

He Speaks: A Volunteer's Perspective

By Shaun McDonald



Shaun McDonald

My name is Shaun McDonald, and I'm a senior chemical engineering student (at UT). I have been volunteering my time and knowledge to Women Blessing Women. Every week for an hour, I meet with women in the community to help them with algebra and geometry. I have always enjoyed helping others with scholastic work because I remember my own struggles with it. This has been a very gratifying experience to see the women grow in understanding and boost their self esteem. This small donation of my time makes a big difference to these women, and I hope to see more volunteers in the coming months! For me, this experience

has helped me see Christ every time these women smile and walk out of the room with their heads held high. One woman in particular has been striving to achieve her GED so that she may accept a government grant to learn a technical trade at a local college. After working with her, I know that she has the skills to achieve her goal, and it's exciting to share her hope and excitement for the future. I highly recommend that you find your own niche or way of helping the community and make it a priority in your life; it has helped me grow and realize that helping others is more important than focusing on my own wants and desires.

She Speaks: A Participant & Collaboration Testimonial

(Prevent Blindness) By Jacqueline Lamb

I had always had perfect vision while growing up. My eyesight has always been 20/40 in both eyes.

Women Blessing Women made the referral to Prevent Blindness, and they were able to provide a voucher for eye glasses.

I was able to pass the eye exam so I could renew my driver's license. I was also able to read perfectly after I got my glasses.

Now I can continue classes at Women Blessing Women so I will be able to obtain my



Jacqueline Lamb

GED. After I obtain my GED, I would like to continue my education at a nearby college.

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She Speaks: A Participant's Perspective

By April Halterman

Women Blessing Women has helped me in more ways than one. They have not only helped me prepare for my GED test and helped me with computer skills and job readiness, they have helped me grow as a person.

Among the classes at WBW, they have a class called Empowerment Workshop. The class teaches about life issues and how to become someone you want to become now and in the future.

Since I've been attending WBW for the last five months, I have become more confident in myself and believe that I can do anything I put my mind and heart to do. I have also met the most determined and wonderful women I have ever met before, both students and staff. Everyone supports everyone and I love it!



April Halterman

Women Blessing Women

Mission

To serve, bless, and empower women to achieve their potential, obtain living wage jobs, and break the cycle of poverty.



Women Blessing Women

223 Page Street
Toledo, OH 43620
Phone: 419.241.9789
Fax: 419.241.9791

Web: womenblessingwomen.org

We're Proud of Our Participants!



Smanda Brown



Veronica Padua



Brandi Bauer



Vicenta Close

Congratulations! Earned GED Sept., 2009 - March, 2010

Katherine Barnett
Brandi Bauer
Smanda Brown
Anita Garcia
Veronica Padua

Obtained Employment Sept., 2009 - March 2010

Welcome New Volunteers, Sept., 2009 - March 2010

Amanda Alvarado
Shelly Anderson
Rachel Barlion
Sharon C. Barrow
Heather Bishop
Emilia Boeschen
Cathan Bricker
Jocelyn Briestensky
Sr. Maryilyn Broer
Brent Buckland
Lynne Buri
Terry Carey
Harim Choi
Minister Felicia Clark
Oleen Clinton*
Karen Coker*
Kristen Colvin
Tyler Czerniejewski
Jacquelyn Desgrange
Paige Doepker
Alexandra Filliater
Anna Frey
Anita Garcia*
Mini'mah Garrett
Terryann Goodridge-Dunlap*
April Halterman*
Shawrty Harris
Laura Hassay

Corie Holmes
Alex Jendrzejak
Benjamin Jendrzejak
Derek Jones
Danielle Lister
Jenna Masters
Melrin Mandubourg
Shaun McDonald
Linda Murray
Christina Nelson
Whitney Ondrus
Lee Parke
Jeffrey Reed
Shakura Roberson
Tracy Rogowski
CJ Scott
Jacob Walsh
Eileen Williams
Belinda Young
*Alumnae



Anita Garcia is all smiles after passing the GED test. She is shown with her proud algebra tutor, Shaun McDonald. Anita also teaches cooking at WBW and is starting classes at the Business Technology Academy, Toledo.

Welcome, Americorps Volunteers



Sharon Cannon-Barrow

Sharon began volunteering at WBW in Sept. as full-time Job Program Assistant, working with Interim Director Glenda Brown. Sharon facilitates orientations for new participants, processes paperwork and data to maintain accurate student information. She taught several computer classes and assists participants with their résumés. She has recently been asked to join the Board of Directors at Americorps, Inc. Sharon is a graduate of The University of Toledo with a BBS degree. She had previously worked at H& R Block, Huntington Bank and FOCUS, Inc. Sharon was born in Detroit, Michigan and now resides in Toledo.

Derek Jones

Derek also began volunteering at WBW in Sept. as GED Program Assistant, working closely with Education and Career Coordinator Jane Mc Gee. Derek assists with orientation for GED completion. He helps to score various tests, tutor participants as needed, and assists with teaching Math. He has also helped with entering data on a weekly basis. We are grateful to have a dedicated and respectful young man at our organization. Derek is a graduate of Greg International Academy and also completed the Job Corps Program.



We're Proud of Our Participants!



Katherine Barnett



Anita Garcia

Women Blessing Women, Catholic Charities Form Partnership

By Laurie Neary, Board Chair

In July, 2009, our executive director retired and bookkeeper resigned. Shortly thereafter, a member of our board was approached by the new director of Catholic Charities about a partnership with Women Blessing Women. The two organizations began discussions with their boards to determine if a partnership would be beneficial to both organizations. The decision was made to remain separate entities, and Catholic Charities would provide administrative services to WBW in accounting, grant writing, development and marketing. WBW would pay a monthly fee for these services. This agreement allowed our organization to save on personnel costs by not hiring an executive director or bookkeeper. The term of service will be for six months commencing in Dec. 2009, and in the fifth month a review of operations and sustainability will be conducted. The board and staff of WBW appreciate this opportunity and appreciate Catholic Charities' efforts in this endeavor.

Successful Fall Fundraisers

Several fundraisers held in Fall, 2009, provided much-needed support for WBW and its Endowment. The Chili for Change, Soup for Success event in Nov. raised \$5,658.92. Additional fundraisers raised dollars for the Endowment and included the Glass Slipper Review held in Sept., which raised \$1,243 and the Purse Auction in Dec., \$1,438.

Another fundraiser was the Forever Blessings Club, an ongoing project, which earned \$490.

Recent Grants Total \$32,257

As of press time, Women Blessing Women has been the recipient of grants totalling \$32,257 since Oct. 2009. The funds were provided by several different organizations and businesses. We are most appreciative of the support of the following organizations and their grants, which will allow us to continue to provide much-needed services to women seeking to lift themselves out of poverty:

2009 Grant Awards:

UPS	\$5,000
Mercy College	\$1,000

2010 Grant Awards:

AT&T Lifeline Outreach	\$7,000
Capacity Building Grant	\$14,247
TJX Foundation	\$5,000
Toledo Rotary	\$10,000

The Capacity Building Grant funded our new computer lab.



Representatives from Mercy College present a large check as a \$1,000 grant to Women Blessing Women.



Women Blessing Women participants, staff and volunteers gather around a huge symbolic \$5,000 grant check from United Parcel Service Foundation.

Save the Dates
Spring Blessings Fashion Show & Luncheon
 Sat., June 5, 12-2 pm,
 at Lourdes College
 Gymnasium, Sylvania

2nd Annual Glass Slipper Review
 supporting the Endowment and celebrating women in the performing arts, Sun., Oct. 10, at 3 pm, Collingwood Art Center

Chili for Change/Soup for Success, Sun., Nov. 14, 11:30 am-3 pm at Notre Dame Academy

2nd Annual Purse Auction supporting the Endowment, Sun., Dec. 12, 3-5 pm at the Mansion View Inn

Board of Trustees

Honorary Board Members

Hon. Marcy Kaptur
 Hon. Judith Ann Lanzinger

Ex-Officio Board Member

Sr. Nancy Mathias, OSU, Vicar of Religious

Elected Officers

Laurie Neary, Chair
 F. Michael Bercher, Treasurer
 Sr. Annette Langenderfer, OSFT, Secretary

Elected Members

Sr. Carolyn Giera, OSF/S
 Lynn Langel
 Shelly McCoy-Grissom
 Linda Miller
 Christine Richmond
 Sr. Dorothy Thum, RSM

Staff

Glenda Brown, Interim Director
 Jane McGee, Education & Career Coordinator
 Audrey Reed, Office Assistant

Committees Support Women Blessing Women

Several committees support and enhance the mission and program of Women Blessing Women. These dedicated volunteer committees meet regularly to brainstorm new ideas and strategize ways to improve the funding and extend the brand of the nonprofit. They work with the Board of Trustees in support of the organization. Current committees are: Endowment, Finance, Fundraising and Marketing.

The committees offer multiple opportunities for volunteers to not only support Women Blessing Women's cause and mission, but also to sharpen their skills and gain new skills, while networking with other like-minded people. Anyone who is interested in serving on a committee is welcome—just contact the committee chair or call Glenda Brown to express your interest.

In the next few issues we will look at each of the committees, how it functions and what its goals are.

Marketing Committee Works to Increase Awareness

Made up of a group of professionals skilled in various marketing disciplines, the Marketing Committee meets regularly to consider various strategies to spread the word about WBW in the Toledo area and to develop and maintain consistent branding. The committee provides marketing support to the Endowment and Fundraising Committees.

Chaired by Lindsay Williams, the committee has responsibility for regular communications with the organization's supporters, donors, volunteers and participants. This is done through several print and online media including but not limited to this newsletter, web site (womenblessingwomen.org), e-mail, flyers, postcards, programs, invitations, annual report, media kits, videos, photography and brochures. Regular press releases are sent to local media about our events and other news of interest. The Marketing Committee is open to new members. If you are interested in contributing ideas and skills by serving on the committee, contact Chair Lindsay Williams, lindsayw_02@hotmail.com.

Wish List

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- 13-Gallon kitchen trash bags
- 30-Gallon trash bags
- Coffee (5-lb. cans)
- Coffee filters
- Coffee creamer (powder)
- Sugar (large 25-lb. bags)
- Hand sanitizer
- Cleaning products
- Dictionaries
- Thesaurus
- 3-Hole notebook paper
- 1½" White binders
- Blue ink pens
- Black ink pens
- Journals
- 2-Pocket folders
- Tissues
- Atlas
- Flash drives (2 GB, 4 GB)
- Scientific calculators
- Bus tokens
- Book bag with wheels
- Awards for achievements

Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic
 Presented by
 Jamie Farr
 Purchase Charity Tickets
 to Support Women Blessing Women
 Online: www.jfocc.com or
 Email: wbw@womenblessingwomen.org
Now thru June 18th
 Weekly Grounds \$50
 Weekly Clubhouse \$100
 (Children are admitted free with Adult Ticket)
 100% Ticket sales support Women Blessing Women programs