

EVERYWOMAN
OPPORTUNITY
CENTER, INC.

Everywoman News & Views

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Everywoman Holds 27th Annual Awards Dinner May 5

On May 5, 2011, Everywoman Opportunity Center will host our 27th Annual Awards Dinner at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Depew, NY. As we have for so many years, we will celebrate the efforts and accomplishments of outstanding WNY women and organizations on behalf of women and the larger community.

The Award of Excellence is given to celebrate the achievements of women who have been role models, risk takers and path finders for other women. Every year, we receive nominations for special women who have gone above and beyond to change the lives of women for the better. This year, Everywoman is pleased to recognize Darleen Pickering Hummert and Anucha Browne Sanders with the 2011 Award of Excellence.

Darleen Pickering Hummert is the Executive Director, Artistic Director and Co-Founder of the award-winning Theatre for Change, Inc., now in its twenty-second year. The company uses the power of theatre to address social change in schools, workplaces and communities across the United States. Theatre for Change has worked with numerous clients, including BlueCross BlueShield of WNY, the Buffalo Police,



**Darleen Pickering
Hummert**

Haven House, Erie County Departments of Probation and Senior Services, HSBC, HUD, Independent Health, MOOG, Rich Products, Mentholatum, NCR, UAW/Ford, and the US Department of Justice.

An actor, director, producer and playwright, Darleen has performed with Irish Classical, Studio Arena, Shakespeare in Delaware Park, TOY, Jewish Repertory

Theatre, Kavinoky, Artpark and Playhouse of American Classics. She has served as Buffalo casting director for several films, including the Keanu Reeves movie, Henry's Crime.

Darleen won playwriting fellowships from the NYS Council on the Arts, the NY Foundation for the Arts and the David R. Fendrick Fund. She has been honored with the Erie County Coalition Against Family Violence Award, Family Justice Center /Buffalo News Founders Award, Rosary Hill College Distinguished Alumni Award and a Professional Staff Senate Outstanding Service Award from the University at Buffalo. She has also received numerous Artvoice "Artie" award nominations, and was the Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County's Individual Artist of the Year in 2000. She has served on the Theatre District Association board and the Curtain Up Committee as well as teaching playwriting for Just Buffalo Literary Center. Darleen earned a B.A. in Psychology from Rosary Hill College and an M.A. in Theatre from Illinois State University at Normal. She lives in North Buffalo with her husband, actor/director/writer Richard Hummert.

Anucha Browne Sanders

works at the University at Buffalo as the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Marketing. She also oversees multiple sports teams and serves as the University's Senior Woman Administrator, responsible for oversight of gender equity issues within athletics.

Prior to joining the UB athletic department, Anucha served as the Senior Vice President, Marketing and Business Operations



Anucha Browne Sanders

27th Annual Awards Dinner Awardees Announced

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for the New York Knicks. The Brooklyn, New York native was responsible for the day-to-day management of the business side of the Knicks front office and served as the team's chief marketing officer.

In 2007 she was triumphant in a landmark lawsuit against Madison Square Garden and the New York Knicks that brought work-place discrimination into the forefront. She became well known for advocating for the rights of women in the workplace.

Anucha was named to Street & Smith's Sports Business Journal's "Forty Under Forty" in 2003, honoring the top 40 sports professionals under 40 years old. She was also honored for her work (with then Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton), by the Greater New York Links, Inc. She was also recognized by the National Organization of Women, the American Association of University Women and Women's ENews for advancing equity for women in the workplace.

As a student athlete, she was a three-time All Big Ten selection and two-time Big Ten Player of the Year, finishing her career as the all-time leading scorer in Big Ten women's basketball history. She was selected to play on the U.S. National Team, touring Europe and Asia following graduation.

Anucha holds a BS in Communications from Northwestern, and a Masters in Communications from Florida State University.

The Elizabeth B. Hopkins Alumna Award

The Elizabeth B. Hopkins Alumna Award, established in the name of an EWOC co-founder, recognizes an alumna who exemplifies personal achievement with the support



Cheryl Messina

and assistance of our program resources, volunteers and staff. This year, EWOC recognizes **Cheryl Messina** as an outstanding alumna.

After an abrupt end to a devoted twenty year relationship, Cheryl found herself homeless, heartbroken and overwhelmed, a single parent with no profession. All her work experience and skills were not enough to sustain a household. In 20 years with her spouse, she had become dependent on him for support. She had relied on another person for so long that confidence in her own abilities was a foreign concept. She felt utterly destroyed.

Cheryl realized she needed more than shelter — she had to become self sufficient in the workforce, a goal in which EWOC became, in her words, "such a blessing to me." As Cheryl explains, her EWOC Career Counselor and advocate "listened to my needs, helped me form goals through the tears, and encouraged me unconditionally." Starting from a place where she didn't have an email address or a clue how to set one up, Cheryl went on a journey from displaced homemaker to R.N. She characterizes it as "a constant battle—but with faith, hope, integrity and the proper support all things are possible."

She was accepted to the Nursing program at Jamestown Community College, and has pursued a nursing degree while working at Lakeshore Hospital and juggling her duties as mom. Cheryl will get her RN degree this May.

Partnership Awards

For over 30 years, Everywoman has been dedicated to helping women achieve personal and economic self-sufficiency. It is fortunate for us and for the women we serve that we have not worked alone. To recognize the work and collaboration of organizations whose missions and efforts align with our own, we established the **Partner in Self-Sufficiency** and **Partner in Advocacy** awards to acknowledge and recognize agencies, organizations, and individuals who have worked with us



Candace Plants, CEO
United Way of
Cattaraugus County

towards fulfillment of our shared mission.

The Partner in Self-Sufficiency Award acknowledges the contributions and commitment of organizations who have worked with EWOC to help women become self-sufficient. This year Everywoman recognizes the **United Way of Cattaraugus**

County, Candace Plants, CEO.

The United Way of Cattaraugus County, Inc. (UWCC) is a board- and community-guided organization that is committed to improving lives by mobilizing resources to meet the needs of their communities. They currently fund over eighteen agencies and three Community Impact Initiatives in Cattaraugus County. UWCC supported agencies and initiatives collectively assist over 20,000 people.

The organization is approaching its 90th year – beginning in 1922 as the *Unified Welfare Association*, evolving into the *Community Chest* and then the *United Way of Olean Area*. In 1999, the organization was renamed the United Way of Cattaraugus County, Inc.

UWCC's main goal is to raise and distribute funds to area agencies that have demonstrated success in developing programs that meet community needs, remaining always aware of a changing environment.

Since 1999, UWCC and EWOC have worked together, assisting individuals to achieve personal and economic self-sufficiency.

The Partner in Advocacy Award

recognizes an organization



Margaret Meyer, Chair
Women and Children's
Task Force
VOICE-Buffalo

27th Annual Awards Dinner, continued

that advocates for the conditions that foster self-sufficiency and economic stability for women in WNY.

Everywoman is pleased to acknowledge the **Women and Children's Task Force of VOICE-Buffalo, Inc.**, Margaret Meyer, Chair.

VOICE-Buffalo formed in 1996 as a congregation-based organization to address issues of injustice within Buffalo city neighborhoods. They have grown to be an urban/suburban organization with a vision of social justice, training leaders to act on their own interest and

find themselves among others in the struggle for the common good.

The Women and Children's Task Force, chaired by Margaret Meyer, was formed in January 2010, when the VOICE-Buffalo Clergy Caucus decided to address impending cuts to child care funding and programmatic support in Erie County through the formation of an dedicated task force. The Women and Children's Task Force invested energy and focus on women and children's issues because women and children are most vulnerable to poverty, and are the

recipients of systemic oppression. The task force relentlessly pushed for stimulus funding to be invested in child care, and for restoration of funding to the county's child care program, and in conjunction with EWOC, participated in hearings and media events, bringing attention to the issue.

The Annual Awards Dinner is sponsored by Damon Morey, LLP, First Niagara, Lewis & Lewis, P.C., Merchants Insurance Group, Optimal Therapy Associates Services, Hodgson Russ and Trinity Title & Abstract.

Intern Spotlight

EWOC is happy to be hosting three outstanding women as interns at our centers. We appreciate their energy and enthusiasm, and we are pleased to introduce them to you.



My name is **Kimberly Hardy**. I am from Buffalo, and I am a proud graduate of Bryant & Stratton, with an Associate's degree in Medical Administration.

Becoming a college graduate inspired me to further my education with a BA in Business Management, which I will complete in December. After graduation, I plan to get an MBA.

During my senior year I was given the opportunity to intern at EWOC Buffalo, giving me a chance to utilize the skills I developed in my studies. This opportunity has provided me with real-world experience in my field and helped me solidify my desire to work in the business administration field.

Outside of work and school, I have dedicated my spiritual beliefs in God, and am a member at Edison Street Community Church under Pastor Ted Howard Jr., where I serve in the choir as a lead praise worshiper.

I am wife to a very supportive husband and a proud mother of two lovely teenagers. It is thanks to God, my family, Bryant & Stratton, and my supervisor, Ivy Diggs-Washington, that I was able to accomplish my goals and I'm motivated to reach my potential.



My name is **Hannah Burns** and I am a senior at Buffalo State College studying Fashion Textile Technology. I will be working at EWOC Tonawanda to

develop a series of projects for a Senior Graduation Project. Along with developing a system to organize each center's clothing closet, I will be working with Everywoman to research about the resources and programs the centers provide, and the population that it has positively impacted. I am in the process of visiting each center to reorganize clothes closets to maximize efficiency and overall appearance.

I recently served on the committee and volunteered at the Handbag Happy Hour. It was a fantastic time and certainly generated a lot of 'buzz' in the community about Everywoman's work. I am proud to be a part of the centers work and dedication to women in the WNY community and look forward to upcoming projects with Everywoman.

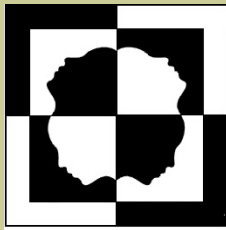


I am **Jennifer Studley**, a Masters of Social Work intern from the Univ. of Pittsburgh at Bradford. As a past EWOC participant, I relate to women seeking EWOC's services.

Like many, I've endured the ups and down of seeking employment, and the support and guidance EWOC offered proved invaluable. The staff's expertise provided me with the tools necessary to create a resume and feel prepared for interviews.

As an intern at EWOC Olean, I find myself helping participants by providing services that I once received; assistance with resumes, cover letters, and career exploration. I chose to intern here because the impact EWOC had on me left me wanting to give back to my community. This is an opportunity to make a difference.

From teaching participants to use the computer, to helping them select appropriate attire to following up after interviews, I'm able to apply what I'm learning in the classroom with my experience as a participant to the benefit of every woman involved! While here, I am assisting participants, co-facilitating workshops, and providing community outreach.



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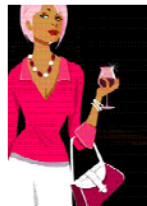
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A Great Time Was Had By All

Thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered, made a donation, or sponsored the Handbag Happy Hour on March 24 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. Over 400 fashion aficionados came out to Salvatore's Italian Gardens to eat, drink, socialize, shop and bid on an astonishing assortment of designer, celebrity and just plain fabulous handbags, all in support of EWOC's programs. **Grazie!**



Everywoman has suffered a severe funding cut—any support you can give would be most appreciated!

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