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February 9

Heartland Women

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Celebrate
Valentine's Day
by helping the
needy, not
the greedy!

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Southern Illinois
Teen Conference
celebrates you!

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Benefit helps
Zambian children

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Taste of Chocolate

Party like it's 1999
at the Women's
Center fundraiser

By Jan Staab
For Heartland Women

Calling all chocolate
lovers! Mark your calendars
for the 10th Annual Taste of
Chocolate fundraiser to ben-
efit The Women's Center in
Carbondale. The fun starts
on Fri., Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. at
the Carbondale Civic Center.

"I am really excited about
this year's Taste of
Chocolate fundraising event.
This is the 10th year for the
event, and the theme focuses
on the birth of The Women's
Center," said Executive
Director Cathy McClanahan.
"Daffodils will be displayed
as the centerpieces, because
of their significance in help-
ing to make the dream of a
women's center become a
reality.

"The original group of
women who envisioned a
women's center sold daf-
fodils on campus as a way to
raise funds. With these
funds (\$360) they started
the Center's first bank
account and applied for non-
profit status. Because of
this, the daffodil became a
representation of their
dream coming true."

As the largest Women's
Center fundraiser, the Taste
of Chocolate plays a pivotal
role in keeping that dream
alive. Much of the event's
success is due to the gener-
ous donations of time, ener-
gy and, of course, chocolate
from local vendors.

"The event attracts 300
to 400 people and showcases
chocolate specialties from
local restaurants, bakeries,
breweries, caterers and sup-
pliers," said Women's Center
board member and events

See **Chocolate**, Page 14



Spend an elegant evening and support a great cause at the 10th Annual Taste of Chocolate event to benefit The Women's Center.

The Women's Center on a mission of mercy

By Jan Staab
For Heartland Women

In 1972, The Women's
Center was established in
Carbondale as one of the
first domestic violence cen-
ters in the US. The founding
mothers of the organization
envisioned a safe and secure
environment for women and
children who are victims of
domestic violence or sexual
assault.

With little more than raw
determination and the
courage of their convictions,
these gutsy women made
their vision into a reality.
More than 35 years later,
the trained professionals
and volunteers at The
Women's Center help the
victims of violence take back

See **Mercy**, Page 14



The Women's Center has been helping the victims of
violence take back control of their lives for more than 35
years.

Compassion and crisis: Why does it take tragedy to move us to act?

By Jan Staab
For Heartland Women

I've thought a lot about
compassion the past couple
of weeks as I waited to hear
if two of my friends had sur-
vived the earthquake in
Haiti. By the grace of God,
they did. But even as I write
these words, I feel a twinge
of remorse. For if I can see a
divine hand in the protec-
tion given to my friends, my
gut tells me I should be able
to see it in all of the lives
touched by this tragedy.

It's probably just the lim-
itation of my perspective,
but I can't see it. I'm not
talking theology and doc-
trine here, ladies. I am talk-
ing about the pure, intuitive
belief that compassion and
caring should not be distrib-
uted with partiality, that

You can help!

•The children of Zambia
Spotlight, page 10

•WDBX community radio
•The cancer society
•LifeSavers Training
•SI social services

Destinations, page 4

And have a great time, too!

unconditional love should
not appear only under cer-
tain conditions.

Then again, I look at my
own life and see many con-
ditions on caring. With the
exception of The Women's

See **Compassion**, Page 15

Human beings are stronger together than individually. So,
why does it often take a crisis to get us to work for
common goals?

