



Women United in Philanthropy

in partnership with the United Way - Thomas Jefferson Area

Vol. 4 No. 1

July 2010

Co-Chair Reminisces on WUP's First 5 Years

In January 2005, I received a letter from a group of women inviting me to join them. While I don't recall the specifics of the letter, I do recall that the women were a group whom I highly respect, and they were looking to make a difference. A few weeks later, I joined these leaders, along with several other women who had received similar invitations. The discussion went something like this: "How can we fill the gaps in this community?" "How can we foster education in our community?" On that cold afternoon in late winter 2005, *Women United in Philanthropy* was born.

So here we are, five years later. As I consider the history of this organization, I am amazed at what we have accomplished. In our early days we focused on high level issues. We hosted Olivia Mellen, who told us about the psychology of money. Laura Nash came to us with research regarding finding balance in our lives. Ellen Remmer talked to us about how to become effective philanthropists, and Andrea Pactor shared information with us about collective giving.

Like the collective mothers of a single newborn, we fiddled, discussed and adjusted. Should we cover local matters? Focus more on women and less on children? We gradually shifted to a more local focus. The late Professor Nock educated us about trends of poverty in our own community. We heard from Judy Smith at CHIP about challenges facing local low income women and their children and Susan Donovan with International

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see **First 5 Years**



The Founders of Women United in Philanthropy

Front Row: Jennifer Feist, Margery Daniel, Liza Borches.

Back Row: Sue Friedman, Deborah Conway, Suzanne Brooks, Cathy Train.

"Hero of Emergency Medicine" to Speak at WUP Annual Lunch

Dr. Luanne Freer, Board Certified emergency physician and founder of the Mount Everest Base Camp medical clinic, will be speaking at our annual luncheon on Tuesday, September 21st.

Recognized as a "Hero of Emergency Medicine" by the American College of Emergency Physicians, Dr. Freer will discuss lessons she has learned about "Passion and Profession" while facing life and death emergencies, helicopter evacuations, sudden violent storms, gender discrimination, multinational cultures and poverty - all while operating the first and only emergency room on the world's highest mountain.



Dr. Luanne Freer

Join us on September 21, 2010 at Farmington Country Club. **More information on Page 4.**

Our 2010 Grant Finalists

On Monday, May 10th, Women United members and guests gathered to learn of the seven grant finalists and of the work each contributes to our community. Many of these programs are facing funding cuts from federal, state and local budgets.

Children, Youth and Family Services are in need of support for the Home Visiting program that helps new mothers who are still teenagers, those parenting alone, or those living in poverty to learn how to cope with the added stress of taking care of a new baby. The Home Visiting program provides early intervention services for new moms and babies to mitigate risk factors and promote children's healthy development. Program data has shown that 25% of the babies born to families enrolled in Home Visiting programs in Charlottesville were premature; 90% were born to single moms, and 27% were born to teenagers. Ninety-three percent of participating families lived in poverty. Parents' lack of knowledge about parenting and community resources can lead to developmental delays, disrupted family relationships, and inadequate health care. Children from these families are likely to arrive at kindergarten lacking the skills they need to succeed, and studies show they are likely to stay behind academically throughout their school years.

Foothills Child Advocacy Center works with children of abuse and neglect. A forensic interview with the alleged child victim is the centerpiece of the multi-disciplinary team and child advocacy center work. This is a neutral fact-finding assessment of the reported abuse, assault and/or victimization completed by a specially trained forensic interviewer. Interviews are digitally recorded, reducing the number of times children need to be interviewed, therefore reducing any trauma the victim may experience. Foothills would like to be able to add Extended Forensic Interviews as a service to children who may take longer to share information about abuse. Additional funds and staff would be necessary for them to add this service.

Jefferson Area CHIP serves children under the age of seven and their families by providing healthcare through home visits. Childhood obesity and unhealthy eating patterns are a growing concern in our community. CHIP is looking to partner with



Dr. Lillian Peake's presentation in February brought home the importance of community organizations such as those under grant consideration.

Kroger to help low income families focus on nutrition and exercise. This grant is meant to address the problem through educating and working one-on-one to improve eating patterns.

Piedmont Area YMCA serves over 3500 families and children through their program offerings. The Y is in need of a 15 passenger van to transport youth to various community activities. They receive many tickets and passes to community events that would benefit their children but have no way of transporting the kids.

Project Link provides intensive services for women and children whose lives have been impacted by addiction. The program under consideration is "Celebrating Families," an evidence-based program developed by the National Association for Children of Alcoholics. The specific objectives of the program are: 1) to break the cycle of addiction in families; 2) to decrease participants' use of alcohol and other drugs by increasing their knowledge and use of healthy living skills and, 3) to work with Family Drug Treatment Courts and other agencies that serve children and families impacted by addiction to alcohol and other drugs.

The Women's Initiative is an individual counseling program for low-income women. The needs this year are especially critical because of general cuts to funding for mental health, and to cuts in mental health services at FOCUS. In 2009, the majority of women served were low income, employed, and underinsured or uninsured. Over half of the

clients were mothers, many of whom were divorced, separated or single. The most common diagnosis was depression.

CASA plays an important role for abused and neglected children who are in the court system. CASA investigates, gathers information, and writes a report for the judge to make recommendations for placement of the child (whether to return home, placement with a relative, foster care, specialized foster care, or a group home). They advocate for the child alone and work closely with the Guardian ad Litem. Their report is an important part of the judge's decision. The number of children for 2010 doubled (by May) over the previous year. CASA anticipates serving 40 more children this year and believes the increase is due to the economy.

The Grant Committee has been working diligently this spring to determine the recipient for our \$40,000 grant for 2010, to be presented at our September luncheon. Each of these programs fulfills needs of women and children in our community and would be able to put our funds to great use. The presenters each gave a quick overview of the programs in their proposals and the attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about each program and agency. We thank all seven presenters for their time that they spent to help educate us of needs in our community.

Member Profile: Kate Zirkle

The first thing you notice about Kate Zirkle is the incredible smile that fills the room. She shakes your hand, looks you in the eye, and you know you are sitting with a bright, intense, compassionate woman.

She must be all of this: She cares for husband Bud and five children, ages 16, 18, 21, and 23. Her fun? Tennis. With that family schedule in mind, Kate still finds time for her “other” children.

Originally from Huntsville, Alabama, Kate Zirkle came to Charlottesville via Raleigh, North Carolina. After she put her five children in several different schools and enrolled them in loads of activities, she started to focus on an obvious passion: more children.

As a board member for the Boys and Girls Club, Kate spends many hours doing everything from raising funds to hands-on work with the kids as they prepare for their big bike events. When Kate speaks at events on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club, our area’s schools, or about after-school programs, you hear the determination and intelligent thought in her words. That same enthusiasm and care is present with her efforts on behalf of the Women’s Committee at Martha Jefferson Hospital.

Kate was introduced to *Women United in Philanthropy* by friend and *WUP* donor member Janet Miller, also of the Boys and Girls Club. Kate signed up immediately and now says, “...the grants are very well-deserved and needed in the community and they also help to unite WUP... love how accessible and available the group is to all ranges of women in the community...and would like to help increase the diversity of the group.”

Diversity and the spirit which accompanies such a culture is paramount to the success of *WUP*’s ability to serve our community. It is no wonder that Kate Zirkle is such a great addition to the membership of *Women United in Philanthropy*.



First 5 Years

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Rescue Committee (IRC) about challenges facing children of immigrant families. Cathy Train with the United Way and Kathy Ralston with Albemarle County Department of Social Services gave us a glimpse of a life in poverty. We learned about bullying in the schools, teens at risk in our community, and the importance of keeping our children in school.

Having gained our sea legs, we got bolder. In November of 2009 we hosted a Fifth Anniversary Celebration at the Paramount. And who could forget Kelly Corrigan at our 2009 Annual Human Services Grant Award Luncheon?

At the same time we were organizing these events, we were honing our governing skills. Our Steering Committee morphed from the original group of women (now known as “the Founders”) to a new and dynamic group, covering a wide range of ages, professions and backgrounds. We created Governing Documents, reviewed monthly income statements, had annual retreats and began to work like a well oiled machine.

And last, but not least, the money. In our first year, we raised (and subsequently donated) \$15,000. Our 2010 Grant recipient will receive \$40,000. In the five years since our first meeting, we have raised \$117,825. My co-chair Deborah Hayes likes to say that a dime isn’t much, but if we all get together and pool our dimes, we can make a difference. And what a difference we have made. We’ve funded basic, nuts and bolts needs like a van (CHIP) and operating costs (Charlottesville Area Dental Access). We have helped finance counseling of immigrant children and child victims of abuse. And we gave a leg up to Smart Beginnings who has had incredible success working with schools and children to develop school readiness. We should all be thrilled to know that several of these programs that started with our seed money have grown into permanent programs within their organizations.

So here we are in 2010. As I prepare for the annual Steering Committee retreat, I am also preparing to step down as Co-Chair of Women United in Philanthropy so that Robin Amato can take my place. In accordance with our Governing Documents, I will stay for one additional year “At-Large”, and will then step off the Steering Committee completely. It is with great pride that I review the accomplishments of our group,

not only from 2009-2010, but from that first meeting at Pepsi Place in January 2005. Women United in Philanthropy has formed, grown and flourished. All as a result of the collective energy, work and enthusiasm of our membership.

When we were meeting in our infancy, I frequently made comments like “when we’ve given away one million dollars...”, or “when WUP has 1,000 members...” Today I know that the goal of our group to become an established source of education, collaboration and financial assistance have become reality. Congratulations to all of us for our work and our accomplishments. I look forward to joining you at our 25th Anniversary Luncheon.

Best regards,

Jennifer Feist
(and Deborah Hayes)

Volunteers Needed!

to write articles for the biannual WUP newsletter. Please contact Olivia Branch at oebranch@gmail.com

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Save the Date!

WUP Annual Luncheon is September 21, 2010

Since 2005, Women United in Philanthropy has awarded grants to organizations in our community with a focus on women and children. These grants are made possible by contributions from our Donor Members. We are proud to announce our Award Recipient this year will receive a grant of \$40,000 at our Annual Human Services Grant Award Luncheon on September 21, 2010 at Farmington Country Club.

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Luanne Freer, a graduate of the University of Virginia and a physician who built the first emergency room station on Mt. Everest. Dr. Freer "gives lessons from the top on forging partnerships between passion and profession. She shares her fascinating story of what it's like to provide medical care in one of the world's coldest and most austere environments, and how sometimes competitive human nature can cause more accidents than the mountain."

Tickets to the WUP Annual Luncheon are \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members. You may also reserve a table for a group.

Become a Sponsor

It is our hope that you or any business with which you are affiliated will consider being a sponsor for this rewarding luncheon. Each sponsor level will include tickets to the luncheon and promotional mention in print and other media advertising. As a sponsor you will also have the opportunity to meet Dr. Freer in a private gathering before the luncheon begins.

Sponsor levels range from \$1000 to \$4000, with the number of attendee tickets and promotional opportunities corresponding to your contribution.

Please contact one of us for more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Deborah Adair Hayes
Co-Chair
434-987-4949

Robin Amato
Co-Chair
434-981-0767

2010 Members

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(with Collective Fund contributions)

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