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## Press Release: Women's Rape Crisis Center

Women's Rape Crisis Center

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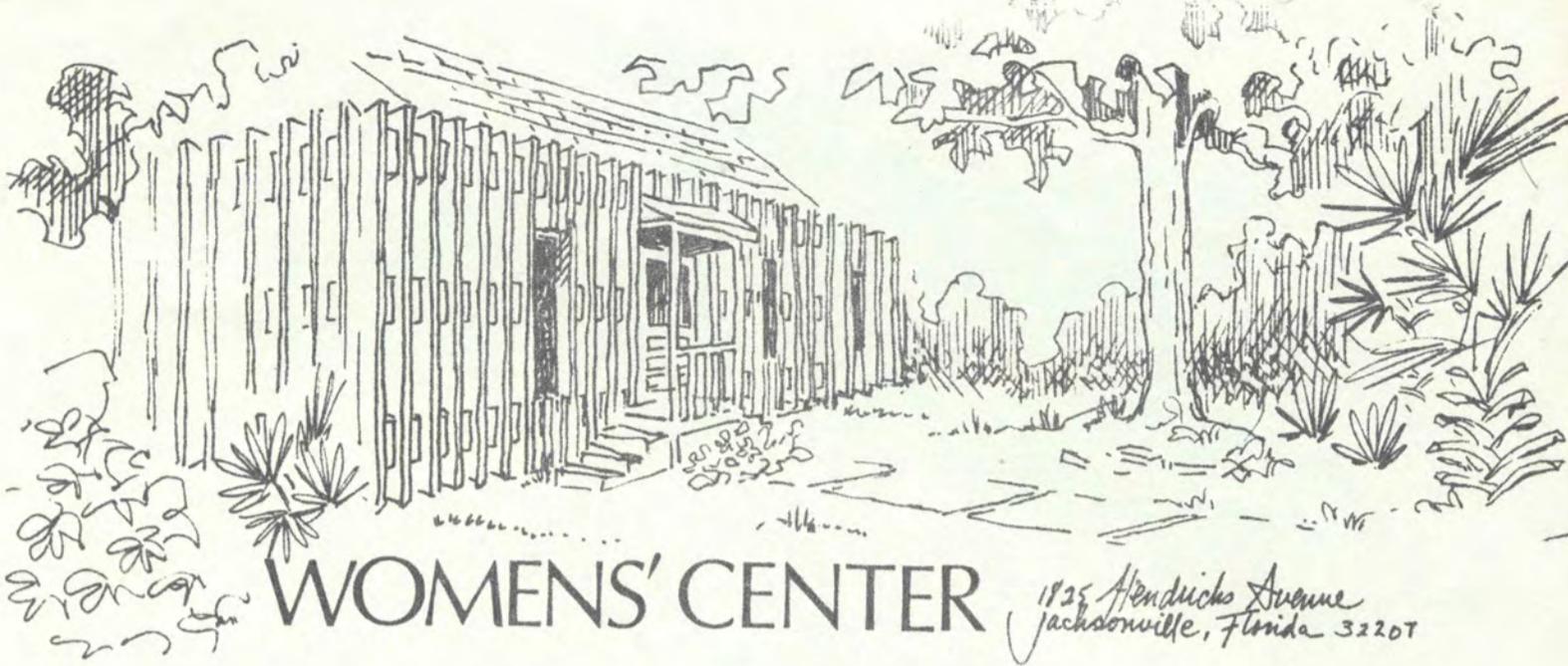
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# WOMENS' CENTER

1825 Hendricks Avenue  
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

NEWS RELEASE - - - FOR RELEASE MARCH 1, 1974

Jacksonville women concerned with the high incidence of sexual assault in our city and at the same time with the lack of supportive services available to rape victims have joined together to organize the WOMEN'S RAPE CRISIS CENTER.

Although still very much in the planning stages, the WOMEN'S RAPE CRISIS CENTER will be operating a 24 hour rape hotline beginning March 1, 1974. This will be in cooperation with the Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention hotline, phone number 384-6488.

At that time we also will begin an advocacy program providing each rape victim who desires it with a woman to accompany her to the hospital emergency room, police station and to the courtroom. The advocates will be extensively trained by an already assembled staff of professionals including people from Suicide & Crisis Intervention and from Protective Services Agency of the Department of Family Services; also by a nurse, drug counsellor, high school guidance counselor and telephone service representatives.

Additional services also beginning March 1 will include: alternative shelter for women who are fearful of returning to their own homes the night of the assault and follow-up support in small discussion groups and/or by telephone.

The projected program for Women's Rape Crisis Center is far more extensive than these initial gestures. In addition to being aimed toward the facilitation of each woman's journey through the medical and legal systems, we plan to do extensive investigation into the where, when and why of rape. We are convinced that this information could be invaluable in drafting and enforcing local legislation and in working up a community-wide STOP RAPE program. Through public education and vigilance we can bring an end to the outrage of sexual assault against women and children.

Recent figures for 1973 released by FBI indicate that Jacksonville has, by far, the highest incidence of rape in any city in Florida. The obvious need for rape crisis services in our community has prompted an overwhelming response to our call for community involvement. Among the organizations pledging support and/or participation in the development of the Women's Rape Crisis Center are: YWCA, NAACP, Jax. Women's Political Caucus, Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women & NOW.

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IF YOU HAVE BEEN RAPED CALL 384-6488 -- for assistance, protection,  
-- information, follow-up support

All Confidential

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For more information on this News Release phone 396-4447 or 398-7728  
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Coordinators