

DEAR FRIENDS AND FORMER CLIENTS OF THE SANCTUARY FOR WOMEN & GIRLS, HUDSON, WI

It is with deep fondness and genuine regret that I announce **The Sanctuary for Women & Girls** closed its doors for good on August 1, 2012. I founded the Sanctuary in 2001 in response to a felt need....I had observed that mainstream psychology, at least as it was generally being practiced at that time, failed to understand or take into account the role of power imbalances in relationship in creating opportunities for the abuse of women and children; and in creating and sustaining psychiatric disorders in those who are victimized by the abuse of this power. I also had witnessed the many ways, large and small, that the keepers of power in the culture (judges, police, social services, clergy, counselors), perhaps unwittingly, aid and abet this abuse of power. I believed that women and girls needed, above all, a place of safety where these truths would be openly acknowledged, and they could begin to heal and re-empower themselves. For 12 years, women told me that our clinic was indeed the "Sanctuary" that they had needed and searched for in vain until finding us. I'm very proud of the work we've done, but even more proud of the incredible courage, determination, grace, dignity and strength of the amazing women who have allowed us to walk their healing path with them. Alas, the river of time flows on....when it came time for me to leave, I tried hard to find someone to carry on the mission....it was not meant to be. Perhaps the world has changed enough in the past 10 years that our mission is no longer needed....I fervently hope that is the case! Many blessings to the wonderful women of Wisconsin and Minnesota. May you always be respected and treasured by those you love!

Dr. MaryKay Fisher