(l-r) Maurita Lewis, Delicia Thompson, Nikki Edney (CROW researcher), and Tara Alexander of the Pyramid Track Club get ready to “race for the cure” in the annual Susan G. Komen Memphis-MidSouth Race for the Cure.
From the Director

This year has been another productive and active year for the Center for Research on Women. The work we have done on infant mortality, transportation needs for those living with HIV/AIDS, and the needs of single mothers, has highlighted the need for solid reliable data that can be used for sound public policy.

The CROW research team completed their third year of evaluating the Community Voice program, a program dedicated to reducing the number of infant deaths in our community. This year’s report highlights the important role the community plays in reducing these numbers.

With the continued support from the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis, CROW completed the systematic review of the ways in which Tennessee’s Families First program both helps and hinders poor women’s efforts to support themselves and their children. We are excited to continue our work with the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis, as we turn our attention to the issue of childcare, a project that brings together local and national partners such as the Ms. Foundation, the National Council for Research on Women, and the Institute for Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia.

In addition to continued research, CROW has taken on several new projects related to Memphis teens, as well as taking over the lead role in a new initiative to reduce teen pregnancies in Memphis, while supporting pregnant and parenting teens.

CROW also spent the past year sponsoring several events that promoted women’s scholarship and celebrated women’s achievements. We continue to partner with a growing list of campus and community organizations, and facilitate a number of projects and programs that support social equality.

On behalf of our dedicated staff and our incredible team of Faculty Affiliates, I want to thank each of you for your continued interest in our issues and, more importantly, for your continued support of our work. With your help we look forward to another year of investigation, discovery, and activism on behalf of social equality.

With best regards,

Dr. Lynda Sagrestano, Director
Center for Research on Women

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2009-2010 Annual Report

University of Memphis
Our Mission

The Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis has investigated issues of gender, race, class, and social inequality for more than a quarter century.

Our mission is to conduct, promote, and disseminate scholarship on women and social inequality.

An interdisciplinary unit within the University’s College of Arts and Sciences, this thriving academic center is home to collaborative researchers committed to scholarly excellence and deep community involvement. The Center is regarded as a national leader in promoting an integrative approach to understanding and addressing inequities in our society.

The Center’s approach to research, theory, and programming emphasizes the structural relationships among race, class, gender, and sexuality, particularly in the U.S. South and among women of color.

This kind of action-oriented, community-based research strengthens the public’s understanding of women's experiences and informs local, regional, and national public policy.

Staff

Lynda M. Sagrestano, Ph.D., Director
Teresa A. Diener, M.A., Project Coordinator
Naketa Edney, M.A., Research Associate
Jennifer Gooch, M.A., Research Associate
Lornette W. Stokes, Administrative Secretary
Brandon D. Riley, Student Assistant

2009-2010 Steering Committee

Phyllis Betts
Beverly Bond
Joy Clay
Leigh Anne Duck
Ruthbeth Finerman
Laura Harris
Sharon Horne
Heidi Levitt
Wanda Rushing
Lynda Sagrestano
Janann Sherman
Rebecca Terrell
HIV/AIDS Needs Assessment Study on Transportation

Research suggests that lack of transportation negatively impacts adherence to HIV-related medical treatment. Moreover, improving access to ancillary services such as food banks, case management, and mental health services increases positive health outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), but transportation can be a barrier to accessing ancillary services.

Working in collaboration with the United Way of the Mid-South, the Mid-South Coalition on HIV/AIDS, and the Ryan White Part A Planning Council, the Center for Research on Women conducted an interdisciplinary, multi-method needs assessment of transportation barriers to HIV/AIDS service delivery to PLWHA in the Ryan White Memphis Transitional Grant Area (TGA). The TGA consists of eight counties in three states: Shelby, Fayette, and Tipton Counties in Tennessee; Crittenden County in Arkansas; and Tate, Tunicia, Marshall, and DeSoto Counties in Mississippi. Based on the results, the Planning Council re-allocated additional funds to transportation, and broadened the scope of services for their providers so that they can use transportation funding in ways that best meet the needs of individual clients.


Infant Mortality

With one of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation, the Memphis community is a hotbed for grassroots activism. In 2008, the Center for Research on Women began work on a comprehensive, four-year evaluation of Community Voice (CV), a grassroots educational program (administered by the local Tennessee March of Dimes) which is designed to reduce and prevent infant mortality.

Since the beginning of the CV program in March 2008, 447 Lay Health Advisors (LHAs) have successfully completed the CV training, preparing them to share information with friends, family, and acquaintances about risk factors associated with infant mortality, and lowering our community’s infant mortality rates. To date, LHAs have reported contacting over 15,000 community members.

In June of 2010, funding for this project was reduced. CV is being restructured, and training of new LHAs has temporarily been suspended. CROW is still dedicated to evaluating this program and LHAs are still actively educating our community on infant mortality. See CROW’s website to read our March of Dimes Community Voice 2009 Annual Report.
**Women’s Economic Security**

The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM), in partnership with the Chicago Foundation for Women, the Washington Area Women’s Foundation, and the Women’s Foundation of California, has formed the Women’s Economic Security Campaign (WESC). WESC is dedicated to increasing opportunity for low-income women through policy, advocacy, public education, and grant making to organizations that use a gendered lens to focus attention on the problem of poverty. One of the goals of WESC is to create, strengthen, and protect policies and practices that support the ability of women and their children to achieve economic security.

As a part of its work, WFGM has commissioned CROW to prepare research briefs on specific policy issues that impact the well-being of low-income women. CROW’s first report, *How Can the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program Better Serve Tennessee’s Single Mothers? Recommendations for Policy Revisions & Additional Research*, briefly reviews gender poverty disparity, provides basic overviews of the TANF and Families First programs, and provides preliminary recommendations for policy revisions and/or additional research to insure that the program effectively supports low-income women towards the goal of economic stability and ultimately towards self-sufficiency. To read the full report visit CROW’s website.

**Sexual Harassment in Memphis Area Schools**

In 2008-2009, CROW researchers conducted an investigation of the frequency, types, and long-term impact of sexual harassment experienced by teenagers in Memphis area middle and high schools. With assistance from the Memphis Area Women’s Council and many local youth-related organizations, research staff surveyed 590 girls and boys ages 11 to 19 from public, private, and parochial schools throughout Memphis and Shelby County.

The study found that student-to-student sexual harassment, particularly gender harassment, is pervasive in Memphis area schools with over 90% of students in the study reporting being sexually harassed at least once while in their current school. And although over 90% reported experiencing harassment, only 16% said they had ever reported an incident of sexual harassment to school authorities.

In August of 2009 CROW created an addendum to this report to highlight gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered related sexual harassment in schools. This report revealed that 26.1% of students had been called “gay” or “lesbian” by another student while at their current school, with boys more likely to be harassed than girls. To read this report visit [http://crow.memphis.edu](http://crow.memphis.edu).
New Projects

Memphis Teen Vision

Formerly known as the MidSouth Coalition on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention, and Parenting, Memphis Teen Vision (MemTV) is a collaborative effort by over 50 Memphis community organizations to address the high rate of teen pregnancy in our community.

MemTV’s mission is to organize a coordinated community response to teen pregnancy and parenting that includes services, support and education to pregnant and parenting teens, as well as advocating for strong policies and programs that promote adolescent sexual health.

On October 18, 2010 MemTV chair Dr. Lynda Sagrestano presented the Memphis City Schools’ (MCS) Board of Commissioners with a petition containing over 200 signatures supporting an MCS Board resolution to create a comprehensive strategy to reduce teen pregnancies. After discussion and public comment the Board voted 7 to 1 (and 1 abstention) to pass the resolution. MemTV is set to work in partnership with MCS Board and Administration to craft specific components of the strategy, including tracking numbers of pregnant and parenting students and requiring the system-wide teaching of the MCS Family Life Curriculum.

Girls Incorporated Evaluation

The purpose of Girls Incorporated of Memphis is to inspire “all girls to be strong, smart and bold”SM. Girls Inc strives to accomplish this by providing girls with quality outcome-based programming. In the coming year the Center for Research on Women will evaluate the effectiveness of the Girls Inc of Memphis programs for girls ages 9 to 18.

Girl Scouts Evaluation

CROW has been commissioned by the Girl Scouts Heart of the South (GSHS) to evaluate programs aimed at promoting courage, confidence, and character in the lives of the girls who participate in their programs. GSHS serves approximately 12,000 girls in grades K-12 across 59 counties in West Tennessee, East Arkansas, and Northern Mississippi. Their Transforming Leadership model uses a variety of programs and activities to lead girls to discover, connect, and take action.

Childcare as an Investment in the Future

The Center for Research on Women and the Institute for Women's Studies at the University of Georgia are collaborating with the National Council for Research on Women on a project funded by the Ms. Foundation with support for local data collection from the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis. The purpose of this research is to examine the extent to which the increased childcare funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) adequately reached low-income women and families, particularly families of color.

Together, our agencies will examine the impact of ARRA on childcare in Tennessee and Georgia, study the ways in which low-income women have been affected, and use these findings to work with policy makers at the state and federal levels to suggest models for stronger childcare initiatives.

Two-thirds of young men (65%) who talked to their parents about pregnancy prevention say it was helpful—unfortunately only half (53%) reported having had these conversations.*

Community Partnerships

Reproductive Rights

The CROW Director serves as the sponsor for the Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region’s VOX chapter at the University of Memphis. VOX—the voices of Planned Parenthood—serves to educate and bring awareness to the reproductive rights of women on our college campus. Past events include film screenings, panel discussions, and fundraisers designed to raise funds and awareness for reproductive rights.

Support for Women’s Organizations

CROW faculty and staff are actively involved with many organizations in the community. For example, the Center Director served as a volunteer for the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis’s 12th Annual Tribute Luncheon, which raised funds for grants to support women’s programs throughout the community.

GLBT Bullying

The Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (MGLCC) gathered a panel of experts, advocates, and parents to discuss the bullying and suicides of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) teens. CROW’s director served as a panelist, and presented CROW’s 2009 addendum to our original report on Sexual Harassment in Memphis Area Middle and High Schools, which highlights GLBT related sexual harassment in schools. This report revealed that 26.1% of students had been called “gay” or “lesbian” by another student while at their current school, with boys more likely to be harassed than girls.

To read more on this report visit http://crow.memphis.edu.

Community Boards and Committee Service

During the past year Center staff members were honored to represent CROW on the following community Boards of Directors and Committees:

- American Association of University Women, Memphis Chapter, Membership Chair
- Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change, Advisory Board
- Governor’s Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative, Core Leadership Team
- Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities, Advisory Board
- Memphis Teen Vision (MemTV; Formerly known as the MidSouth Collaborative on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention, and Parenting), Chair
- Shelby County Early Success Coalition
- Shelby County Fetal Infant Mortality Review Community Action Team
- Tennessee Economic Council for Women, Memphis Development District Advisory Committee

*Adapted from http://www.stayteen.org/teen-pregnancy
Women's Research Forum

Dr. Nancy Hardt, Professor of Pathology and Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Senior Associate Dean for External Affairs, in the College of Medicine, at the University of Florida, presented her research on maternal mortality, and what we can do to reduce its incidence.

Dr. Sally R. Ross, assistant professor of Sport and Leisure Management at the University of Memphis, presented her findings on media images of female athletes in her colloquium entitled Athlete or Diva? Photographic Preference of College and Adolescent Female Athletes.

Dr. Sage Graham, Professor of Linguistics at the University of Memphis, presented her research, entitled Is there any House in the Doctor? Politeness, Gender, and the Negotiation of Care in Medical Care Giver Teams. Dr. Graham's study is an exploration of power and politeness strategies used by various members of caregiving teams to negotiate patient care decisions as they try to provide the best care possible.

Women’s Academic Network

Throughout the year the Center coordinated meetings of the University of Memphis Women's Academic Network, a campus-wide group that provides female faculty and administrators with an informal opportunity to meet new colleagues, socialize, and discuss topics of interest and relevance to women in academia including: tenure and promotion, family friendly leave policies, childcare and schools, partner hiring, and mentoring.

Promoting Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

The Center once again assisted in the planning and promotion of a special workshop for girls in grades 6 through 8 organized by the University of Memphis Herff College of Engineering. The one-day event entitled Expanding Your Horizons was held September 25, 2010 at the U of M and included workshops in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for more than 115 middle school girls.
Women’s History Month

In celebration of Women’s History Month CROW highlighted the "lives and times" of some of the phenomenal women featured in U of M Associate Professor of History Beverly Bond's edited volume, *Tennessee Women: Their Lives and Times*.

Members of the College of Communications and Fine Arts, including Brandon Riley, Sarah Brown, Moira Logan, Lauren Scott, and Kimberly Johnson, performed interpretive readings by Phoebe Omlie, Wilma Dykeman, Mary Church-Terrell, and Francis Wright in the Rotunda of the Ned R. McWherter Library on the U of M Campus. Renowned Memphis blues singer Joyce Cobb, accompanied by J.T. Page, performed the music of Alberta Hunter.

A panel discussion was also held to explore the lives of these women in a more intimate, group-discussion setting. Panelists included U of M professors Beverly Bond, Janann Sherman, Aram Goudsouzian, Rhodes College professor Gaily Murray, and Arkansas State University professor Sarah Wilkerson. Presentations from the authors included works on Milly Swan Price, Phoebe Fairgrave Omlie, Wilma Rudolph, Jocelyn Dan Wurzburg, Bettye Berger, and Charl Ormond Williams.

CROW Director Joins the Board of Directors of the National Council for Research on Women

National Council for Research on Women (NCRW), established in 1982, is a network of 120 leading research, policy and advocacy centers dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls. They provide the latest news, analysis, and strategies needed to ensure fully informed debates, effective policies, and inclusive practices. In partnership with business, academic, nonprofit, and philanthropic organizations, NCRW advances collaborative and transformative change, both nationally and globally.

CROW was among the original 28 founding member centers, and remains an active part of the NCRW network. Dr. Sagrestano will serve a three year term on the Board.
Please add CROW to your list of annual charitable gifts!

Our researchers are working on issues of vital importance to women and girls in Memphis, the region, and the nation, including:

**Sexual harassment in school**

**Infant mortality**

$5,000
Gayle Beck

**Poverty**

$1,000
Kathy Buckman Gibson

**Teen pregnancy**

$251-$500
Fred Atwater, Jr

**Violence against women**

$201-$250
Linda Bennett
Cathy Chapman
Esther Harbert
KC Warren

**Childcare**

$101-$200
Sherry Compton
Cynthia Ham
Katherine Kitzmann
Nancy Kutner
Lynda Sagrestano

**Transportation**

$76-$100
Richard & Deborah Binswanger
Bert Bornblum
Ruby Bright
Lila Beth Burke
Carol Danehower
Jed Dreifus
Marianne Fisher-Giorlando
Stephanie Gilmore
Deborah Hester Harrison
Dorothea Simmons
Dena Targ

**Up to $75**
Arnold Adoff
Rosie Bingham
Nita Black
Shannon Blanton
Wight Boggs
Joy Clay
Anne Dean
Virginia Dunaway
Earline Duncan
Ruthbeth Finerman
Brenda Freeman
Caroline Fruchtman
Douglas Gamble & Nina Gregg

Tennessee Governor’s Office for Children’s Care Coordination: $195,000 to evaluate the Community Voice Program to reduce infant mortality rates in the African-American community. Year 3 of a $780,000 allocation (defunded June 30, 2010).

United Way of the Mid-South: $24,900 to conduct a special study of transportation as a barrier to HIV medical adherence in the MidSouth region.

The Urban Child Institute: $10,000 to lead the Mid-South Collaborative on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention, and Parenting.

Ms. Foundation: $20,000 jointly with the National Council for Research on Women and the Institute for Women’s Studies at the University of Georgia to investigate the extent to which increased childcare funding under ARRA adequately reached low-income women.

The Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis: $3,000 to support local research and a policy brief on childcare issues for low-income women in Memphis.
Faculty Affiliates 2009-2010

Dr. Reece Luke Auguiste  
Department of Communication

Dr. Mariam Ayad  
Institute of Egyptian Art & Archeology; Department of Art

Dr. Vania Barraza - Toledo  
Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures

Dr. Gayle Beck  
Chair of Excellence  
Department of Psychology

Dr. Phyllis Betts  
Director, Center for Community Building and Neighborhood Action (CBANA)

Dr. Beverly Bond  
Department of History; Director, African and African-American Studies Program

Dr. Anita Boykins  
Loewenberg School of Nursing

Dr. Keri Brondo  
Department of Anthropology

Dr. Sarah Brown  
Department of Theatre and Dance

Dr. Margaret M. Caffrey  
Department of History

Dr. Joy Clay  
Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences; Professor, Division of Public and Nonprofit Administration

Dr. Amy de Jongh Curry  
Biomedical Engineering

Dr. Carol Danehower  
Department of Management

Dr. Pleshette DeArmitt  
Department of Philosophy

Dr. Leigh Anne Duck  
Department of English

Dr. Ruthbeth D. Finerman  
Department of Anthropology

Dr. Sage Graham  
Department of English

Dr. Laura Ellen Harris  
Division of Public and Nonprofit Administration

Dr. Sharon Gayle Horne  
Department of Counseling, Education Psychology and Research

Dr. Carol Irwin  
Department of Health & Sport Sciences

Dr. Heidi Levitt  
Department of Psychology

Dr. Marian Levy  
Director, Masters Program in Public Health

Dr. Shu Li  
Department of Communication

Dr. Mary Beth Mader  
Department of Philosophy

Daphne McFerren  
Director, Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change

Dr. Nancy Mele  
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Dr. Deborah Tollefsen  
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Dr. Cynthia Tucker  
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Dr. Lan Wang  
Department of Computer Science

Dr. Kathryn Whitted  
Division of Social Work

Dr. Yaschica D. Williams  
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Dr. Amanda J. Young  
Department of Communication

Dr. Lynda Sagrestano, Jennifer Gooch (CROW), and Deborah Clubb (Memphis Area Women’s Council) pose with Gloria Steinem at the Women’s Economic Summit in Nashville, TN.
Center for Research on Women

Supporting scholarship on race, class, gender, and social inequality since 1982

Visit us on the web at http://crow.memphis.edu