



New Board Member



Sister Judith Metz is a Sister of Charity and life-long teacher, writer, administrator and researcher. She grew up on the west side of Cincinnati, and has had great interest in The Women's Connection from the very beginning. "TWC is an invaluable presence in Price Hill", according to S. Judy. *We welcome you to the Board!*



FYI



- Remember to check out our wish list on the TWC website
- Save the date for an evening of hilarity. Join us at Seton High School, September 11, 2010 for "Late Night Catechism II".
- We are grateful for the many recent donations of supplies and sewing machines for our women's programs; it is nice to know that you think of us.
- Another save the date - our Golf Outing at Deer Run Country Club on September 20, 2010. Shotgun start 1:00 p.m.
- A big "Thank You" to board member Diane Merk and her colleagues at Clark, Schaefer, Hackett for selecting The Women's Connection as the recipient of their monthly "Jeans Day" collection earlier this year.
- Girls Night In summer schedule from 5-7 p.m. - June 10th, July 8th, Aug. 12th.
- Don't miss the Back To School Fair, August 7th from 10:00 -1p.m. at St Lawrence.
- Next year's Cabaret will be held April 16, 2011.

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Thanks!

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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



Learning Center Renovation Project



every inch was cleaned before things were moved back!"

TWC was able to stretch a Macy's grant to cover many improvements to the facility, thanks to the generosity of many people. Jane Thiemann shared her creative talents to select beautiful paint and flooring for the entire programming area; the kitchen and bathroom received a "makeover" too. "Because storage was a huge need, everyone worked hard to use every available inch of space." With the help of Steve Thiemann's crew we were able to build new storage areas and install three new doors. Walls were built to close off the old storage area from the children's room. Several pieces of furniture and large storage cabinets were rearranged to provide much needed space for the girls' programs, scrapbooking, sewing and the Piecemaker programs. It is wonderful to have a storage place for each group that uses the center!

"The entire center looks brighter and feels warm and inviting. It was amazing to see the transformation as the walls were repaired and freshly painted, and the old red carpet taken up. The new lights and ceiling fans were a welcome improvement. There are several small projects that the facilities committee will be looking into for the future, as we continue to make the center an inviting place for our programs, and to meet the needs of the multiple groups who share the space", according to Mary. The Women's Connection is sincerely grateful to everyone who played a part in this renovation.

The Women's Connection Learning Center received some special "TLC" during the months of March, April and May! We thought about how it has been said that it takes a village to raise a child, well, we say, it takes a village to re-create a welcoming learning space. With the help of two TWC board members, Mary Brigham and Linda Panzeca and their families working alongside students from Seton, Elder, and Xavier University, we were able to take care of some heavy duty lifting and moving. Mary recalls, "Those folks worked hard! They moved everything in the Learning Center to the third floor. In addition,





Coupons and More Coupons!



A group of women interested in sharing their love for coupons has been working with TWC staff to start a monthly coupon group. On March 26th we held a

Coupon Extravaganza, where we played games, shared knowledge, and traded coupons with each other. Participants were shown a product bought at a local store, were given its original price, and were able to guess the paid price for a chance to win the product. These prices ranged from free to half off the original price, all done with coupons. The program was presented in English and Spanish, because we recognize that everyone needs to save money.



TWC staff has also been learning ways to save money from this group. On a recent trip to Target, one staff member actually got back \$2.52 at the end of a purchase! Who wouldn't want to get paid to shop! Saving money is exciting! The group continues to meet the third Friday of each month from 10am-12pm in the Learning Center. Do you have coupons to donate? Drop them off at the Center. We have a coupon box in the TWC lobby for anyone to deposit or withdraw coupons whenever we



are open. If you are interested in learning how to save your family money, join us.

A Woman of Price Hill



Torry Young is no stranger to the Price Hill Community. TWC came to know her as a faithful participant who made use of many of our resources and early programs: Women's Enrichment offerings, "Meet Ups", "T.A.L.K.", and several focus groups that were invitations to learn what interested the women in the neighborhood. Her children participated in Girl's Club and Girl's Life and the Math Discovery tutoring program. Torry is always open to learning more and to becoming a part of her community. Her energy is ongoing! Today she is an integral part of coordinating our Coupon Group, a member of the Art CAT of Price Hill Will, a committee member of the Parent Advisory Council, and a participant in the International Welcome Center's coffee hour. She participated with her daughter in the Harmony Garden's Mother-daughter Healthy Girl Photovoice project. Torry is a picture of what it means to be committed to one's neighborhood. Her involvement lets other women know that someone is serious and committed to bettering her life and connecting with other women. We at The Women's Connection are proud to call Torry a friend, and hope to support her in the ways that we can.

The Heart of TWC

OUR VOLUNTEERS! How do we say "Thank You" for the thousand and one ways that our volunteers make The Women's Connection run so smoothly? We truly know that without them, our service would suffer. Awesome statistics bring our volunteers to light: Over the past four months, 9 volunteers have given 438 hours as a welcoming presence to those who come to the center, our sewing instructor has dedicated 103 hours of service to the women who want to learn to sew, 23 childcare volunteers have given 131 hours of service so that women can attend enrichment programs, 15 volunteers committed 52 hours to make our Annual Employment fair a success, and committee members of our Board of Directors have donated over 100 hours to carrying on the mission and vision of The Women's Connection. It is amazing to be a part of such tremendous dedication, love and commitment, and we are honored to serve along side of you. Our recent Volunteer Appreciation dinner held May 5th was



one small way that we were able to show our gratitude. The food, company and conversation made for a very wonderful evening!



Hispanic News



We are embarking on an exciting new project with families. In collaboration with Price Hill Will, Las Hispanas will have two plots at the community garden located at the Price Hill Recreation Center.

Anyone who is involved will receive free produce for their family. Price Hill Will was able to locate a Spanish-speaking instructor who will offer educational programming both at The Women's Connection and at the garden site itself. Beyond learning basic gardening skills, the participants will focus on herb gardening, container gardens, cooking with produce, and how to make the best use of small plots. It's a wonderful opportunity that will help save money and take care of family needs!

Las Hispanas and members of the Heritage Community Church enjoyed a concert performance by the CCM Cabaret Singers held in April.

On May 12th, several families in Las Hispanas returned to Shiloh United Methodist Church, the site of a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner last November. The purpose of the visit was to teach members of the congregation how to make traditional Mexican tortillas. After the lesson, everyone shared in the homemade feast. It was a special way of saying "THANK YOU" to the church members for all their hard work last fall.



Girls Club/Life News



Presenters from Girl's Inc. of the Y.W.C.A. spent time with TWC girls, helping them to understand a great deal about "financial literacy". The girls learned about the difference between

"needs" and "wants", about the banking system and savings accounts. They had the opportunity to earn and save money, and purchase items in the "store". Besides money matters, the girls received a better appreciation of themselves as women. Field trips played an important part too. The girl's club had lunch with the Easter Bunny, went on pony rides and enjoyed an Easter egg hunt at Parky's Farm. Thank goodness rain held off for Children's Day at the Zoo. The girls learned about different cultures and visited all the animals in the park! It was a fun-filled day, and all were exhausted from the excitement!



Summer Around TWC

The Summer Girl's Program will be in full swing when you read this article. It began June 8th and ends Wednesday, July 28th. This year the focus will be around nature activities and the arts. The girls will learn about gardening, nutrition and the environment, and will write, practice, and perform their poetry in preparation for the Price Hill Cultural Festival August 28th.

Planned Giving

In addition to your yearly and lifetime donations, The Women's Connection proudly honors those individuals and families who have made a gift to TWC through their estate plans with planned giving. These gifts can be designated for a specific program or can be contributed to the general TWC fund to serve the most pressing needs of the organization. Such donations may also qualify for charitable gift tax deduction. Consult your tax agent.

"Non-violence is a way of life . . . it's about caring for each other . . . it's a change in your heart and in your mind. It's risky. It's a choice . . . it's about education."

-Anonymous

Thank You Cabaret 2010!

Our 12th Annual Cabaret on April 10, 2010, was a huge success again this year! Over \$37,000 was raised to support the programs and services at TWC. Dave Allen, The Starlight Band, and Seton High School and Elder High School's Vocal Ensembles provided the music and song, while ventriloquist, Denny Baker, entertained the crowd with his unbelievable talent and humor. We would like to thank event co-chairs, Bonnie Hueneman and Brian Bill, and their dedicated committee who worked tirelessly (over 485 hours) so that we would have another fun and successful evening. Maribeth Samoya, from Seton High School, was presented the 2010 Community Service Award, and St. William Church was given a plaque in recognition of their 100 year anniversary.

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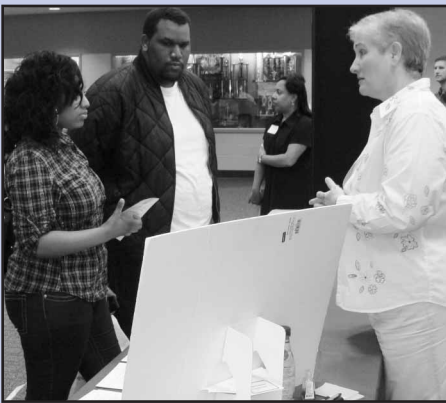
The Women's Connection Employment Connections program held its 9th Annual Employment Fair on April 1st, 2010, at the Elder Schaeper Center. "It just gets better each year!" stated one of the vendors. This year's event drew over 160 job seekers and 26 vendors. We added a couple of successful elements to this year's event, including Resume Reviews, Ohio Benefits Bank Counselors, and The Census Bureau, which conducted onsite employment tests. Fourteen volunteers played a big part in the success of the event, contributing over 52 hours of service. We extend a special thanks to S. Nancy Kinross, Director of the tech-reach program at Elder for her continued support of this event.

Thanks to the following companies for participating in this year's event, despite the rough economy:

- A Caring Choice, Inc.
- Best Buy #394
- Cambridge Home Health Care
- Dillards
- Edoc Marketing
- FedEx Ground
- Hyatt Regency Cincinnati
- Ohio State Highway Patrol
- Total Quality Logistics
- US Census Bureau
- Western & Southern Life

And to these agencies/organizations for their new and/or continued support:

- Amerigroup Community Care
- Center for Financial Stability-Price Hill Will
- Cincinnati Cooks! Freestore Foodbank
- Cincinnati Works
- Dress for Success Cincinnati
- Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative
- Greater Cincinnati Apprenticeship Counsel
- Cincinnati Job Corps
- Ohio Treasurer of State
- Queen City Jobs
- Salon Professional Academy
- tech-reach
- Urban League of Greater Cincinnati



Cincinnati Local Heroes Project

The primary objective of the project was to identify and honor Cincinnati citizens who have positively impacted the community. Clark Montessori students selected to interview and award Mary Jo Gasdorf, SC, this honor. The aim of this project is to create a literary tribute to local heroes. The book will be donated as a collection to the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Libraries.



Clark Montessori students, Nathan Stroud, Elliot Glos, Elena Jordan-Keller and Casey Baker stand with Mary Jo Gasdorf, SC.