

Thank you, Valerie and Adrienne.

President Tradewell, Members of the Board, distinguished guests:

I want to thank you, Carey, for inviting me here tonight for your annual “Spring Fling”. Has it really been a year since I met you and Stormy, Mary and Cheryl in my office -- seems like yesterday -- time flies. It’s nice to see you again. And it is a distinct honor to accept this POWER award.

As you know, I am dedicated to empowerment, self-determination, and personal responsibility. And this applies most certainly to the women served by the Milwaukee Women’s Center. Whether they are trapped in cycles of physical abuse, poverty, welfare, or substance abuse, it has always been my goal to set them free, make them able, responsible and self-sufficient members of our communities.

The 1989 legislation which spawned the POWER program, Wisconsin Act 122, for the prevention and treatment of cocaine families, is just one of many initiatives we have forwarded to put women in control of their lives.

Initiatives like the Sexual Predator law work toward making women safe from violence and abuse, and from the stultifying **fear** of violence and abuse. I recently signed into law Act 229 which helps protect victims of physical abuse by increasing the no-contact period from 24 to 72 hours, giving the victims a safe home until the abuser’s initial court appearance and allowing more time to find alternative living arrangements if necessary.

And I know the Milwaukee Women’s Center is concerned with violence and injustice against children, since children are often indirect victims of violence against women. The Children First initiative more than doubled child support payments in the State. In a few weeks, I will premier the State’s first “Ten Most Wanted” poster of deadbeat parents. Another new law enables the State to place liens on boats to satisfy child support payments. We are working toward removing the disproportionate burdens that hold women back.

With help from organizations like the Milwaukee Women's Center, we will continue making our communities safe, supportive, and empowering for the women of Wisconsin.

The Milwaukee Women's Center is an amazing success story. And your exciting new partnerships with managed care and health maintenance organizations means your work can proceed toward larger state and national models, increasing your span to reach smaller towns and cities, to the benefit of every woman in every community you touch. Wisconsin took you as a partner back in 1990, because you were willing to try **something**, when the rest were balking at **everything**. You just took the ball and ran with it. Now you've found new private partners. This is an exemplary organization. You really practice what you preach here.

Thank you again for this honor. Keep up the fine work.

Source: Marquette University Libraries; Tommy G. Thompson Collection; Series 2:
Gubernatorial Speeches

POWER Award acceptance remarks, Milwaukee Women's Center, Thursday, May
16, 1996, 7:30 - 7:45 pm

Location: Grain Exchange, Main Room, 2nd Floor
225 East Michigan Street, Milwaukee

Chain of events: Ms. Carey Tradewell, President/CEO of the Milwaukee
Women's Center, Inc., will introduce Adrian and Valerie, two of the great success
stories of the early years of the WMC; they work at the WMC now and personally
wanted to hand you the award. Adrian and Valerie give you the plaque. Ms.
Tradewell will introduce you. You deliver remarks. You depart.