internet to perform additional research during the conversation. However, you should approach a phone interview seriously. Here are some tips for how to handle and behave during a phone interview:

Be professional and enthusiastic

The phone interview is typically a preliminary screening to gauge your abilities and interest before investing a hiring manager's time in an in-person interview. When distance is a factor, phone interviews can take the place of in-person interviews and they can be intense. Either way, you want to convey enthusiasm and professionalism. When job hunting, always answer your phone professionally and with a smile and energy in your voice. Have an opener prepared, such as, "I am looking forward to talking with you today! I am excited to find a job in your company that is a great fit and where I can contribute quickly."

Be on time

Be ready at the appointed interview time. Be sure your voice doesn't sound like you recently woke up and eliminate background noises. Be sure you are in a room where you can be fully engaged in the conversation. Also consider technical issues, such as headsets, that must be managed before the start time.

Eliminate distractions

Be sure that children and dogs have a place to be other than in the room you are having the phone interview. Schedule the phone interview when you can have quiet time – not so much because you don't want employers to have insight into your

private life but more because you want to be on your game. The less distraction you have, the better.

Be ready

Having notes from your research on the company and their priorities in front of you will help you stay focused and allow you to tie in what you are learning about the job with the value you will bring to the position.

Phone interviews require you to be concise and to the point. It is helpful to have a list of 3-5 points that you want to be sure to communicate. You can use this during the phone interview as a basis for your answers and as a wrap up at the end of the conversation.

Adapted from The Ladders, In the Interview Hot Seat

COMPUTER LITERACY---NEEDED!

Getting a job in today's job market is difficult, without some current technology skills it may be impossible. Brushing up or learning new skills can be done at the Women's Center (for eligible women), at adult education programs, at CCM, or in some cases, local libraries.

The Women's Center offers computer workshops and computer labs. Workshops are held on a variety of software programs. The program specializes in helping women who have little or no computer experience. The computer labs offer one-on-one tutoring on topics that you choose. It is a good way to update skills and become more comfortable with the technology.

The following computer applications are being offered this spring.

Keyboarding	Windows
Excel	Word
Power Point	Quicken
Outlook	Access

Sign up for the workshops and make an appointment for a lab session. The cost of the workshops vary with the amount of time involved and one hour sessions in the computer lab cost \$5 for clients, \$10 for non clients.

FREE LEGAL WORKSHOPS

The spring legal workshop series will start soon. If you have questions relating to family law issues such as divorce, child support, mediation, financial issues, etc. come to one or all of this information packed series. Workshops are held from 7 to 9pm at the Randolph campus of County College of Morris.

Volunteer attorneys will guide you through the issues and help you navigate the legal system. Each workshop is a complete unit although the first session which is an overview of the entire process would be helpful for all.

There is no charge for this program but registration is required. Email womenscenter@ccm.edu or call 973-328-5025.

Topics

April 6	Overview of the System
April 13	Case Information Statement
April 20	Q & A on CIS
April 27	Mediation & Choosing Attorney
May 4	Child issues
May 11	Post Matrimonial Relief
May 18	Financial Aspects of Divorce

**The Women's Center at CCM
County College of Morris
SCC 115
Randolph, NJ 07869**

March 2010

LEGAL CLINIC

1ST, 2ND & 3RD WEDNESDAYS

**CALL FOR AN INDIVIDUAL
APPOINTMENT**

973-328-5025

Job Club

FREE

Fridays 10 - 11:30 am

Job Club at the Women's Center is open to all women seeking employment. Meeting twice a month, each session focuses on a specific topic, but your questions and concerns are always welcome. Please call to register at

973-328-5025.

Upcoming Job Club Topics

- March 5 Networking
- March 19 Salary negotiating
- April 16 Job Hunting
- April 30 Job Search on Internet
(in Davidson Hall, Room A)