

Awards Presentation

Dr. Jeanette Harder is not new to the family violence field. Before moving to Omaha, she volunteered for 2 years in Dallas providing shelter to victims of domestic violence in her home. She worked as a senior case manager in a child abuse prevention center in Dallas for 5 years. She is finishing her 3rd year as an Assistant Professor of Social Work at UNOmaha where she is actively engaged in research in the areas of child abuse prevention and other types of family violence.

YWCA Omaha was originally connected with Dr. Harder over a year ago through UNOmaha's Service Learning Academy, a department that matches faculty and students with community agencies in a variety of projects. In our first collaboration, Dr. Harder's beginning level statistics class assisted us in evaluating the effectiveness of the skills training component of the clinical teams' phase-based trauma treatment program by analyzing United Way outcome information and compiling results. The students then presented the results to the YWCA staff and at a national conference.

For our second collaboration, Dr. Harder recommended two of her top graduate Social Work students to work on our pilot outcomes project for our phase-based trauma treatment program. The students are responsible for inputting, analyzing, and organizing outcome information about a small group of clients over a three-year period as they progress through therapy so the effectiveness of such therapy can be evaluated.

In both situations, Dr. Harder volunteered her expertise and many hours of her own time in preliminary preparation of the information in our database, conducting additional statistical

analyses of our data beyond what her students completed, and/or mentoring students outside of classroom time.

Why are such projects and such collaborations important to the YWCA Omaha? Dr. Harder's generous gifts of her expertise and time allow us to validate the effectiveness of the kinds of therapy that YWCA Omaha offers in ways that develop further professional credibility, strengthen the positive impact our therapy programs have on the community, and expand our impact beyond our immediate community even to a national level. The information from these projects has been invaluable in beginning to educate professionals, the community, and potential funders about the effectiveness of the YWCA therapy programs.

So it is with gratitude and great respect that we honor Dr. Jeanette Harder with this 2006 YWCA Omaha Volunteer Award.

-- Ann Potter, YWCA, April 2007