

She Speaks: A Volunteer's Perspective

By Lynn Buri

Editor's note: Lynn Buri joined the volunteer team in January and has been working weekly ever since. She was downsized when she began volunteering at Women Blessing Women. During the year, she was called back full-time, but still remained committed to her sessions. Instead of every Monday, she volunteers Thursdays for empowerment workshops. Lynn is a licensed social worker but also enjoys teaching participants crafts such as prayer beading.



Volunteer Lynn Buri facilitates an empowerment workshop.

Looking forward to retirement and not one to squander my time, I began to look for a volunteer role that merged my training, talents and interests with a community need. The name Women Blessing Women crossed my path several times in a short period, so I called, asked questions, passed inspection, and began teaching an empowerment class, helping with social service needs and offering support to the wonderful women who walk through the big wooden door. I leave each Thursday afternoon enriched, knowing that I am taking with me so much more than I was able to leave behind. I remain a volunteer at WBW because it is a sacred place, and I am lucky to be involved in its work and mission.

A Year of Transition

By Laurie Neary, chair, Board of Trustees

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the staff, board members, volunteers, participants and donors for your persistence in your belief in Women Blessing Women. I know and appreciate the effort everyone has made to keeping our doors open. It's been a year of transition and changes that has required many to go above and beyond the call of duty.



One of the changes over the past year has been a new partnership formed between Catholic Charities and WBW. This partnership has been invaluable in the areas of bookkeeping and grant writing.

Another change has been the increase in the number of members of the Board of Trustees. This growth has brought renewed energy and ideas. One of those ideas was the formation of an Advancement Council. This council will provide an opportunity to promote Women Blessing Women in a more coherent effort. The council will act as a clearinghouse to share plans and plot strategies for the success of each effort. The council has already revised the mission statement in an attempt to clarify the work of our organization

As you know, Glenda Brown-Hayes has served as the interim director over the past year, and the Board has recently changed her title to executive director. We are very proud of her and her staff and thank them for a job well done.

I hope these words give encouragement to all of you who are so dedicated to Women Blessing Women and our mission, but we are not out of the woods yet. We need all of your help in finding a stable, consistent donor base for our organization. All ideas, large and small, are welcome. If you want to become more involved, consider being a board or committee member. I would love to hear from you and your thoughts on advancing our work. You can email me at lneary1@yahoo.com or call me at 419-283-1555.

Women Blessing Women Mission

Women Blessing Women provides opportunities to the women of our community to reduce their dependence on society through educational training, life and career skills, for the purpose of fostering accountability, independence and self-sufficiency for themselves and their children. (updated August 2010)

Core Values

To change the lives of women by freeing their potential and nurturing growth in mind, body and spirit. (updated August 2010)

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!



Shanda Crawford

Congratulations!
Earned GED May, 2010 - July, 2010
 Shanda Crawford
 Taylor Hinton
 Mona Davidson

Obtained Employment May, 2010 - July, 2010
 Paula Knowles
 Markeda Williamson



Markeda Williamson



Mona Davidson



Taylor Hinton

Welcome New Volunteers, May, 2010 - August, 2010
 Helen Baxter
 Nancy Bingle
 Earlene Bond (Read For Literacy)
 Candace Brown
 Shanda Crawford
 Dawn Dickerson
 Jane Fender
 Kathy Ferguson-McGinnis
 James Galloway
 Ellen Gamble
 Anita Garcia
 Sr. Anna Therese Hartlieb, S.N.D.
 Tiffany Hepfinger
 Jared Hightower
 Andrea Hill
 Brittany Jones
 Donna Kwik-LeFebvre
 Carol Ann Lewis
 Lavelle Livingston
 Elizabeth (Beth) Morrin
 Holly Nekoranec
 Kathy Page
 Dana Price
 Nichole Reno
 Sr. Jordan Shaefer
 Cassie Silveus
 Sonya L. Steward
 Sarah Stringfield
 Judy Van Rens
 Belinda Wade
 Kimberly Walker
 Denise (Dee) Ward
 Carla Westbrook
 Angela Williams
 Sr. Ann Rita Young
 Kristen Zientek



Paula Knowles



A bake sale was part of the back-to-school AT&T yard sale held by the WBW participants on Aug.13. The event raised \$178 from the sales and donations.

Shanda Crawford Achieves Goals

by Jane McGee

Shanda Crawford earned her GED in May. She is Women Blessing Women's first recipient of the Toledo Rotary Scholarship. Within a week, she was registered for the Quick Start summer class at The Source. She completed this the week of Aug. 2. During June and July, Shanda also spent her weekends completing an STNA course (State Training Nurses Assistant).

Her excitement continues to grow with each anticipated step in her post-secondary education. This fall, Shanda begins working toward a business degree at Owens Community College. Her schedule is set! As time permitted, Shanda returned to WBW to help with tutoring this summer. Her enthusiasm is infectious; she eagerly maintains a presence here on Page Street as a tutor and role model for all our participants.

Thanks from Participants

As a participant in the WBW GED program, I along with the other women would like to say thank you! Thank you for all you have done by giving and helping to make it possible to achieve our long-time goals. Some of us thought it was not possible, but through your donations you have made this dream a reality come true and for that, we thank you. By your giving, you have been a blessing to so many, and we want you to know that it is truly appreciated and will not go unrewarded. **MAY GOD BLESS YOU,** —Nichelle Mitchell and the participants at Women Blessing Women



Nichelle Mitchell

Spring Blessings Raises \$5,300

The fifth annual Spring Blessings Fashion Show and Luncheon, held on Sat., June 5, 2010, raised some \$5,300 for Women Blessing Women's Empowerment Program. Laurie Neary, the organization's Board Chair emceed the event. The luncheon was donated and catered by Outback Steakhouse (Monroe St.) for the third year. WBW appreciates the support and sponsorship of Outback. Special thanks go to Tavis Hissa, store manager, who coordinated the catering with the committee to help make the event successful.

Additional sponsors were Lourdes College, Fashion Bug (Lewis & Alexis), Mercy College, OSF/S, OSF/T, Sisters of Notre Dame, Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart and All Green, Inc. Co-chairs of the event were Sr. Gretchen Faerber, OSF/S, and Janette Robertson.

Board Members Linda Miller and Felica Clark facilitated the fashion show with a flare of elegance and many smiles. Six participants at WBW each modeled two fashion looks for the show. The first scene entitled, "Schools Days," included casual attire. For the second scene "Summer Breeze," the participants modeled elegant fashions. The models were escorted by male volunteers Derek Jones, AmeriCorps member, and James Galloway, son of Anita Garcia who recently received her GED. Funds were also raised through a 50/50 raffle, general raffle and bake sale.

Honorary Board Member Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur was scheduled to speak about 12:30, but was delayed. Over 100 guests agreed to wait for her arrival, and the Congresswoman entered with smiles, waving her hand and wearing her sun hat. Anita Garcia introduced the congresswoman after sharing her personal success story. Congresswoman Kaptur met the participants and posed for a group photo immediately following the event.



Spring Blessing Fashion Show models pose after the show with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Executive Director Glenda Brown-Hayes. Ms. Kaptur was the keynote speaker at the event



Nichelle Mitchell is escorted by Derek Jones, AmeriCorps member.



Anita Garcia models a fashion from Fashion Bug.

WBW Selected for \$17,000 Grant

Just in: Women Blessing Women was approved in August for the Toledo Community Foundation Oswald Grant. The grant will be used to support operating cost and programs.



UPS volunteers painted the kitchen, replaced tiles, installed ceiling fans, did yard work and IT services on Aug. 3. The 13 traveled from cities in Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky to work the one-day projects. They pose with Executive Director Glenda Brown-Hayes.



Shown left to right displaying some donated purses are Alison Friend and Diann Harrison from Quota Club Toledo, with Executive Director Glenda Brown-Hayes. The group delivered over 30 purses for participants to purchase with "Empowerment Dollars."

Save the Dates

Sun., Oct. 10, 2nd Annual Glass Slipper Review supporting the Endowment and celebrating Toledo women in the performing arts, at 3 pm, Collingwood Arts Center. Tickets: \$15

Sun., Nov. 14, Chili for Change/Soup for Success, 11:30 am-3 pm at Notre Dame Academy, 3535 W. Sylvania Ave.

Sun., Dec. 12, 2nd Annual Purse Auction supporting the Endowment, 3-5 pm, at Mansion View Inn, 2035 Collingwood Blvd.

Sat., Dec. 18, 1st Graduation Ceremony, 2 pm at Rosary Care Center, Sylvania

Board of Trustees

Honorary Board Members

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur
Hon. Judith Ann Lanzinger

Ex-Officio Board Member

Sr. Nancy Mathias, OSU, Vicar of Religious

Elected Officers

Laurie Neary, Chair
Sr. Carolyn Giera, OSF/S, Vice Chair
F. Michael Bercher, Treasurer
Sr. Annette Langenderfer, OSFT, Secretary

Elected Members

Felicia Clark
Sr. Ann Francis Klimkowski, OSF/S
Lynn Langel
Briana Maclin
Shelly McCoy-Grissom
Linda Miller
Christine Richmond
Ronni Sholes
Sr. Dorothy Thum, RSM

Staff

Glenda D. Brown-Hayes, Exec. Director
Jane McGee, Education & Career Coordinator
Audrey Reed, Office Assistant

Spiritual Retreat: Reaching Your Full Potential



Participants, staff and volunteer presenters pose on the beautiful grounds overlooking the river of The 577 Foundation in Perrysburg, OH, during a recent successful retreat. The one-day event featured several workshops on topics focused on the theme, "Reaching Your Full Potential."

Executive Director Glenda Brown-Hayes became aware of a need to take the women away to a calm, serene atmosphere where they could retreat and be empowered spiritually, as well as by God's creation. The retreat location chosen was The 577 Foundation in Perrysburg, OH. Volunteers and staff planned so that each woman would be able to attend every workshop. Each facilitator involved presented on topics that would help the women reach their full potential, the theme of the retreat. New Board Member Felicia Clark, minister at Harvest Christian Center, Sylvania, spoke on that theme. Office Assistant

Audrey Reed, assistant pastor at Living Waters International, Fremont, presented the workshop, "Surviving Life." Minister Patricia Harris a weekly volunteer empowerment workshop leader, spoke on "Mind, Body and Soul." Guest facilitator Minister Karrie Mosley-Jackson spoke on the topic "Someone to Love/What Love is."

The Catholic Club donated a 14-passenger van for the weekend so that transportation could be provided.

The retreat began with the Women Blessing Women's prayer, followed by morning inspiration led by Minister Karrie Moseley. The ladies separated into four groups and

rotated from room to room to experience the atmosphere and relaxing setting. A light lunch was served after a group photo was taken outside by the river.

Karen Harris, owner of SoSo Cake Co., (one of WBW newest volunteers) offered to donate cookies to be served at lunch. Karen also provided gift cards for each participant's gift bag

A total of 13 participants, plus four guests attended the retreat. The other attendees included the facilitators, their assistants, volunteers and staff.

Toledo's Celebration of Women in the Performing Arts



Featuring:

**Singers Ramona Collins, Theresa Harris and Courtney Altenberg
The Manhattan Dance Company
Breathless - Acappella Vocalists
Poet Ophelia Thompson
Saxophonist Katrina Barnhill
Jillian Logsdon (Viola) and Kayla Hite (Flute)**

Hosted by Senator Teresa Fedor

Performance Benefits Women Blessing Women Endowment Fund

Sunday, October 10, 2010

3:00 p.m.

**Collingwood Arts Center
2431 Collingwood Blvd.**

Tickets: \$15



Ticket information can be obtained on line at www.collingwoodartscenter.org
or by calling the Box Office at 1-800-838-3006

