

Sharon Rising Honored for Developing *Centering*

Civic Ventures www.civicventures.org, a national think tank on boomers, work and social purpose, announced that Sharon Schindler Rising is one of the 15 winners of its 2008 Purpose Prize, a three-year, \$9 million program for people over 60 who are taking on society's biggest challenges. The Purpose Prize, now in its third year, is the nation's only large-scale investment in social innovators in the second half of life.

Sharon received \$10,000 for her work to establish and promote the Centering model of group health care. The Prize consists of six \$100,000 awards and nine \$10,000 awards.

"I created group prenatal care when I was a practicing nurse-midwife in Waterbury," says Rising about her Centering model. "After discussing relief for back pain with 3 or 4 women in a row, I decided it would make sense to group expectant moms according to their due dates, and have them come at the same time for care. They loved meeting together, sharing their wisdom, and creating friendships—and CenteringPregnancy was born. In 2007 we published the results of a randomized trial indicating a 33% reduction in preterm birth for women from New Haven and Atlanta receiving care in Centering groups. It's a great honor for me to be recognized by Civic Ventures, and also an honor for all the Centering care providers and sites located around the country."

Winners were chosen from more than 1,000 nominees for their creative and effective work tackling problems ranging from poverty to pollution, recidivism to racial reconciliation, health care to homelessness. For the first time, Americans doing work abroad were also eligible to win.

Summaries of all winners, as well as videos and photographs, are online at www.purposeprize.org. To see Sharon's acceptance speech, go to www.centeringhealthcare.org.

Sherry Lansing, CEO of the Sherry Lansing Foundation and former chair of Paramount Pictures' Motion Picture Group, chaired the jury that selected this year's winners. The 23 judges—leaders in business, politics, journalism and the nonprofit sector—included actor Sidney Poitier, former presidential advisor David Gergen, former Senator Harris Wofford and journalist Cokie Roberts.

The Purpose Prize is part of the Encore Careers campaign (www.encore.org), which aims to engage millions of boomers in encore careers, which combine social impact, personal meaning and continued income in the second half of life — and produce a windfall of human talent to solve society's most pressing issues.

The Purpose Prize award ceremonies were held on December 5-7 at Stanford University.



Welcome, Colleen Senterfitt!

CHI is very pleased to announce a new staff member, Colleen Senterfitt, MSN, CNM, who'll be officially joining us January 1, 2009, as CHI's Assistant Director.

Colleen was a member of the founding Board of CHI Directors in 2002/2003 and her involvement with CHI has continued through the years. Most recently, Colleen has been the Director of Women's & Children's Services at St. Peter's Hospital, Helena. She and her husband, Jimmy, are looking forward to returning to New England and being closer to family.

Colleen will be assisting Sharon with the administration of our organization, helping support and develop Centering sites across the country.

Upcoming Open Workshops**CenteringPregnancy**

Feb. 6-7: Waterbury CT

March 13-14: Waterbury CT

CenteringParenting

Feb. 20-21: Waterbury CT

Level II: Advanced Facilitation

April 18: Cheshire CT

For registration information or to schedule a workshop for your site, contact Janet Ray, 203-271-3632 or jray@centeringhealthcare.org

CHI Board Chair, Karen B. McGee Receives Award for Excellence

The Ohio Association of Advanced Practice Nurses announced the Award for Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing at the annual conference in Columbus OH, November 2008. The recipient is Karen McGee, RN, CNM, MSN, chosen from over 8,000 APRNs in Ohio. Karen founded TriHealth Nurse Midwives in 2002, now a CenteringPregnancy Approved Site. She is currently working on the Healthy Moms and Babies van in Fay Community. She has been Chairperson of the CHI Board of Directors since 2007.

Conference DVD: our apologies! The filming of the plenary speakers did not turn out. If you pre-paid for DVDs, your refund is coming.

Is Your Agency a CHI Member?

If not, you're missing out!

Here's what membership provides:

- use of Centering name and logos
- CHI phone/email support
- \$2 discount on each Mom's and Family Notebook
- site listing on the CHI web page

Note: As of January 2009, non-member sites will no longer be listed on the CHI web page.

CHI requires that every site using the Centering model be a CHI Institutional Member. Join or renew now! It's \$250/year for non-profits (\$500 for-profit rate).

For more information about *Centering*, contact: CHI, 558 Maple Ave., Cheshire, CT 06410

(203) 271-3632; info@centeringhealthcare.org

Website: www.centeringhealthcare.org

Founder: Sharon Schindler Rising (srising@centeringhealthcare.org)

Centering Stories

from West Berkeley CA:

The babies were a couple months old in our Parenting groups, and we were talking about contraception. Keisha loudly and emphatically explained that each of her 3 children (including this baby) were the product of different birth control methods—so she put no stock in birth control and wasn't about to try it again.

I began to plan my strategy, knowing that Keisha had many compelling health reasons which would indicate she avoid future unplanned pregnancies.

After her very lengthy tirade, Rosa took the floor. She explained why she was going to use an IUD. Keisha listened carefully, asked a few questions, and declared that she would try that, too.

I very much doubt I could have convinced her as easily as Rosa did.

from Chicago, IL:

I debated whether or not to put Sara in group. A recovering heroin addict, living in a residential treatment facility? How would the others react? I assured Sara she wouldn't need to share her story and invited her to join.

People were startled when she blurted, during a discussion on nutrition, "They never give us fruit," but eyebrows really went high when she commented later, "We have lights out at 10."

Before long, I heard "prison" being whispered around the circle, and I asked Sara if she'd be willing to tell her story.

She explained everything—in vivid detail.

As she finished, one of the women asked, "How do you get here?"

"I take the El."

"Let me and my husband drive you there today."

I don't worry any more whether a particular woman will "fit" in a group—I know enough now to trust.

from Colorado Springs, CO:

Monica and her husband moved to CO from Honduras, found jobs and a place to live, and became pregnant, joining one of our CenteringPregnancy groups.

They planned to send money home and finally bring their other two children to the States, but Monica lost her job and her husband left her. During a discussion on support, Monica explained that she was living with strangers and our group was her only support.

Unbeknownst to me, the women in group decided to have a surprise shower for Monica at our next session. They arrived at the next session with a lovely stroller, other small gifts, and some cash, only to learn that Monica was in the hospital with pregnancy complications. After group, they packed up their shower supplies and carpooled to her hospital room.

Following the birth of her healthy, full-term baby, Monica became roommates with one of the other single moms in the group, who also found employment for her at her workplace.

The group saved Monica.

from Minneapolis, MA:

Check out this great news report highlighting Park Nicollet's CenteringPregnancy program on the local TV station: <http://www.wcco.com/video/?id=52069@wcco.dayport.com>

Please...If your Centering site has news to tell—an story to share—or a good solution to a logistical problem—pass it on!
E-mail your information to Janet at jray@centeringhealthcare.org