

Opportunities for Advancement for Women

OFA Collective



La Promotion sociale

Ce projet s'est développé à partir d'un cours offert au Centre de la Femme au Humber College (CEGEP Humber). Il a pour but d'aider les mères seules et soutien de famille à devenir indépendantes et à prendre en main leur propre vie. On élabore actuellement un programme d'entraînement professionnel pour les personnes qui enseignent déjà dans ce domaine.

The Opportunity for Advancement project was established and designed to meet some of the clearly identifiable needs of sole-support mothers in the boroughs of York and Etobicoke of Metropolitan Toronto. The project was conceived from a course entitled 'Opportunity for Change' developed for housewives by the Centre for Women at Humber College. The women who took the Opportunity for Change course discovered in their sessions that their problems and needs were experienced in a severer form by sole-support mothers dependent on public welfare and family-benefits payments. Because of this a proposal was submitted to set up a course for these women. It was granted by the Directorate of Health and Welfare Canada and administered by Humber College. In 1976 OFA became financially independent of the college and was incorporated as a non-profit corporation.

The aim of the Opportunity for Advancement program is to initiate a process of rehabilitation for sole-support mothers. This is done by building up self-esteem, assessing skills, practising assertive behaviour, and making realistic plans for the future. In this way women gain some independence and begin to take control of their own lives.

It is seen as both an action project and a research project. Action because it responds to immediate needs of women and initiates change; research because it uses the information gained to develop a model. This model can then be used by other educational institutions and social agencies for similar programs.

The OFA staff feel that the model can also be adapted for use by other groups of clients. For instance, they are in the process of working out a program that may be used for women in correctional institutions. They are also developing courses for women who are trapped in child-abusing situations. Another goal of OFA is to set up a training program and to invite professional workers to take part in it; through this process similar programs can be initiated in other agencies. In this way women working with women can expand the educational services now being offered.

The staff at OFA have published an extensive research report and a training manual both of which are available from the address below.

CONTACT

OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVANCEMENT

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

OR

COPY OF OUR FINAL REPORT TO HEALTH
AND WELFARE CANADA (\$7.50)

OR

COPY OF OUR PROGRAMME MANUAL (\$25.00)