

# Local businesswoman starts Wildflower Group after difficulties

By GARY MASSARO

LITTLETON -- Joan Rogliano founded a sideline while selling real estate.

It started with heartbreak.

"I went through a very difficult divorce," Rogliano said.

That's not what caused her to found the Wildflower Group in 2006.

It's other women who were going through the same thing she had gone through that prompted Rogliano to found the organization.

"I was finding that my clients were getting a lot of misinformation when going through divorce," Rogliano said. "No one was addressing what their goals were. Somebody needed to step forward."

Wildflower is a combination support group, financial advising, educational and champion for women who were being bullied during divorce or after they are widowed.

"Our real goal is to educate women so they can make choices that are best for them," Rogliano said.

Rogliano doesn't make a cent off Wildflower.



Joan Rogliano

"My real estate business supports this group," said Rogliano, owner of Rogliano Real Estate Group, 2 W. Dry Creek Circle.

Women in Wildflower meet every other month. There are guest speakers. On both ends of the talk, there is a lot of conversation among the women, who build alliances and

friendships and learn from each others' experiences.

"I help them figure out ways to stay in their house," Rogliano said. "I tell them you do have choices."

Many people going through a divorce just want it to end. So they sign papers without assessment because they're unable to think clearly, she said.

It's particularly difficult on women, who "take about a 75 percent reduction in financial status after a divorce," Rogliano said. "I've had men call for help. But it's mainly women. Statistically, and from my experience, I've found that women suffer more. They're usually the primary care givers for the children. You know who suffers, really, are the kids. They really do."

The Wildflower Group will hear Marcia Bankirer, president of Argosy University, at its meeting from 6-8:30 p.m. at South Metro Board of Realtors, 7899 S. Lincoln Court, Littleton. Bankirer's talk is titled "What's the Next Step for You?" The event is public and free.