

She Speaks: A Participant's Perspective

Thanks to everyone at WBW!



When I was seventeen, I made one of the worst decisions of my life—I dropped out of high school. As

the years went by, I would see jobs advertisements that would have been perfect for me. Every time I saw one of these jobs, the ad would list the qualifications, One of which always seemed to be a high school diploma or the equivalent. So once again there was a good-paying job that I couldn't get because I had dropped out of high school.

So I enrolled in GED classes at a local continuing education program. When I went to the class, all I found was a packed room of people with barely enough books for everyone in class. On my first day at this GED class, I realized that my dream of getting my GED wasn't going to happen in that place. It was impossible to get the teachers attention or additional help.

It wasn't long before I was discouraged and quit the class.

Then I found WBW. As soon as I walked in the door at WBW, I could tell that this program was different. The warm home-like setting made me feel comfortable and right at home. The classes were small, and there was more than one teacher in my math classes willing to help after classes. I was actually getting the help that I needed. Everyone at WBW makes you feel good about yourself, which makes it easier for women to achieve their goals.

I have been at WBW for three months and in that time I passed my GED exam. I don't know what I would have done if it hadn't been for WBW. I may have never gotten my GED. Now I can go on in fulfilling my dreams of going to college and becoming a registered nurse. Thank you, WBW, for everything.

—Kellie M. Springer

She Speaks: A Volunteer's Perspective

My family moved to Toledo from Houston, TX, about a year ago. While in Houston, I volunteered at an agency similar to Head Start, which worked with young children. The mothers who brought their children to our program became special to me, and I often wished that they had a place to receive support and education too.



I first heard about WBW from a New Neighbors group that I joined, and shortly afterward found the WBW Website. I was amazed that Toledo had an organization designed to meet the needs that had been placed in my heart in Texas. God has such a neat way of planting His children where He can use them!

My formal education was in accounting, so I volunteered to be a math tutor. You can find me in the basement on Wednesday mornings working with some of the most inspirational ladies I have ever met. I have two grown sons and remember well the challenges of having young, energetic children. I am so impressed with the women who are committed to bettering themselves and come every session with pages of homework completed despite what must be overwhelming demands on them at home with their children.

Trying to find the right way to explain a fraction equation or remembering a geometric formula keep my mind working
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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!



Jenifer Henisse



Gabriela Gonzales



Tiffany Turski

Communication Tips

Bridge the communication gap with other people, including our women participants, with some simple strategies. We can have the best intentions, but if we send the wrong signals, the women will withdraw.

1. Body Language: Avoid gestures like shrugging your shoulders or leaning back with arms folded, which can be read as “I don’t accept you.” Sit down, if you are taller than the woman who is sitting.

2. Facial Expressions: Beware of the scowl, the raised eyebrows, the smirk. No one likes it any more than you do.

3. Nonverbal sounds: Skip the sighs. (You probably do it without even realizing.)

4. Tone: Talk in a voice that you would use with a friend. Keep it casual. Use your indoor voice.

5. Talking too much: Bite your tongue. Count to ten and give the woman plenty of time to formulate her thoughts and listen while she responds.

6. Sarcasm: Don’t try to be funny or sarcastic; the woman may feel insulted. Save your sparkling wit for those who are more secure and more emotion-

ally stable with good self-esteem.

7. Patience: Stay as relaxed as possible. It’s okay to say, “I need to take a break.”

—Adapted from Michael Borba, Ed.D, *Simple Secrets*.

Staff Update

Welcome Kathleen Juhasz and Julie Cummins

Kathleen is Women Blessing Women’s new full-time program/job director. She is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the



Kathleen Juhasz

Empowerment program. Kathleen earned a bachelors degree at Mary Manse College and a masters degree from St. Mary of the Woods, IN, in pastoral theology. She has some 20 years of experience at non-profits and served as director of religious education at St. Patrick of Heat



Julie Cummins

herdowns. Julie is the new part-time GED specialist responsible for the GED program development

and management and teaching. She is a licensed teacher in math and Spanish, graduated with honors in math and education from Anderson University, IN. Julie has taught, developed and implemented math curricula at high schools in Ohio, Indiana and Virginia.

Maree Bargar relocating

Best wishes to Maree Bargar, job coordinator, who resigned effective Aug. 17. Maree resigned to complete her senior year in social work. Also, Maree’s husband Kevin has been transferred to the Cincinnati area. They are moving from Toledo this fall. Maree is a GED graduate of WBW, and she worked at WBW for 5 years as office manager/secretary, job coordinator and interim GED specialist. Maree will be missed and we wish her the best.

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hard as well. What an indescribable joy to hear a young woman say, “Now, I get it!” I truly believe that the confidence received from mastering a difficult math problem spills over into many other areas of a women’s life. That is the “empowerment” that is so special about WBW.

—Lynne Rayl

Congratulations to the following Women:

Earned a GED June-August

Oleen Clinton
Marquita Florence
Gabriela Gonzales
Tiffany Turski
Nicole Vance

Obtained employment June-August

Lynette Claybrooke
Melissa Carrillo
Rita Carter
Tess Moss
Karen Willis
Kristy Watson



The WBW marketing committee has been meeting regularly to plan marketing strategies. Shown seated left to right at a recent meeting are Ellie Williams and Joanne Allan. Standing are Dr. Rohini Wadhawan, Adrienne Sheely and Lindsay Williams. Not pictured are Anne Urfer and Laurie Neary.

Menopause The Musical, a Fun Fundraiser

Menopause The Musical is a hilarious celebration of women and the change and a laugh-out-loud musical production. The show will be playing at Toledo's Stranahan Hall on Sat., Oct. 13, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. WBW has an opportunity to raise \$1,500 by selling 100 tickets at the box office price of \$45 each. WBW will receive \$15 for every ticket we sell to benefit its Empowerment program.

For ticket information and purchase, call Kay (cell) 419-350-3824, (home) 419-475-1093 or Sue (cell) 419-346-7483. Make checks payable to Women Blessing Women.



Shown from left are Brenda Corr, Julie McCarthy, Jennie Vancil, Patty Johnson and Joann Kraus, employees of Owens-Illinois, Inc., who spruced up the gardens at WBW during the United Way's Day of Caring on Sept. 4.

GoodSearch Now Helps Women Blessing Women



What if Women Blessing Women earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now you can earn money for WBW when you search!

GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results. Add it to your browser bar or bookmark/favorites list.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter Women Blessing Women as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7,300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word!

Recently GoodSearch.com added shopping to its site. Retailers including Target, Kohls, Ebay, Gap, Pet Smart and others will donate a percentage of your purchase to WBW.

Welcome New Volunteers

Women Blessing Women welcomes the following volunteers, who have joined us since May:

Marie Beaudoin
F. Michael Bercher
Sarah Fealy
Erin Fenton
Kristen Jacovetti
Jody Kinstler
Lynn Langel
Mary Linguist
Amber McKinly
Ramisha Morant
Sue Nowalk
Pat O'Shea-Remley
Madolyn Reed
Rachel Segovia
Adrienne Sheely
Sarah Stringfield
Pat Tansey
Martina Turner
Lindsay Williams
Anne Alfaró Urfer

Year-end Donations

We would like to thank all our donors for their support of Women Blessing Women. Your donations have made a difference. If you would like to donate to WBW for the 2007 tax year, there is still time to give. WBW is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Your gift is tax deductible.

Make checks payable to Women Blessing Women and send to 223 Page Street, Toledo, OH 43620.

Wish List

Donations of needed items are greatly appreciated and help to deliver our empowerment program and keep costs down. Item donations are tax deductible. We thank you for your caring. The following are items that are needed:

- Wall clock
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Disinfectant wipes
- Coffee, creamer, sugar
- Trash bags-kitchen size
- Pinesol or other cleaners
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Manila file folders, letter size (new or used)
- Three-ring notebooks, paper
- Two-pocket folders
- Long distance calling card
- 2008 calendars
- Fax cartridge (Brothers-PC301)
- Spiral notebooks
- 3½" Floppy disks
- Notebook dividers
- Pencils
- White copy paper 8½" x 11"
- Printer toner (HP92 & 93)
- Writeable CDs
- Bottled hand soap
- Frozen turkeys

Did You Know?

- Lucas County is number one in Ohio for teen pregnancies and has been for the last decade. Teen pregnancy is one of the leading causes of poverty for women. —Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services
- Toledo metro area ranks eighth worst out of the 250 largest metro areas by its percentage of population with the number of children living in poverty. These children all have mothers, many of whom Women Blessing Women serves. —Milliken Institute
- Society's stability depends on parents creating home environments where they practice pro-social attitudes, values, beliefs and behaviors that are copied by their children. —James Ray, Lucas County Juvenile Court Judge
- Driving forces —*Bridges out of Poverty*
 - Poverty: survival, relationships, entertainment
 - Middle class: work, achievement
 - Wealth: financial, political, social connections
- The US Census Bureau estimates that of 22.7 percent of Toledo's population is living in poverty.

The US government provides assistance (housing, cash assistance, food cards and more) for most families with minor children living in poverty. A woman living in poverty with no minor children may receive US government assistance for a food card, but other government assistance (housing, cash assistance, etc) is rare.

◀ • SAVE THE DATE • ▶

2007 CHILI COOKOFF





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All proceeds benefit:
Women Blessing Women
for more information visit:
www.womenblessingwomen.org
or call **419.241.9789**

October 14th, Noon-4pm
St. Ursula Academy
Cafeteria
4025 Indian Rd.
Toledo, OH 43606

Presented by the
Ursulines,
Notre Dames,
Mercy Sisters,
Tiffin Franciscans &
Sylvanian Franciscans