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## Homemakers natural managers; skills marketable, counselor says

By Christopher Galen

Changes in societal attitudes and economic conditions are bringing many homemakers into the work place, some for the first time.

To help these women find a fulfilling job, the Lincoln YWCA and the Board of Women's Ministries at First Plymouth Congregational Church sponsored a "Women and Work" seminar Tuesday. The seminar was at First Plymouth, 20th and D streets.

Jeanne Sutter, associate for women's ministries at the church, said the topics covered values clarification and skill assessment, goal-setting, resume writing, interviewing and a look at where jobs are.

"We're trying to provide job-seeking skills, particularly for the homemaker who has been out of the work force for a while," Sutter said.

Some women might believe they have few marketable skills, but they are often selling themselves short, Sutter said.

Many homemakers have good social and organizational skills, she said. "They care about people and relationships. Feelings are high on the list, and a good homemaker will be very organized," Sutter said.

The workshop was designed to help unemployed homemakers define their needs and assets, and then apply them to the work force, she said.

"There are numerous ways of finding a job... more than just the want ads," Sutter said.

The Women and Work Seminar was co-sponsored by the Lincoln YWCA's New Directions Center, directed by Shirley Huck.

The homemaker must accept both her liabilities and assets when looking for a job, Huck said.

"Many don't have recent work experience. They don't know how to go out and look for a job. They don't know where the jobs are at," she said.

But the biggest liability might be only a lack of self-esteem, Huck said. Women might perceive themselves as not having any job skills, but this usually isn't the case, she said.

"They have a great range of skills. They're conscientious, responsible, and they do their jobs well," she said.

As economic difficulties force more homemakers into the workforce, society's view of the working woman has changed. Some women go to work for

personal satisfaction. But in many cases there is a financial need to help support the family, Huck said.

"It's more acceptable for a woman to work full time, to be in a professional position," she said.

One of the guest speakers Tuesday was Anne Burnham, a counselor at the Nebraska Job Service. She said some women may find it difficult to leave their homes for the workplace.

"Changing careers is a challenge. Essentially, they're leaving one job for another," she said.

As more homemakers enter the workforce, employers are taking a new view of them, Burnham said.

"We don't tend to give the homemaker the credit she deserves. Business has begun to realize that women have good management skills, that they have physical and mental endurance," she said.

Much of that endurance is necessary to cope with the family after work, Sutter said.

"I think a supportive spouse is extremely important. He must be willing to take up the slack, to help provide emotional support. Children also have to accept responsibilities. But it develops their independence. They find they can take care of themselves," she said.

## Crime . . .

Continued from Page 1

He said residential burglary is down 23 percent from last year. Anderson said such a large decrease is not common in larger cities. He added that Lincoln has the lowest crime rate of all other cities of its size in the country.

"If you know your neighbor and your neighbor knows you, and you're watching back and forth, crimes have got to go down," Swanson said.

Geidner said the police had testimony from a burglar who said he found it increasingly difficult to find places to rob because of security encouraged by the neighborhood watch program.

Geidner used a triangle to illustrate how community awareness decreases crime. He said the three sides represent the criminal's desire to commit crime, the criminal's ability to commit crime and the opportunity available to commit the crime.

"We can't have much impact on the first two, but the third side we can remove. Once you remove it, it collapses," Geidner said.

Getting people involved in protecting their own safety is the whole point of the watch program, Geidner said.

"Awareness is the main purpose for any crime prevention program like this . . . to make people aware that you have to do something yourself," Geidner said. "There aren't enough officers to be on every block."

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