

EVERYWOMAN
OPPORTUNITY
CENTER, INC.

Everywoman News & Views

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Fall 2011

Be a Game Changer!

Everywoman launches Game-Changer Volunteer Initiative

On September 21, Everywoman hosted a very special open house, the first event in a new phase of EWOC's work and mission.

For almost 35 years, EWOC has been driven by one thing: Helping WNY women achieve and maintain economic and personal self-sufficiency. During that time, we have coached thousands of women and cheered them on as they achieved their goals.

Due to recent drastic cuts in federal and state funding, we have begun to find new ways to continue this important work. One of the ways that we will accomplish this is through the Game Changers Volunteer Program, an innovative Volunteer Program designed to help sustain our legacy of providing invaluable services to women in transition. Marsha Koelmel, Director of Volunteer Services and former EWOC Board President, will be the director of the program.

At the September open house, Ms. Koelmel and other members of Everywoman's staff met with new volunteers and other interested parties to discuss the new program. Volunteer training begins in October, giving volunteers a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of local women in transition.

Game changers serve as advocates and coaches by sharing their unique experience in

one-on-one and group settings. Workshops and classes will cover topics including:

- ◆ Interviewing techniques
- ◆ Job readiness skills
- ◆ Life skills (including work/life balance)
- ◆ Education/training support
- ◆ Business writing
- ◆ Computer skills
- ◆ Career counseling
- ◆ Professional image coaching
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Job retention skills

Through this program, professional women within the community have the opportunity to share their life experience and professional skills by providing free, hands on learning, coaching, encouragement and inspiration to women in transition.

Everywoman's outstanding volunteers bring a depth of expertise from a variety of professional backgrounds, including management, academic, organizational development, human resources, marketing, sales, legal, fundraising and financial planning.

Another class of volunteers is starting in November. To learn more about this exciting opportunity to truly change the lives of WNY women, call us at 847-1120 or email us at email@everywoman.org.

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716-373-4013

Mark Your Calendar

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| √ Dec. 6, 2011 | Ladies of the Vine, Holiday Style | Details on page 3. |
| √ March 8, 2012 | 2012 Handbag Happy Hour | Details on page 3. |
| √ May 3, 2012 | EWOC's 28th Annual Awards Dinner | Watch your mailbox - nomination forms coming soon! |

A Letter from the Executive Director



It will come as no surprise that recent state and federal funding cuts have had a significant impact on Everywoman's operations. We are responding on a variety of fronts to ensure that we will continue to be there for the women who need us across Western New York. Volunteers are being recruited in Buffalo, Community Leaders are

mobilized in Olean, and across our service areas, supporters are working to ensure our continued success. This is not the first time in our almost 35 year history that we have faced challenges, and we will continue to meet these challenges with determination and dedication.

Changes are coming, however, as we focus our resources to best meet today's challenge. Beginning in November, hours at our Dunkirk and Niagara Falls centers will be reduced, and our Tonawanda center will be

closed. If you have been receiving services at or working with the Tonawanda center, please contact either the Buffalo or Niagara Falls center, and you will receive the same warm and professional welcome you are used to.

We appreciate your support as we address these challenges. Please don't hesitate to contact us about our services, or if you would like to be part of our continuing work. We look forward to hearing from you.

- Myrna F. Young

Community Leadership in Olean

As part of Everywoman's response to the recent catastrophic loss in funding, Heather Schultz, Olean Center Director, has formed a community advisory council. The Everywoman Community Leadership Council is a group of female leaders from Olean who are working together to ensure that Everywoman remains in the Olean community, providing vital services to women in transition and furthering the mission: Helping women become personally and financially self-sufficient.

"Given the program's proven track record with helping women achieve self-sufficiency, the drastic cuts in the New York State budget came as a shock and insult" says Vanessa Castano, Vice Chair. "The future of Everywoman is at stake. The very real barriers women face in obtaining economic and personal self-sufficiency are well researched and documented, clearly demonstrating the need for a program like Everywoman Opportunity Center's. A tremendous void would be left in Cattaraugus

Right: Colleen Kent, Paula Fox Derwick and Center Director Heather Schultz at the Open House

Below: The Community Leadership Council. Back row left to right: Paula Fox Derwick; Vanessa Castano; Marjorie Litteer; Kathleen Premo; Marcella Smith. Front row left to right: Frances Sheehey, OSF; Colleen Kent; Heather Schultz



County if our agency were to close. We can't let that happen." Commissioner of Social Services, Wendy Bourgeois were in attendance. It was a successful and well-attended event. Lunch was provided by Fox Financial.

The Community Leadership Council is a diverse, strong group. In coming together, they will multiply their abilities to move Everywoman forward in the Olean area. The Council will assist with advocacy, planning, philanthropic support, and will serve as ambassadors. Heather shares "I'm proud of our Community Leadership Council's commitment and am honored that they share their expertise with me. It's important for our community to see that we have allies who want to see this program continue; the women who live here and who want to empower other women. Individually we are strong, but unified we are unparalleled." Stay tuned as the Olean Center plans for its 25th anniversary!

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On Friday September 30, the Olean Center held an open house where members of the Everywoman Community Leadership Council introduced themselves to visitors and guests. EWOC Executive Director Myrna Young and Director of Volunteer Services (and former board president) Marsha Koemel came from Buffalo, and Senator Catherine Young (R-Olean) and Cattaraugus County

Celebrate the Holidays with the Ladies of the Vine

Ready or not, the holidays are coming—it's not too early to start thinking about holiday shopping. And if you are looking for a fun night out with wonderful women, we cordially invite you to join the Ladies of the Vine as they celebrate the holidays on Tuesday, December 6 at Salvatore's. Don't miss this evening of holiday shopping, wining, dining and celebrating with old and new friends.

The evening will start with holiday shopping with a few of the area's favorite shops and boutiques. After you've selected your special gifts (or pampered yourself with a little retail therapy), it will be time to enjoy good company and a delightful meal, with hors d'oeuvres, dinner, a sweet finish and the usual outstanding selection of wines. Vendors in attendance will include:

*D'Avolio * Eaton Chocolate * Elements of Life * The Jewel Box * Leelee * Lisa Hunter Jewelry * Markos Designs * Nanny Goat Jewels * Only Ewe * Purse Sona * and more*

Proceeds benefit Everywoman Opportunity Center. Get more information and make a reservation at www.LadiesoftheVine.net, or call 716-380-8565.



The Return of the Handbag Happy Hour

If you attended the 2011 Handbag Happy Hour, you know that it was a great evening with good food, great people, and a dazzling array of purses available for sale and auction. And if you missed it, pull out your datebook, because you don't want to make that mistake twice.

The 2012 Handbag Happy Hour, to be held on Thursday, March 8, will again showcase premier designer, celebrity, distinctive and 'previously loved' purses for live and silent auction. It is a fun and fashionable way to raise necessary funds to help women in our community.

Proceeds benefit Everywoman Opportunity Center. For more information about this event, contact Kristin Scholz at kscholz@everywoman.org.



By Appointment

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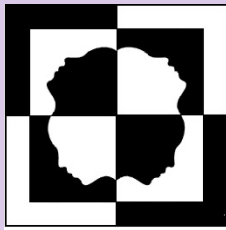
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any support you can give would be most appreciated!**

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