

North Country



Women's Center

The North Country Women's Center is supported primarily by a monthly pledge system. If you are able and would like to contribute to the support of the Center, fill out the form below and mail to: North Country Women, PO Box 474, Canton, NY 13617.

name _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

The North Country has a Women's Center. Located at 19 Main Street in Canton. The North Country Women's Center has been open since February of this year sponsoring a variety of activities and providing services for women.

The Women's Center was established by women who got together from various consciousness raising groups in the area to organize a festival for International Women's Year in 1975. The group, North Country Women, continued to meet weekly, conducted workshops, began publishing a bi-monthly newsletter, sponsored Women's Festival '76, and made plans and dreams to start a multi-purpose Women's Center. The plans and dreams came true complete with office space, a meeting/living room, a bedroom, and large kitchen and many friends.

Summer hours at the Center are 1pm to 5pm weekdays. All women are welcome to stop by or call the Center at 386-4130. A staffer is there to answer questions and talk. After hours calls can be made to 386-4852.

One of the main services available to women at the Center is crisis housing. Women in transition who find it necessary to leave their present situations, who need an immediate place to stay can find it at the Women's Center. There is no set fee. Women who use the Center as a temporary shelter are asked to make whatever donation they think they can afford, be it money or helping out at the Center. Professional counselling is also available if a woman requests it.

The Center periodically sponsors WomanSchool, a series of classes taught by and for women. Classes include such things as Women's Legal Rights, Yoga for Kids, Yoga for Adults, Personal Enrichment, Men and Women Together, Modern Dance, and Women and Community Action. More information is available at the Center.

There are weekly Thursday night North Country Women's meetings which all women are invited to attend. Once a month there is a pot luck dinner which is a good first meeting to 'come to' since it provides a fine opportunity for socializing and becoming acquainted with the various women connected with the Center. There's one business meeting a month as well as two topic meetings at which specific issues of concern to women are discussed.

North Country Women publish a bi-monthly newsletter, Women Together, which is available at local shops and bookstores or by subscription for \$3. Women Together provides news on issues and concerns of women: reporting on the laws, proposed legislation, existing community services and community events. It also contains prose and poetry written by local women. Each issue covers a particular topic such as women and health, community, work, or sexuality. Women Together invites input from all women in the form of articles, letters, poetry, and artwork.

The Women's Center operates mainly on a volunteer basis. Women devote whatever time and energy they can to staffing at the Center, conducting workshops, fundraising, or working on the newsletter. The Women's Center has many operating costs to meet including rent, power, phone bills, printing costs, and a coordinator's salary. Financial needs are met primarily through a pledge system which consists of people making a monthly contribution, however small or large, to the Center. Everyone is welcome to show their support in this way.

In its short history, the Women's Center has already proven itself to be a valuable women's and community resource. It has provided overnight housing on more than 70 occasions. It has provided counseling services and support to many women. It encourages a continuous feminist discussion which examines the lives of women and how they are affected or ruled by society's assumptions about women and their place. The Center's activities help women discover the choices they can make about their lives. Our community can only gain from this.

For continued success, the Women's Center needs continued community support. Please participate in whatever way you can. North Country Women's Center --

location: 19 Main St., Canton

mailing address: PO Box 474
Canton, NY 13617

phone: 386-4852

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