

# Helping You Help Your Clients

by Cynthia Golomb

As our ancestors have wryly observed, God couldn't be everywhere, so God invented mothers. A modern variation on this theme applies to many of us in business today. In our various professions, we are often faced with issues that seemingly require us to be everywhere to assist our clients. And, it should be noted that the Internet, while enormously useful, is not necessarily the answer to all of our needs for guidance and information.

Fortunately, the individual professionals in our community do not have to be everywhere to offer quality service to their clients. Not only are there many capable experts in various fields to whom referrals can be made, there is also easy access to many outstanding community resources to help professionals help their clients.

Attorneys, for example, often encounter people who are in the midst of the extremely stressful process of completely reorganizing their lives. In addition to understanding the legal consequences of various decisions they may make, many people need ongoing support during this time. Routinely, attorneys refer clients to such organizations as the Family Life Center in Columbia or to Children of Separation & Divorce, Inc. (COSD). In a cost-effective manner, these organizations provide psychotherapeutic services to people in need and members of their families. By assisting clients to navigate their emotional terrain, these service providers enable the attorney to focus on a legal resolution to the issues presented by clients.

In family law matters where domestic violence may be a concern, attorneys ask clients in Howard County to consult with the Domestic Violence Center. The Domestic Violence Center provides excellent support to those who need to develop a



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safety plan or, if necessary, who may need shelter for themselves or their children.

Community organizations can assist citizens in all sorts of ways. For example, before filing a bankruptcy claim, people should consult with Consumer Credit Counselors. Before suing an employer, they should visit Careerscope to assess vocational alternatives. Even the local library can assist patrons unsure of where to turn in dealing with a particular issue. Howard County's librarians are courteous, knowledgeable and informed about resources in the community.

By connecting with the many organizations available, individual professionals both enhance their knowledge of the community and assist their clients, as well. Everyone can benefit from the services provided by the nonprofit sector in our communities.

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