

She Speaks: Volunteers' Perspective

Volunteering is Life-Giving

By Kay Shrewsbury and Sue Nowak

A few years back, Women Blessing Women was seeking a new home. As members of the Parish Council at St. Mary's Church, we were looking for a way to use our empty rectory to serve the surrounding community. We knew of WBW because of our ties with both the Tiffin Franciscan and Notre Dame Sisters. It was a great match for the parish and for WBW.



Sue Nowak and Kay Shrewsbury

Shortly thereafter, the parish was closed. We asked the Bishop to keep the ministries here alive. Both of us decided to volunteer here as soon as we retired. As women who have lived independently all our lives, we felt the call to be of service to other women, helping to empower them achieve and succeed. Our talents and skills are very different. Sue has administrative and managerial skills which have been put to use organizing and keeping track of volunteer hours. Kay is a retired teacher who now teaches grammar as part of the GED classes. As members of the Development Committee, we have been active in fundraising and establishing an endowment fund, which will support WBW for years to come. We are so excited about our latest project: *The Glass Slipper Review: Making Women's Dreams Come True*. Our committee is recruiting women of talent from NW Ohio to produce a variety show, the proceeds of which will support programs here at WBW through the endowment fund. Mark your calendar for Sept. 27, 2009, at the Collingwood Arts Center and be sure to call if you know of anyone we should recruit to perform!

The women we have come to know through our volunteer work have been an inspiration to us. Their resolve to work hard to achieve their goals and their commitment to supporting each other has been fantastic. They often thank us for being there, but they give as much as they receive. Volunteering has been hard work, but also life-giving, rewarding, and often, downright fun! One of our graduates who is a talented saxophonist, has agreed to perform this fall in *The Glass Slipper Review*. See you all there!

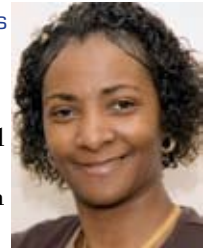
She Speaks:

A Participant's Perspective

Going Strong at WBW

By Sharon A. Spinks

Women Blessing Women has truly been a blessing to me. I started at WBW on Feb. 19, 2008. I've been going strong ever since that day, due to encouragement from family, friends and Chris, exec. director.



Sharon Spinks

I lost my twins in March 2005; three years before I lost my mother. I fell into a deep depression and felt I had nothing to live for. My job with Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek gave me a leave of absence in July 2005, and I enrolled in counseling. I explained to Mrs. Perry, my counselor, that I didn't have my GED; she was the first person who told me about WBW. She showed me information on the Internet about WBW. I called the following Monday and Chris answered. I told her my situation about wanting to get my GED, that I had been out of school for over 20 years. I felt so dumb that I couldn't do math well. Chris said, "no, you just forgot, but you will be able to learn math with the tutors at WBW." Chris told me to come Monday to get registered. At that time I didn't come.

In Nov., 2007, a WBW participant, Debbie Randolph, told me about WBW and gave me a brochure. In Feb., 2008, I started at WBW and registered for my GED, and I've been going strong ever since. Even though I work full time, I come faithfully Monday through Friday. I presently work at Hospice of NW Ohio as a nursing assistant.

My goal is to get my GED and become a registered nurse and go to Mercy College by the fall of this year. At WBW all the tutors are very helpful. They work with you individually on Math, English, Science, Social Studies, Empowerment Pro-

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

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We're Proud of Our Participants!



Deonna Ligon



Lorranda Dickerson



Marybel Contreras



Noemy Ibarra

Welcome New Volunteers, Jan.-April, 2009

Dawn Augustyniak
Brenna Cook
Melony Curry
Audrey Dewey
Pamela Eaton
Jody Farschman
Sr. Carolyn Giera OSF/S
Marie Gill
Aretha Gilmer
Jerome Graham
Amy Gustine
Jessica Henderson
Madelyn Hille
Jacquelyn Isherwood
Benjamin Jendrzek
Jody Kinstler
Kristin Lange
Chere Olvera
Lee Parke
Tiffany Pasker
Elizabeth Phillips
Ann Polosky
Leita Taylor
Diana Whitehead
Gail Wolfe

(Going Strong ... continued
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gram, Computer Skills,
Reading and Job Readiness. WBW gives you the tools to overcome poverty.

I highly recommend the program at WBW. They have helped me on my journey toward my GED; I am preparing to take my test within the next month. I am truly blessed to be involved with such a wonderful organization at WBW.

Congratulations! Earned GED Jan.-April, 2009

Erica Bullie
Deonna Ligon
LaShawnda Thornton

Obtained Employment Jan.-April, 2009

Marybel Contreras
Heather Chizmar
Melissa Durfey
Crystal Evans
Brittany Gonzalez
Brenda Hardiman
Noemy Ibarra
Arnisha Lampkin
Deonna Ligon
Tanisha Mosby

State Tested Nursing Assist. Program, Awarded Warren Thomas Scholarship

Melissa Durfey
Larece Knox
Shana Kuhnle
Lashawna Spears
Kimberly Tanner

Owens College Lorranda Dickerson

Speakers Bureau

Need a program speaker for your professional group, club or organization? WBW speakers would be glad to present our program. Call Lynn Langel at 419-691-2261 or Chris at 419-241-9789 to schedule.

Baby Boomers and the Future of Volunteering

A new study by VolunteerMatch looks for keys to unlock the generosity of the "Me Generation." Its findings include high expectations, skilled volunteers and the Internet playing a huge role in the future of volunteering.

Great Expectations: Boomers and the Future of Volunteering, offers an improved understanding of some of the unique characteristics of this volunteer demographic, and serves as a fresh resource for nonprofits in need of volunteers, especially those who can offer a lifetime of personal and professional skills.

"We see tremendous vitality and innovation in civil society today," said Greg Baldwin, president of VolunteerMatch. More and more organizations understand the strength and talent of volunteers and the significance of the opportunity with the boomer generation. This study points to how they can unlock that potential.

It explores both the nonprofit and the volunteer perspective, but focuses on identifying the evolving motivations, attitudes, skills and expectations of volunteers as they mature. The study also underscores the growing use of the Internet among older Americans and illustrates its usefulness as a tool for connecting volunteers with local nonprofit organizations.

Among the Key Findings of the report:

- Many older non-volunteers are reconsidering volunteering.
- Older non-volunteers aren't volunteering because they haven't found the right opportunity.
- Older adult volunteers are more likely to appreciate the personal significance of volunteering.
- Volunteers grow increasingly interested in making use of their career and non-career related skills as they mature.

The Internet can be a powerful tool for helping more older adults find a meaningful place to volunteer.

"The coming wave of Baby Boomers is one of the best opportunities the nonprofit sector has ever had to expand its reach and impact," said David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National Community Service.

—From VolunteerMatch, USA



Shown left to right at the WAVE event are Kathy Daley, Carla Woodell, WBW Exec.Dir. Chris Palmerton and Carol Kwiatkowski. Kathy, Carla and Carol were committee members and work at Lourdes College.

Second W.A.V.E. Festival Benefits WBW

W.A.V.E. (Women Artists, Visionaries, Entrepreneurs) held its second annual festival at Lourdes College on March 21, 2009, to benefit Women Blessing Women. The festival celebrated national Women's History Month by recognizing the diversity and vision of women artists. Profits from the food sales and booth fees, \$1,011, were donated to WBW.

Thank you to the W.A.V.E committee and Chairperson Lisa Binkowski for the wonderful event and choosing WBW as a beneficiary.

Domestic Violence Facts

From the Domestic Violence Task Force of Lucas County

- 50 percent of Lucas County Job and Family Services clients are domestic violence victims. —Lucas County Job and Family Services, Oct. 2008
- One in four of all women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.
- 8,500 people in the last five years were killed by an intimate partner. This is two times more than those killed in the Iraq war in the last five years.
- In Lucas County, an emergency domestic violence call is received every 28 minutes.
- Three of four women who report a rape were assaulted by a current or former husband, partner or date.
- In 2008, four women in Lucas County died as a result of domestic violence.

"If you believe you can, you probably can. If you believe you won't, you most assuredly won't. Belief is the ignition switch that gets you off the launching pad." —Denis Waitley

Recession's Economic Impact

Last year Women Blessing Women assisted 441 women/mothers with services that guided them to a path of self-sufficiency through education and employment. We expect the number of program participants to increase, coinciding with the need for livable wage employment. Difficult economic times impact single parent households disproportionately as studies reveal 60 percent of these families live in poverty.

Women Blessing Women is anticipating that the accessibility to funding will decrease in 2009. Typically in an economic downturn, the need for services provided rapidly outgrows the available financial resources as private foundations and individuals cut budgets. In response, we will work to meet demand by encouraging individual contributions and stimulating participation in fund-raising activities.

We are confident that Women Blessing Women will be able to serve efficiently and effectively those in need of our services as we weather this economic storm.

To learn more about how you can support Women Blessing Women with your donations, please contact Chris Palmerton, Executive Director, at 419-241-9789.

Your donations can also be mailed to:

Women Blessing Women
Attn: Chris Palmerton
223 Page St.
Toledo, Ohio 43620



These three St. John's High School students have recently been working at WBW on community service requirements. They have been tutoring WBW participants in math subjects, namely Algebra I and Geometry. Shown left to right are Andrew Satornino, Ben Jendrzzejak and Lee Parke.

Search and Raise dollars for WBW

It takes just a few seconds to search the Internet using www.GoodSearch.com. Enter "Women Blessing Women" as your favorite charity, and we will receive a penny every time you search.

GoodSearch.com also has a link to GoodShop, its sister site. Shop online at over 700 stores and WBW can receive up to 37 percent of your online purchases.

Save the Dates

- Spring Blessing Luncheon and Fashion Show, Sat., June 6, 2009
- The Glass Slipper Review: Making Women's Dreams Come True, Sun., Sept. 27, 2009
- Chili for Change, Soup for Success, Sun., Nov. 8, 2009

Board of Trustees

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Hon. Judith Ann Lanzinger

Ex-Officio Board Member

Sr. Nancy Mathias, OSU, Vicar of Religious

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Lou Ann Sheppard, Treasurer
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Sr. Carolyn Giera, OSF/S
Lynn Langel
Shelly McCoy-Grissom
Linda Miller
Pat O'Shea-Remley
Christine Richmond
Sr. Dorothy Thum, RSM

Staff

Chris Palmerton, Director

Plan to Attend ..



Women Blessing Women

Spring Blessings Fashion Show & Luncheon

June 6th, '09 | 11am-2pm | Lourdes College Gymnasium | Tickets \$20 each

Lunch by Outback Steakhouse

Please RSVP by May 29th, by mailing payment to :
Women Blessing Women, 223 Page Street, Toledo, OH 43620



Wish List

Disinfectant wipes
Paper towels
Toilet paper
13-Gallon kitchen trash bags
30-Gallon trash bags
Coffee (large cans)
Coffee creamer (powder)
Sugar (large 25-lb. bags)
Soap/soft
Copy paper (8½" x 11" white 20-lb.)
CD-RWs
Notebooks, 3-ring, 1" and/or 1½" (new or gently used)
HP 92 black and 93 color printer ink cartridges
HP 21 black and 22 color printer ink cartridges
Letter-size manilla file folders (new or gently used)
Turkeys/hams or other meat for potlucks and spiritual retreats

Did You Know?

- Toledo's household median income of \$35,216 ranks as the 10th lowest of U.S. cities with populations over 250,000. 23 percent of Toledo residents are living in poverty. —U.S. Census Bureau, 2007
- 22.5 percent of participants at Women Blessing Women have some sort of learning disability. The US average is 14 percent of students.
- Single mothers raising small children are the hardest hit by poverty. —Ohio State University
- 71,766 residents in Lucas County received food stamps in October 2008. This number is increasing daily because of the current state of the economy. —Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services.
- Women without a high school diploma or GED get low-skill jobs that pay low wages and keep them in poverty. —Ohio State University

What the Employment Program Costs

- \$450 is the cost for one woman to participate in the program for one year
- \$150 will pay for one woman to participate for four months
- \$37.50 is the cost for one woman to participate in the program for one month
- \$9.38 is the cost for one woman to participate in the program for one week.