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Tips for first-time buyers and homeowners going through divorce

WEB EXCLUSIVE

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A decade ago, veteran Colorado Realtor Joan Rogliano weathered a difficult divorce.

The process illuminated for this longtime real estate agent the need for people in general - and women in particular - to have access to honest, no-strings-attached information about real estate and finances.

That was the beginning of The Wildflower Group, a Littleton, Colo., organization that holds free seminars for first-time homebuyers, and anyone going through or thinking about divorce. Here, Rogliano elaborates on the need for her work.

Q: What personal experiences gave rise to The Wildflower Group?

A: Through my divorce (and) the fact that I seemed to be working with a lot of women who were transitioning through divorce or widowhood, I found women get a lot of misinformation about real estate. Their advisors, family members and so forth, are telling them they don't have any options - that they have to sell their house, wipe the slate clean and move on. If I had known then what I know now, I would have handled things differently. Specifically, I wouldn't have sold my home, especially when there are kids involved.

Q: Is The Wildflower Group just for women?

A: I have had a couple of men call me about divorce and the home. Of course I will help them. One man had the children, and he didn't want to uproot them. I told him that's what we're all about. But I target women because they seem to bear the brunt of the economic stress. (After divorce), their standard of living drops more drastically. They're also the primary caregivers for the children. It's a lot of adjustment for them, more so than for men ... We show them how to establish credit and repair credit. We put one woman on an 18-month plan to accumulate savings and repair her credit, and she did it in even less time.

Q: What can attendees expect from one of your seminars?

A: My real job as a Realtor funds my passion, which is The Wildflower Group. I have an office in Littleton. That's where my seminars are. We have a big classroom there. But I could do my seminars anywhere. I'm very mobile.

... One of the best things is how the women bond with each other at the seminars. I find that they come feeling very alone and lost. Then they have a chance to talk with the other women in the group, and they're much more inclined to ask questions.

Find out about The Wildflower Group and its upcoming seminars for first-time homebuyers or homeowners going through divorce at wildflowergroup.net, or call 303-667-5485.