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**Our Mission**

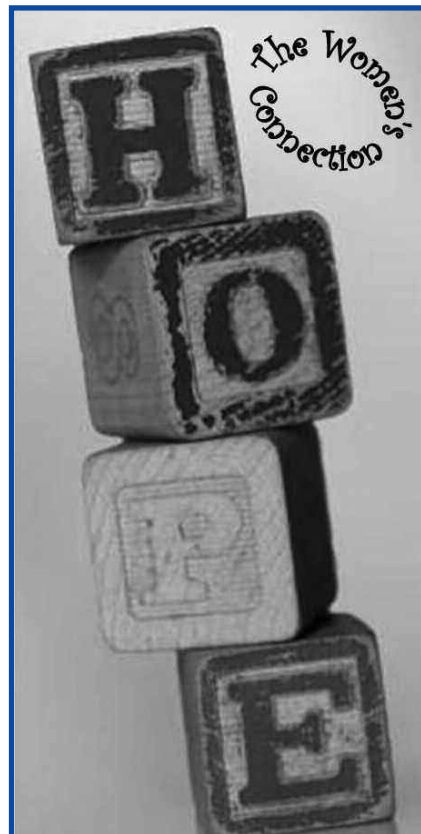
The Women's Connection is a neighborhood center that empowers women and girls to make choices that lead to positive change in their lives.

**Our Vision**

We envision a community where women and girls are strong leaders and positive role models.

**Our Priorities**

- ❖ To be a welcoming place
- ❖ To connect women and girls 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



# H.O.P.E. IS ALIVE!

It's a new day at The Women's Connection. On September 6, 2011 TWC inaugurated the Women's H.O.P.E. Program. It is open to those women who want to make changes and take charge of their life circumstances. The staff of TWC will offer comprehensive services, support and motivation. Volunteer presenters will offer workshops, mini-lessons and support sessions to gain needed skills to succeed. The women will be invited to use our new Access lab staffed by our Americorps volunteer, where they can work on their identified goals. The H.O.P.E. program offers a path to empowerment that involves a long term commitment. The Women's Connection is honored to participate in this exciting journey with Cincinnati's Westside women.

***HOPE is Alive!***



*Five women are happily embarking upon the H.O.P.E. journey.*

# NEW MEMBERS



**PEGGY MINNICH** is currently working at the College of Mt. St. Joseph as Director of Admission. She says, "Through my career and studies, pursuing my master's degree in Organizational Leadership, I have had many wonderful opportunities to

embrace women's issues. The mission of The Women's Connection is to 'empower women and girls to make choices that lead to positive change in their lives', a mission that I firmly believe and support. It is an honor to be a member of The Women's Connection Board and to serve on the marketing and strategic planning committees." In her free time Peggy enjoys spending time with her family (19 nieces and nephews), traveling, reading and gardening. *Welcome, Peggy!*



## APRIL KANDIL

"My name is April Kandil and I am the new counselor on staff at The Women's Connection. Along with providing counseling to women in the H.O.P.E. program, I will be coordinating the girl's Journey program. I previously

worked as the Youth Program Coordinator at TWC from 2006-2009. I left TWC to finish my internship at The Children's Home of Cincinnati and obtain my masters in Community Counseling at Xavier University. I enjoy reading, scrapbooking, and Zumba. One of my favorite quotes is 'Life is a mixture of living and longing, learning and growing, with loving and laughing filling in the gaps between.' I reside in North College Hill with my husband, German shepherd, and 3 cats. I am excited to be back at TWC and working with the women and girls." *Welcome April!*



## EBONY BINES

"Hello, my name is Ebony Bines. I am The Women's Connection's new Americorps volunteer. I assist with the Women's H.O.P.E. program, which promotes empowerment for all women. The TWC staff and their program

participants have welcomed me with open arms, and I am honored to be part of such a wonderful agency. Since I'm a Cincinnati native, I'm excited about helping the community move forward and show its true beauty." *Welcome Ebony!*

# Girl's Journey

Our program for girls ages 8-12 meets after school Monday through Thursday from 2:30-5:00p.m. We have homework help, time for reflection or teambuilding, and an activity which focuses on topics from self-esteem and body image to goal setting and nutrition. At the end of each session the girls take time to journal their thoughts and ideas about the activity of the day. We have added monthly intergenerational workshops for girls and their female adult caregivers/role models. These workshops are designed to support growth in their relationships and to raise strong, independent girls. TWC will also continue the monthly "Girl's Night In" workshops for girls ages 13-18. We will continue to collaborate and establish partnerships with other agencies that work with girls.



## Junior Volunteers

Something new has been added. We asked those girls who had participated in TWC girl's programs in the past to assist the program coordinator as Junior Volunteers. In this way the girls could build upon their leadership skills. We currently have 2 junior volunteers, Michelle Shields and Gabriel Gibson. Michelle is a 10th grader at Western Hills University. Gabriel is an 8th grader at Rees E. Price. Both girls have been attending programs at TWC since 2010.



On Wednesday, September 21st, a group of students volunteered as part of Cincinnati Christian University's Service Day. The group brought candy bags for the girls and presented a jewelry activity. To register a girl or volunteer in our program, please contact April at 471-4673 ext.18.



## Comfort Doll Project

For the last few months members of our Piecemaker quilting and craft group have been working on knitting or crocheting small dolls to be given to young orphans in Africa. Children receive these colorful 5 inch dolls while at medical clinics or at AIDS Orphan schools in Nyaka, Africa. The dolls are very colorful and bring a smile to the children who need the comfort.



# 1st Annual Mom 'n Me Fundraiser

The 1st Annual Mom & Me Fun in the Sun Party held on August 6, 2011, at Seton High School was a big success with over 120 people in attendance. Here's an overview of the day by numbers:

- \$4000 dollars raised to support the programs and services at The Women's Connection
- 38 fun and unique raffle items including a beautiful handmade dollhouse, the 2011 American Girl doll, and the 25th Anniversary American Girl Miniature Doll collection
- 10 fun booths and games including jewelry making, a sweets shop, Wheel of Wow, and hair braiding
- 12 items in the silent auction for the girls, their moms, grandmas, and aunts
- Countless smiles and lots of laughter as the girls took a walk in the Parade of Fashions emceed by volunteer, Sarah Cranley. Everyone shared their favorite color, hobbies, and movies.



We would like to extend a big thank you to co-chairs Bonnie Hueneman and Mary Brigham and their terrific committee who worked tirelessly to make this inaugural event a big success. Thank you to Seton High School for generously donating use of their facilities and to the students of Seton High School and Elder High School who volunteered their time to help that day. We have decided to make this an annual event to support the center and are already busy making plans for 2012. Thank you again to everyone who attended. We appreciate your support!

## 2011 Annual Appeal ~

*You have the power to make an impact...  
give the gift of **HOPE!***

Imagine a neighborhood filled with strong women and girls who are leaders in their homes, their school, and their community. Most importantly, they are positive role models for future generations to come. This is the vision that The Women's Connection has for the women and girls who live in Price Hill.

Your support of our 2011 Annual Appeal allows us to make our vision a reality. The programs and services we offer inspire women and girls to dream and encourage them to believe they can achieve anything they want in their life with hard work and commitment. The Women's Connection offers HOPE and a welcoming place that gives respect and encouragement along their journey. Know that you are making a difference through your kind and generous gift!

If you would like to contribute to our Annual Appeal you can do so by contacting Aimee Shinkle or you can make a gift through our website at [www.thewomensconnection.org](http://www.thewomensconnection.org)

**THANKS**  
to the St. Lawrence  
Knights of Columbus!

*Ernie Prater, a longtime friend and supporter of The Women's Connection, presented a check to the center for \$300 on behalf of the St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus! Many thanks to Ernie and all the members of the St. Lawrence Knights of Columbus Council for selecting The Women's Connection to be the recipient of their generosity and kindness!*

**Check us out on Facebook!**



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Womens-Connection/108947972907>

# F Y I

- To usher in the new H.O.P.E. program, TWC held an agency open house September 7th to communicate the new focus. We also held a participant open house on September 15th from 1-5 p.m. Another open house was held October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-3 for volunteers, donors and family members.
- Sister Mary Jo Gasdorf, SC, was one of the finalists for the 2011 Athena Award. The award recognizes outstanding women who have achieved professional excellence, given back to their community and created leadership opportunities for other women. Mary Jo was recently honored at a luncheon for the finalists at the Cintas Center. Congratulations, S. Mary Jo.
- Some wish list items: calendars (pocket & wall), personal agenda and planners, rolls of craft or "butcher" paper. Check out other items on [www.thewomensconnection.org](http://www.thewomensconnection.org). We are in special need of empty baby food jars for a holiday craft project.

## A New Endeavor Instills Confidence



Dress for Success rolled its new Mobile Suiting Van up to The Women's Connection Learning Center on September 28th. Volunteers were personal shoppers, taking time to carefully find the right look for the women's next step in life. One participant put it so well, "The women of Dress for Success

were amazing! They shared their knowledge and professional work ethic. I feel more confident about myself. This entire experience has been a true blessing. With the tools they gave me today, I know I'm on my way to success."



## Save the Date!

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us at the 14th Annual Cabaret on April 28, 2012!

513-471-HOPE (4673)  
Fax 513-557-3741

*Thanks!*

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