

NV Women's Philanthropy

April 2007

Message from the President

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Grant Outreach
- 2 Grant Monitoring
- 2 Membership
- 3 Education
- 4 Grant Screening
- 5 Awards Luncheon
- 6 Treasury
- 7 In Our Own Words
- 8 Last Page

One of the many ways NWP strives to serve its members is to operate strategically and transparently. We design all procedures to be thorough, yet simple and straightforward. Our mission is to structure NWP as an open, member-owned, democratic organization. We encourage helpful feedback and welcome questions and participation of any kind. These regular newsletters allow us to relay important information to every member regarding each area in which we operate. Many thanks to Dana Lee for helping NWP disseminate our activities and updates. We have a lot of exciting news to relay this month. Please read on.

Five agencies have made it through to the GSC site visit phase. In 7 weeks the GSC will announce our two 2007 finalists that will present to the entire membership at our Grant Hearing in October! It is so rewarding to see how effectively grant screening has developed over two fast years. The meetings are well executed, the members are insightful in their deliberations, and each phase is thorough and decisive. As NWP is rapidly growing, this same strategic analysis is being applied to NWP outreach and grant monitoring.

Congratulations to Dena duBoef, NWP Membership Chair! At this year's Citizens of Distinction luncheon, Dena was honored on behalf of all NWP members for her commitment to the growth of NWP and its continued success. To date, our member commitments will enable us to once again exceed our first-year goal. Our anticipated 2007 grant is now near \$300,000! Thanks to everyone who has helped spread the word of NWP's good work.

Much energy is being put toward NWP's educational offerings lately. Last month we heard about the progress of our first grant, NWP Employment Project, at our first Annual Award Celebration honoring FIT. Since then we held a thought-provoking symposium regarding the state of Child Welfare in our immediate community, and members sat in on Judge Voy's weekly juvenile court hearings on teen prostitution. Research is being done on our upcoming two salon topics, homelessness in the valley (May 23) and the environment/conservation (early Oct). There will be many educational opportunities offered throughout the year, as it is NWP's mission to bring an array of issues to the membership for their personal contemplation.

With warmth and gratitude,
 Heather duBoef
 Co-Founder & President

Upcoming Dates:

May 23 - *Salon "Topic on Homelessness"*
 Hosted by Jill Thomson

Summer Break - June through August

October - Grant Hearing & Annual Meeting

October - *Salon "Topic on Environment"*
 Las Vegas Springs Preserve

2007 NWP Members

Lovee Arum
 Candace Bailey
 Jill Barnhart
 Kim Crisostomo-Bavington
 Liza deGraff
 Nancy Deifik
 Leslie DeVore
 Shelly Dilley
 Paige Dixon
 Dena duBoef
 Heather duBoef
 Whitney duBoef
 Cindy Ellis
 Michelle Epstein
 Gloria Fine
 Jean Fink
 Jodi Fonfa
 Marcelle Frey
 Chrystal Ghanam
 Emily Goodman
 Kimberly Gora
 Myra Greenspun
 Tami Hance
 Carrie Henderson
 Dana Hofflander
 Wendy Hornbuckle
 Luciaetta Ivey
 Sharon Bader-Jenkins
 Anne Kellogg
 Dana Lee
 Doris Lee
 Suzanne Lee
 Cheryl Manthei
 Susan Molasky
 Pia Exber-Morris
 Joan Morris
 Jenna Morton
 Mindy Hansen-Oliveri
 Rosey Park
 Trina Pascal
 Maureen Peckman
 Sandy Peltyn
 Wendy Plaster
 Tina Quigley
 Anna Robins
 Julie Robinson
 Sonja Saltman
 Tawny Sanders
 Heidi Sarno Straus
 Joyce Sherman
 Kim Sinatra
 Susan Stern
 Sue Sullivan
 Alyse Sweeney
 Tedi Ann Templeton
 Angela Thalgott
 Jill Thomson
 Denise Walsh
 Jeri Kochis Warner
 Audrey Weil
 Robyn Williams
 Stacey Winter
 Janyce Wutzke
 Michelle Zeiter

Grant Outreach

The Grant Outreach Committee is made of the most "seasoned" members who have served on the Grant Screening Committee for at least 2 years.

A work plan and preliminary schedule has been developed for 2008 Outreach. The Outreach committee will begin working in May when the committee will be assigned organizations to research and contact for 2008 grant funding consideration. Given the stringency of our criteria, organizations need ample time to develop their dream projects and be able to answer the hard questions we pose. The Grant Screening process will commence as usual in January.

For members who are interested in joining this key committee, please contact Heather at hduboef@aol.com.

Grant Monitoring Committee

We are happy to welcome Jodi Fonfa as Chair of the Grant Monitoring Committee (GMC), along with her committee members Heidi Straus and Michelle Zeiter. This committee will work with FIT on a quarterly basis to monitor the progress and issue funds as directed by the grant agreement. The committee is essential, as our involvement doesn't end once the grant is awarded. The GMC will monitor each grantee for 5 years to track the programs progress and sustainability and ensure that our investment is performing well.

The next quarterly meeting is May 11th with FIT Chairwoman Janet Blumen. The GMC will report on the program's status to the Executive Committee and to the membership in the newsletter.

Membership

Since the last newsletter, we are happy to welcome many new members! We had a gathering hosted by Candace Bailey in Summerlin and a luncheon hosted by Julie Robinson at Spago. We are looking to have 2 more events before summer break, especially in the Henderson area. If any of you would like to host a prospective membership event, please contact Dena duBoef at ddboef@aol.com.

Just a friendly reminder, if you haven't done so, please remit your membership dues at your earliest convenience. We now have remittance envelopes that we are happy to provide.

Education

NWP Executive Committee

President – Heather duBoef
Vice-President – Dana Lee
Secretary - Mindy Hansen
Treasurer - Trina Pascal
GSC Co-Chair - Marcelle Frey
GSC Co-Chair - Suzanne Lee
Membership - Dena duBoef
Membership - Kimberly Gora
Education - Carrie Henderson
Education – Tina Quigley
Marketing/PR – Anne Kellogg
Grant Monitoring – Jodi Fonfa,
 Heidi Straus, Michelle Zeiter

Grant Screening Committee

Members

Liza deGraff
 Heather duBoef
 Marcelle Frey
 Emily Goodman
 Carrie Henderson
 Anne Kellogg
 Dana Lee
 Suzanne Lee
 Jenna Morton
 Trina Pascal
 Anna Robins
 Tawny Sanders
 Tedi Ann Templeton
 Angela Thalgot
 Denise Walsh
 Stacey Winter

Newsletter

Dana Lee

Website

www.nvwomensphilanthropy.com

Education Chair, Carrie Henderson, launched the first Salon of the season with a compelling and moving discussion on the topic of Child Welfare. This highly well attended Salon featured Tom Morton – Director of Family Services, Hilary Westrom – Ritter Charitable Trust, and Judge William Voy – Juvenile Court Judge. The speakers provided their perspectives regarding this very broad, harrowing and wide-reaching topic. Tom Morton used an apt analogy for children of neglect and abuse. To paraphrase, “when you cut a person’s skin, he’ll bleed, but when you cut their soul, they are lost forever.”

The speakers’ discussion went beyond statistics and blame, and discussed a very motivating prescription for what can possibly be done to provide hope and healing for children of abuse and neglect. As host Dana Lee stated, “For this *Salon*, it was my hope to have everyone leave with a call-to-action, to be touched or motivated to address this issue and recognize that something has to be done.”

In terms of Education, Carrie will notify members periodically with opportunities to share in outreach experiences. For instance last week, Carrie arranged for members to attend Judge Voy’s weekly Juvenile Court hearing. Judge Voy presides over cases concerning teen prostitution. It was difficult to witness these teenage females appearing before Judge Voy. Some seemed forever lost to this life, and some appeared to be like the teens next door. How they got involved in prostitution varied, but the stories were all the same in that they were lured or coerced by a predator or a “friend”.

After the hearing, members had a briefing with the juvenile court social worker and with the district attorneys assigned to prosecuting these vice cases. Though they come from different sides of the equation, they all were equally committed to finding a way to save these girls and hopefully rehabilitate them to a life of normalcy. They spoke of forming a grass-roots outreach program to reach high school students about the dangers and possibilities of falling victim to this life. They also spoke of their goal to open a safe house for these girls to reside and start the path of healing and rehabilitation.

It was an invaluable experience to witness and learn. Carrie will notify membership of future opportunities such as this. We highly encourage members to make the time to attend these educational experiences. If you have any questions or have ideas for resources, please contact Carrie at chenderson@best-agencies.com.

Upcoming Salons on the calendar are the Wednesday, May 23rd, 6pm-8pm *Salon* on Homelessness hosted by Jill Thomson. The speakers will be Linda Lera-Randle EI - Straight from the Streets, Shannon West - Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition, Dr. Fred Gillis – Founder, Center for Independent Living. Our Fall *Salon* in October will be at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve on the topic of the Environment. We look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming *Salons* and at the educational outreach opportunities.

Grant Screening Committee

The Grant Screening Committee (GSC) narrowed down 25 LOI applicants to a semi-finalist pool of 8 Documentation Package applicants. After the Grant Screening Committee divided into teams to conduct a thorough review of the 8 semi-finalists, the GSC furthered narrowed this pool to five organizations that will move on to the Site Visit phase.

This group of 5 semi-finalists and a description of their programs are:

Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas – “Magnet Media Center”

Boys & Girls Club of Las Vegas is part of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. BGCLV provides a positive place for kid's ages 5-18 to go after school, during track breaks, holidays and all summer. Their mission is to provide opportunities for young people to learn the skills necessary for happy, healthy and successful lives and to become responsible members of society. BGCLV offers programs in five core areas: Character and Leadership Development; Education and Career Development; Health and Life Skills; The Arts; and Sports, Fitness, and Recreation.

BGCLV requests funds to develop and implement a Media Magnet Center for teens in Clark County. The program will consist of music and film production including music recording, mixing, video production, directing, producing, staging, lighting, editing, digital animation and 3-D animation capabilities. This center will be the first of its kind in the valley to offer state-of-the-art technology training to disadvantaged youth.

Girls & Boys Town of Nevada – “Home for Babies and Toddlers”

Girls and Boys Town of Nevada offers a continuum of care with programs that are specifically designed, empirically tested, and strategically implemented to provide care and treatment to children and families in need. The organization runs a Short Term Crisis and Assessment Shelter, Family Treatment Homes, Common Sense Parenting classes, and a Family Preservation program.

The Girls and Boys Town of Nevada proposal requests funds to establish a safe, licensed, family-style shelter for infants and young children. This shelter will provide out-of-home placement to protect young children from abuse and/or neglect until an appropriate, permanent situation can be found.

Greater Las Vegas After-School All Stars – “Roundy's All-Stars After-School Project”

The GLVASAS's mission is to provide comprehensive out-of-school programs to keep children safe and help them achieve in school and in life. The purpose is to provide at-risk youth the opportunity to participate in sports, educational, cultural, and community enrichment programs; to build confidence and self-esteem; to encourage youth to say 'no' to gangs, drugs, and violence, and 'yes' to hope, learning and life. GLVASAS provides after-school programs for nearly 5,000 children at ten at-risk schools in Clark County School District.

GLVASAS requests funds to create a new after-school program at Owen Roundy Elementary (grades K-5) that will include a state-of-the-art Math/Science Lab as well as a Reading/Language Arts Center.

Henderson Allied Community Advocates – “Nevada Women's Philanthropy Housing Units”

Henderson Allied Community Advocates' (HACA) mission is to change lives by intervening with families to impact poverty and prevent homelessness. HACA is a state designated Family Resource Center. HACA provides assistance and tools for self-sufficiency; basic forms of assistance to sustain lives; emergency, transitional, and subsidized housing; case management services focusing on families, seniors, and individuals, with a goal of keeping families in tact.

Grant Screening Committee continued

Henderson Allied Community Advocates – “Nevada Women’s Philanthropy Housing Units” cont’d.

HACA requests funds to purchase a minimum of four apartment homes that HACA will own and operate for use in programs from emergency shelter to transitional housing. These apartments would allow HACA to function independent of the market so that clients in dire situations would keep a roof over their heads no matter what the circumstance in the community at large.

Nathan Adelson Hospice – “Pediatric Hospice & Palliative Medicine Program”

Nathan Adelson Hospice’s (NAH) mission is to provide patients and their loved ones with comprehensive end-of-life care and influence better care for all in our community. Hospice is a compassionate approach to medical care designed to provide comfort and support to terminally ill patients with a diagnosis of 6 months or less, with ongoing support services for their families.

NAH requests funds to develop a specific program for pediatric hospice and palliative medicine. Palliative medicine is medical care that focuses on treating the pain, symptoms, and stress of the patient facing complex or life-threatening medical conditions. The goal of the program is to provide a continuum of care for children and families from the time a child is diagnosed with a complex and life-threatening illness, with the hope of a cure, through the bereavement process, if a cure is not attained.

The Site Visits will begin at the end of April and last through May. The GSC will meet in June to vote on the 2 finalists that will be presented to membership at the October Grant Hearing.

We must commend the dedication and time that the GSC has put into this process. The GSC season commenced with a review of the agency recommendations made by the Grant Outreach committee, included 2 intensive training session on how to evaluate the Letter Of Inquiry and Documentation Packages (such as how to read and interpret financial statements and audits), and held several committee meetings not to mention individual team meetings to further review and vet the proposals. The GSC was essentially asked to serve as forensic accountants and detectives to ask hard questions about the agencies and their proposals. No stone was left unturned.

Awards Luncheon

Our inaugural Awards Luncheon in honor of our first recipient, Foundation for an Independent Tomorrow and its NWP Employment Program, was held March 6th at Postrio. Nearly 60 members and friends attended. We wholeheartedly thank member Tawny Sanders for generously hosting this event.

NWP members mingled with key FIT staff and board members prior to FIT’s presentation on the NWP Employment Project’s progress and program architecture. FIT Chairman, Janet Blumen, delivered her heartfelt thanks on behalf of all of those who were involved in making this critical and essential project a reality.

Many thanks to members Joyce Sherman and Tami Hance of Destinations by Design for donating the beautiful centerpieces and to member Kimberly Gora of Wolfgang Puck Fine Dining Group for coordinating the luncheon. We also thank members who brought in gift cards and wish list items for FIT clients. These items were much appreciated and put to good use!

Treasury Report

Now that NWP has wrapped up all activity related to our first year (2006) operations, we are proud to report the following:

1. General Income for 2006:
 - a. Membership contributions reached \$200,000 (double our goal).
2. 2006 Expenses:
 - a. \$20,000 (10%) was held to account for NWP first-year set-up & operating costs.
 - b. Under \$10,000 (<5%) was actually spent.
 - c. Over \$10,000 (>5%) remains in our expense fund balance.
 - d. The NWP executive board made expense decisions cautiously and successfully engaged membership's support. We are very proud of our prudence and for our supporter's generosity. Trina & Andrew Pascal and Tawny Sanders underwrote our Grant Hearing and Annual Award Luncheon respectively. Additional members made substantial in-kind donations and individual members hosted all "coffees" for potential members as well. This allowed NWP to keep expenses to an absolute minimum. As NWP's policy is "money in – money out", the board has decided that all expense fund balances exceeding 10% of member contributions will be rolled into the following year's grant.
3. 2006 Grant:
 - a. \$180,000 (90%) was awarded to FIT for NWP Employment Project.
 - b. \$60,000 was granted November 2006 to kick off the projects development.
 - c. \$120,000 remains in an interest bearing account, but is projected to be granted out in two more increments during 2007.

It is such a relief to have one year under our belt as we now have detailed expense/donation records from which to pragmatically estimate our next year's operational expenses. As you can see, the Executive Committee (EC) worked together effectively to keep every cost to an absolute minimum. Individually, we supported many of the start-up costs and have handled 99% of all administrative work internally. This has allowed each EC member the rewards of protective guardianship and has translated into amazing efficiency for our group. On behalf of all NWP members, we thank every committee member for being such conscientious stewards of our accumulated funds!

In Our Own Words

Spotlight on FIT for an Independent Tomorrow

The past year and half has put me in a reflective mood. We are three-quarters of the way through our 2nd grant screening process and will soon embark on site visits of our 5 semi-finalists. Our committee chairs are working hard and establishing their protocols and procedures to make NWP a smooth and seamless machine. We can also review the first quarter operations of the NWP Employment Program and proudly think of the graduates who've completed the program thus far. These clients are truly on their way to "Better Jobs. Brighter Futures".

As a FIT fact sheet states, "self-sufficiency is one of the 3 most important issues in southern Nevada..." According to a United Way 2004/2005 Community Report, "a minimum wage earner would have to work 121 hours per week to afford a two bedroom apartment at fair market rent and still meet their other expenses independent of public assistance. There are only 168 total hours in a week." If one lacks education, vocational training or job experience, it is next to impossible to get and keep a job that pays a self-sufficient wage. Further, there is a "3 times gap between the Clark County living wage level of \$15.78/hour and the federal minimum wage of \$5.15/hour and over twice the US Census Bureau Poverty Threshold of \$6.67/hour." Due to this gap between poverty guidelines and actual self-sufficiency, the working poor earning more than the poverty guidelines may not qualify for public assistance, yet may not make enough to be self-sufficient in Nevada.

Prior to FIT, there wasn't any program available to fill this need. FIT's mission statement best sums up what they do: *FIT for an Independent Tomorrow empowers motivated unemployed and underemployed Nevadans to obtain the skills necessary for self-sufficient employment. FIT assists people to break the cycle of dependency through individual guidance and mentoring. FIT provides the resources and support for education, training and employment assistance. Through FIT, clients gain employment in jobs that pay enough to support their families without assistance. FIT clients gain **Better Jobs. Brighter Futures.***

We should be proud to support FIT and their determination to address a critical, unmet need. In their "holistic approach to once and for all change clients' lives", they forever impact the lives of their clients and set them on a permanent path of self-sufficiency.

Dana Lee
Vice-President

The Last Page (by Dana Lee)

Putting Things into Perspective

While listening to KNPR this week, I heard an interesting story on the "Food-Stamp Challenge". This challenge is a growing trend sponsored by community activist, religious groups, and food pantries and stems from a goal to raise awareness and understanding about the program. Presently, the Bush administration has proposed several cuts, among them taking away food stamps from approximately 185,000 people because they receive other government aid. The Department of Agriculture's proposed budget would also eliminate a food program that aids nearly half a million seniors each month. The administration has proposed some changes that are hailed favorably by food stamp supporters, but debate remains about the program.

The weekly amount of food stamps for 2 persons is based on households without any income at all. If a household has some outside income, the amount of food stamps available drops tremendously. For instance, a grandmother raising 3 grandkids lives on \$650/month of social security income and receives only \$68/month in food stamps.

"The Food-Stamp Challenge" challenges people to spend the same amount allocated to the average food stamp recipient in their state. Governor Ted Kulongoski of Oregon and his wife are the highest profile people to date to embark on this challenge and spent just \$3 a day per person for their meals, matching the amount spent by the average recipient in Oregon. In Nevada the maximum monthly allotment for a household of 2 is \$278. This challenge made me think of how much I take grocery shopping for granted or even the accessibility of fresh fruits and vegetables – all items that are unaffordable to people on food stamps or a limited budget.

Given the fragility of these types of programs, it makes it more essential for non-profits and private citizens to collaborate and help alleviate the disparity that exists. As members and equal partners of NWP, together we have the ability to make a positive difference in our state whether in the areas of healthcare, the environment, child welfare, nutrition, or education. With each grant cycle, our knowledge will grow and deepen regarding the issues facing our community. And as our membership grows, so too will our collective voice to effectuate change in policy on these issues.

Making Education a Key Agenda Item for the 2008 Presidential Race: "Ed in '08"

Many of you probably also read about Eli Broad and Bill Gates joining forces to vault education high onto the agenda of the 2008 presidential race. They will invest \$60 million dollars on this single-issue initiative called Strong American Schools. This non-partisan effort "will include television and radio advertising in key states, an Internet-driven appeal for volunteers, and a national network of operatives in both parties."

Both of these billionaire philanthropists have already spent more than \$2 billion into improving schools. Despite their efforts, they are strongly dissatisfied with the results. Said Mr. Broad, "If we really want to get the job done, we have got to wake up the American people that we have got a real problem and we need real reform".

The project will focus on three main areas: a call for stronger, more consistent curriculum standards nationwide; lengthening the school day and year; and improving teach quality through merit pay and other measures.

Information taken from the New York Times, 4/25/07