

Peter Pan at the Covedale Center for the Performing Arts

On March 25, 2009, *The Women's Connection* will host a performance of **Peter Pan** at the Covedale Center for the Performing Arts. Join us for an entertaining evening and support TWC. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children ages 13 and under. A dessert reception will be held prior to the performance from 6:30-7:45, and a split the pot raffle will be held. To order tickets please fill out the order form in this newsletter and return it to TWC, or call Aimee Shinkle at (513) 471-4673 ext. 13.

FYI

- TWC has a new sidewalk sign that posts coming events to let the neighbors know what we offer.
- The Teen Mom's program continues on Thursdays throughout this year from 4-5pm.
- Thanks to three students who designed and painted TWC's window for the Holiday on the Hill festivities: Thao Hoang, Josie Miller and Alex Vollmer; they received 3rd prize in their category.
- Teen Job Fair - March 19, 2009, from 6-8:30 p.m. at Seton High School. Open to all teens. Meet employers and learn about new opportunities.

WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT

Piecemaker Project Completed



Our quilter's delivered 85 handcrafted, quilted lap throws to Joseph House on a bitterly cold day in December. It was a labor of love!

Sewing Corner

This year The Women's Connection has expanded our sewing classes. We now have two classes – a Tuesday morning Beginner's class (four weeks in length) 9:30-12:30, and a Thursday morning Intermediate Class (six weeks in duration) 9:30-12:30. Call Ann (513) 471-4673 ext. 19 for details and to register for the next series of classes.

Thanks!

If your information is incorrect . . .
If you receive duplicates . . .
If you no longer wish to receive
the newsletter . . .
Let us know, by mail, phone, fax
or email.

Funded by THE CITY OF CINCINNATI

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 6466
Cincinnati, OH

4042 Glenway Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45205
www.thewomensconnection.org





**4042 Glenway Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45205**
twc@thewomensconnection.org
www.thewomensconnection.org

Board of Trustees

- Linda Panzeca, President
- Brian Bill
- Mary Brigham
- Monica Gundler, SC
- Greg Hasselbeck
- Michael T. Higgins
- Bonnie Sue Hueneman
- Karen Huser
- Sharon Catanzaro Ledonne
- Chris Linck
- Joseph D. Lind, Jr.
- Francis J. Niehaus
- Jessica Nielsen
- Tom Reiring

Staff

- Mary Jo Gasdorf, SC
Executive Director
- Kathleen Hebbeler, OP
Associate Director
- Ann Hunt, SC
Enrichment Program Coordinator/Editor
- Jori-An Cotton
Youth Coordinator
- Linda Keller
Education/Employment/and
Hispanic Program Coordinator
- Shauna Becher
Office Coordinator
- Alisa Franks
Social Services Coordinator
- Aimee Shinkle
Marketing & Development Coordinator
- Nicky Bolden
Social Services Intern

Our Mission

We are a neighborhood center providing support for change by educating, empowering, and enriching women, children and families.

Our Priorities

- ❖ To be a welcoming place
- ❖ To connect women and children with available resources
- ❖ To provide educational and personal growth opportunities that respond to community needs
- ❖ To initiate and promote collaborative programs and services within the community

A Message for our times - HOPE!

TWC's 8th Annual Employment Fair

Thursday, April 9th, 2009 - 9 a.m - 1 p.m.
 at Elder High School's Schaeper Center.

- Meet employers.
- Distribute your resume.
- Learn about continuing education/training opportunities.
- Get information from agencies that provide support to job seekers.
- Attend a series of free financial seminars on 'Money Matters'.

The Price Hill Employment Network (PHEN), a group of local service providers with TWC, is working together to offer these workshops.

Call 471-HOPE (4673) for more details.

"I think one of the best advertisements for the mission of the Women's Connection is the Job Fair, bringing employers and seekers together in one place. The fair is well organized and well attended. It is one of those "best kept secrets." I'd love to see more employers take advantage of the opportunity and with the economy today, I'm sure we will have plenty of folks looking. It is great to have access to computers on site as well.

-Monica

NEW, IMPROVED Employment Connections 2009

TWC JOB SEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Choose from 3 Levels of Support
- **Self-Serve Job Search** - unlimited independent use of the employment resources at our center (phones, FAX, computers, internet, copiers, resume software and paper...) for those who need a place and equipment to conduct their search.

SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPORT FOR JOB SEEKERS

We have a Licensed Independent Social Worker who can supply the support needed to deal with some of life's struggles that can get in the way of your job search. The center can also assist you in applying for various financial supports for which you may qualify.

1-ON-1 EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST SUPPORT

Our employment specialist can work with you independently to provide the support, referrals, education, and assistance you need during your job search.

Come in or call 531-471-4673 to take the first steps in realizing your goal!

HOPE!

Employment Workshop



On Friday, December 5th, 2008, our TWC board chair, Linda Panzeca, participated in **Info is Power**. The workshop focused on valuable interview skills. Linda shared her expertise in the field of Human Resources, and then conducted a mock interview in a small break out session. After the experience she aided the group in examining the interaction, and answered questions about how to improve the interview. The workshop was presented in collaboration with Family Service's 'Focus on Employee Success' with program coordinator, Crystal Bilton. Thanks to Family Service, every participant went home with the knowledge they had gained with a bundle of food. Many of the participants have followed up by visiting TWC and Family Service to receive continued support for their job search.

New Staff Member



Jori Cotton

I attended Walnut Hills High School, Ohio State University and received my Social Work degree in 2006.

I served two years in Public Allies at various agencies in the Cincinnati area: Services United for Mothers and Adolescents and Winton Place Youth Center. I worked at Huckleberry House Inc. in Columbus, Ohio and Light House Youth Services, University Hospital and as an HIV test counselor. I enjoy writing

poetry and the spoken word. I am excited to be a part of The Women's Connection working with the Girl's Programs.

Welcome, Jori!

Collaboration in Action

TWC is involved in a variety of collaborative programs in order to support individuals within the Price Hill Community. One particular collaborative group is **The Price Hill Parent Network Committee**. The committee is committed to exploring the needs of local parents and to finding ways that Price Hill agencies can provide services and programs to meet those needs. The group hopes to identify interested parents who will then become a critical parent network. The current members of the committee include: The Women's Connection, Family Service, Urban Appalachian Council, Santa Maria, Every Child Succeeds, Visions, 4 C for Children, Cincinnati Public Schools – Early Childhood Education and Family Education Program, & Healthy Moms and Babes. If you are a Price Hill parent and are interested in serving on this committee to support other Price Hill parents, please contact Alisa Franks at 471-4673, ext. 17.

Hispanic Outreach – Las Hispanas



"2 MARIAS"

Two Hispanic women, both named Maria, are diligently working on decorating a cloth shopping bag with an image of their families. Their children enjoyed watching. In November, during a special Thanksgiving celebration, family portraits were taken by our favorite photographer, Javier Jarrin. In December, the participants decorated their family iron on transfers with paint, ribbon and other decorations. The ladies enjoyed the craft and conversation, and had time to do some planning for 2009.

11th Annual Cabaret

On April 25, 2009, we will host our 11th Annual Cabaret at Father Reardon hall at St. William Church. Live entertainment from Elder High School's Glee Club and Seton High School's Ensemble, a silent auction, basket raffle, major award, and a live auction make this an evening of fun for all. This event sells out every year, so make sure you order your tickets early. Reservation forms are enclosed in this newsletter. Call Aimee Shinkle at (513) 471-4673 ext. 13 for more information or to learn about sponsorship opportunities.

Monthly Women's Meetups

TWC continues to listen to women as they voice their hopes and desires for new learning. "What we could use is a group of women who want to swap coupons." "I'm interested in learning salsa dancing – being more active." When we hear ideas like that, we wonder how many other women would like the same things. So, TWC is beginning a new endeavor – monthly Women's Meetups to connect women, while providing an opportunity to learn something new. Meetups are held the first and third Friday's of each month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Topics range from budgeting, cooking classes, ways to save money, the art of couponing, yoga, salsa, pampering me, and much more. If you are interested in attending or leading a Meetup topic, contact Alisa Franks at 471-4673, ext. 17 for more information or to sign up today!

Making the Connection Society

In October and December 2008, we hosted our first **Making the Connection** events. Over 100 people attended and heard the stories of the women and children whose lives have been impacted by the services and programs offered at The Women's Connection over the past eleven years. Isabel, with her son and daughter at her side, spoke of how her involvement with the Hispanic women's group helped her move to Cincinnati a little easier; she found a sense of community and friendship. Tina talked of how her participation in the Scrapbooking group led her daughter to join the Girl's Club program afterschool and during the summer. Both women spoke of the hope that they felt after being a part of our programs.

At these events we launched our new giving opportunity – the **Making the Connection Society**, where individuals make a multi-year commitment to support *The Women's Connection* – its mission and focus. As TWC continues to evolve, we are planning for the future. These multi-year gifts will allow us to continue to serve more women, children, and families with the best programs and services we have available. Below are the generous individuals who have made a commitment to The Women's Connection. We thank you from the bottom of our heart.

Dave and Carol Allen
Donna Becker
Brian and Becky Bill
Jeff and Kim Bill
Dave and Maureen Bill
Chip and Mary Brigham
John and Mary Rita Brossart
John and Connie Burns
Charlie and Cathy Catanzaro
Mary Ann Catanzaro
Cynthia Grant
Melissa Grove
Sarah Hellman

Mike and Bernie Higgins
Bonnie and Don Hueneman
Dan and Allison Klocke
Karen Knoll
Done Lane
Guy and Del Langenbrunner
Chris and Ann Linck
Kelly Long
Mary McCarthy
Linda and Frank Panzeca
Ed Willig
Fred and Kay Wolke
Phil and Denise Younts

Your next opportunity will be August 11, 2009. Don't miss it!

Girl's Club and Girl's Life On the Move

The Girl's Club and Girl's Life groups took several exciting field trips during the Fall. The girls attended Cincinnati Recreation Center's event, "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" held at Miami Whitewater Forest. They were guests of Dunham Recreation Center's girl's group. The groups will continue to be involved in more collaborative activities throughout the coming year. In November, the groups visited the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. The girls toured the museum, watched an IMAX movie about space, and experienced a real flight simulation. Both trips were a lot of fun. There are many exciting events scheduled for the year ahead, including a trip to see High School Musical 2 at the Taft Theatre. If you are interested in registering for the 2009 girls programs, please call Jori at 471-4673 ext. 15.



Katelyn Schrieber, Tanasia Singleton and Sammy Denewett seem to be enjoying the Air Force Museum.

Girl's Night In

TWC's Girl's Night In program is growing. 22 girls attended the last Girl's Night In of 2008. The topic was "Holiday Craft Night", where the girls created homemade gifts for family and friends: cookie mixes, soap, and lotion, to name a few. The next GNI workshop, February 5th, explored "Healthy Relationships." Save the dates for "Prom Princess" evening - April 2nd, and College Life - May 7th.

"We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives - not looking for flaws, but for potential."

-Ellen Goodman