

ABOUT THE COMMISSION & OUR WOMEN'S ADVOCATE AWARD

The Ocean County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to identifying the needs, concerns, problems and interests as well as services and resources for women in Ocean County. The Commission offers information pertinent to the needs of women through an Information and Referral service, awareness programs and publications. The Commission also advocates for the advancement of women in society by acting as a liaison to many community organizations, women's groups and social service agencies.

As part of this mission, the Commission has developed the "Women's Advocate of the Year" award to recognize an agency, organization, program or individual that has demonstrated a personal commitment to women's issues through the required leadership skills and resources necessary to advocate for improved services for women in Ocean County. This award is our way of thanking those that go above and beyond to meet the growing needs of our women residents and their families.

Commissioners

<i>Kathleen Bombery</i>	<i>Linda Kardos</i>	<i>Dana Ann O'Connor</i>
<i>Roberta Anne Burcz</i>	<i>Theresa Kubiel</i>	<i>Marie-Elena O'Connor</i>
<i>Dr. Mary Ellen T. Carr</i>	<i>Barbara Lanuto</i>	<i>Bonnie R. Peterson, Esq.</i>
<i>Jenny Cody</i>	<i>Michele Lardieri</i>	<i>Dorothy Wahlers</i>
<i>Clyde H. Crofoot, Esq.</i>	<i>Barbara Lehman</i>	<i>April Yezzi</i>
<i>Barbara Florimont</i>	<i>Norvella Lightbody</i>	
<i>Joyce E. Jackson, R.D.A.</i>	<i>Dr. Kathleen McCormick</i>	<i>Hazel Gluck, Honorary Member</i>

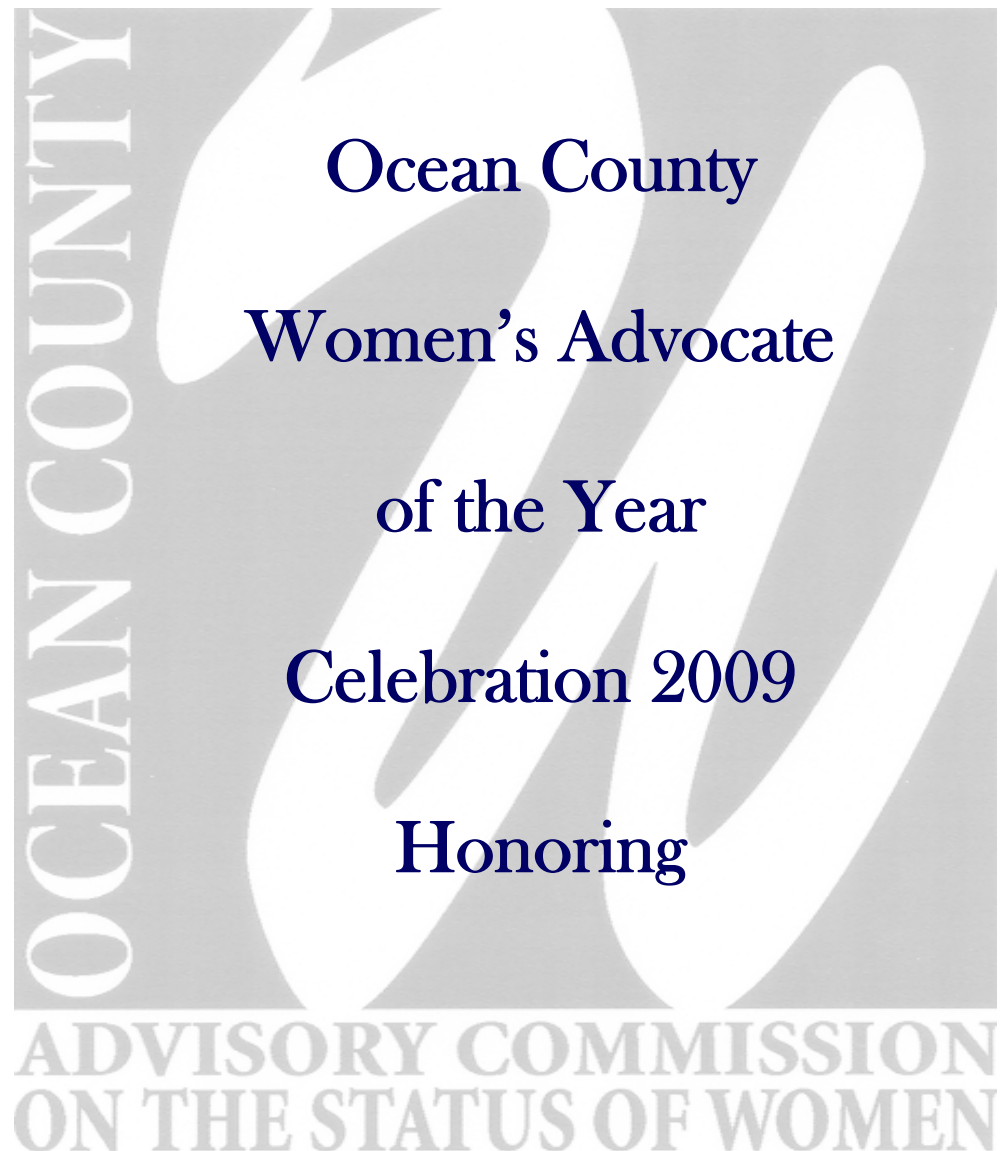
Ocean County Department of Human Services Advisory Commission on the Status of Women

Department of Human Services
Jill Perez, Director
Tracy Maksel, Assistant Director
**Advisory Commission on the
Status of Women**
Kelly Mitchell, Coordinator
Terri Battaglio, Clerk Typist

*1027 Hooper Avenue,
Building 2, 3rd Floor
Toms River, NJ 08754
Phone: 732.506.5374
Fax: 732.341-4539
www.co.ocean.nj.us/ocdhs*

Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders

John C. Bartlett, Jr.
John P. Kelly
James F. Lacey, Liaison
Gerry P. Little
Joseph H. Vicari



Ocean County Women's Advocate of the Year Celebration 2009 Honoring

**Providence House Domestic
Violence Services of Catholic
Charities, Diocese of Trenton**

September 12, 2009

Holiday Inn, Toms River

PROGRAM

Welcoming Remarks	Kelly Mitchell, Coordinator Ocean County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women
Recognition Presentation	Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders Resolution Tracy Maksel, Assistant Director, Ocean County Department of Human Services
Norvella Lightbody, WC Commissioner	Township of Toms River Mayor & Council Proclamation Honorable Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher Honorable Council President Gregory P. McGuckin Honorable Councilman Brian S. Kubiel Honorable Councilman George Wittmann
Barbara Lanuto, WC Commissioner	Breakfast Served
Michele Lardieri, WC Commissioner	Ocean's Harbor House Sid Colvin, Executive Director
Linda Kardos, WC Commissioner	Dottie's House Carol A. Wolfe, Founder & Executive Director, 2005 Advocate
Advocate Award Presentation	Ocean County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women - Women's Advocate of the Year Award 2009 Prosecutor Marlene Lynch Ford, 2008 Advocate
Honoree's Remarks	Providence House Domestic Violence Services of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton Jean Metz, Director
Closing Remarks	April Yezzi, Chairwoman Ocean County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women
Networking Opportunity	11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Program Sponsors

Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders
Ocean County Advisory Commission on the Status of Women
Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore



PROVIDENCE HOUSE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF TRENTON

Introduction

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton, a faith-inspired human service agency, provides nonreligious based assistance regardless of faith, race, sexual orientation, or gender to more than 100,000 people in need each year and touches the lives of one in every 19 residents of central New Jersey.

Providence House Domestic Violence Services is one of four service areas of Catholic Charities that assists victims of domestic abuse with an array of services in Burlington and Ocean Counties. Providence House was established in Ocean County in 1986. It assists victims of domestic abuse and their children with counseling or direct services such as: an emergency shelter that we prefer to call a Safe House; a 24-hour hotline; residential and nonresidential individual and group counseling services; legal options counseling, advocacy, and court accompaniment; a project that assists homeless victims in securing and maintaining housing; a comprehensive children/teen program; a creative arts therapy program for children; a program specifically designed to assist victims age 50 and older; domestic violence response teams; and community education. All these services are offered **free of charge** to victims and their children who are struggling to break free from the violence in their homes.

History

Catholic Charities was approached to open a domestic violence shelter in Ocean County in 1985 based on its already existing domestic violence program in Burlington County. At that time, Ocean County was one of four counties in New Jersey without a shelter for victims and their children. Providence House started to provide services on October 1, 1986 with four staff people operating out of a small office in Toms River. Victims of domestic abuse in need of shelter were housed in local motels. Case management services, individual counseling, food, and other basic necessities were delivered to or provided at the various motels housing our clients.

With the assistance of the Department of Community Affairs, The Board of Chosen Freeholders, Ocean First Foundation, and private donations, the emergency Safe House was built in 1990. With the creation of the emergency Safe House, Providence House was able to provide shelter, food, and basic necessities in a structured, but homelike program setting. In 1997, the Safe House was expanded to hold up to 27 individuals. More recently, the Safe House was expanded again to include a group room in which residents could attend their weekly group counseling meetings.

Providence House offers over 20 years experience in working with victims of domestic abuse and offers multiple locations through which to receive services: the confidentially located emergency Safe House for those whose lives are in danger; the Outreach office through which clients may receive a variety of nonresidential counseling and case management services; a satellite outreach in Toms River and one in Lakewood where staff offers English and Spanish speaking services; and in the Ocean County Superior Court and several Municipal Courts.

