



October 2008

Dear Friends of WWIN,

We begin each board meeting with the story of an individual woman... what her life was like before she found WWIN and how the counseling, health care or education grant allowed her to achieve wellness and create a better future. The individual stories are incredibly powerful. They provide inspiration and focus for our work.

We shared just such a story at the August appreciation event. Kathleen, a former counseling grant recipient, went from despair, debt and unemployment to mental and physical health, college and a great job. In her thank you she said "I could never have accomplished so much in so little time without the generosity of WWIN". Her words cast a warm glow over the event as it reinforced attendees' conviction that their participation helps WWIN make a difference in the world.

We would like each of you to know one woman's story so well that she becomes your reason to "dream big" as Helena exhorts us on behalf of WWIN. How can you do that? Join us at one of our one hour informational meetings and listen with rapt and sometimes tearful attention to WWIN success stories. You will be inspired! What else can you-- a committed WWIN supporter-- do to further our mission? Bring a friend who you think might be just the kind of person who will join us in imagining the possibilities for low income women.

Rest assured that at WWIN our dreams are grounded in an understanding of our finances and a businesslike approach to planning for the future. On July 25 our board retreat began with discussion of our financial statements and our budget, followed by a presentation from Perkins Coie Capital Management. In the afternoon we developed a plan to strategically utilize our resources to lay the groundwork for the future. This includes outreach to potential clients and connecting with our donors and volunteers so that we can continue our strategic plan commitment to provide more grants to women each year. With your participation we can surpass our 2008-2009 fiscal year grant budget of \$800,000 for health care and education; and we must, because the demand for grants has already dramatically increased.

As our part in providing you with the information you need to keep that connection alive we will initiate an e-newsletter to provide you with brief but timely WWIN updates. You will see improvements to our website as well; all accomplished without major additional expense. And remember, all your contributions will be reserved for making grants to women.

In this time when all of us must evaluate our options and make choices we hope that you will continue to choose WWIN and its women.

Deborah Cushing, Executive Director

## TASK FORCE FORMED - WWIN'S LONG TERM HOME

In the late 1990's Washington Women In Need, through the continued generosity of our founder, Julia Pritt, became the proud owner of our own home/office in Bellevue. It was a converted rambler in a neighborhood that had been zoned for commercial office use. The staff excitedly moved in and began welcoming clients to our new permanent home. At least we thought it was going to be permanent.

But as we and the clients of WWIN all know, nothing in life is certain. In 2006 WWIN learned that we had to sell that home to Washington State Department of Transportation as part of the I-405 expansion. Thankfully, our home had appreciated in value and we were able to negotiate the sale before the housing bubble began to burst. We have the sale proceeds in the bank, and the interest on those proceeds is now covering the rent on the leased office space that became our current home in October of 2007.

Although our leased space is currently working well for us, and we are grateful for a very supportive landlord, we still have long term space needs that must be addressed. WWIN's Board is dedicated to being good stewards of Julia Pritt's original investment and honoring the original intent that WWIN would have a permanent location, as well as addressing the needs of our staff, board and clients. To that end the Board has authorized the development of a Task Force. The Task Force will be charged with analyzing all options available to WWIN and recommending the best course of action. It is comprised of four existing Board members, three community volunteers with experience in these matters, and our Executive Director. We've held our first meeting. Watch for future progress reports.

As supporters and friends of WWIN, we wanted you to consider yourself an extension of our Task Force. A stealth member, perhaps. No meetings required! If you are aware of any ideas or solutions that may be of interest to us, please don't hesitate to contact us. Perhaps you are or will become aware of a property and/or building that you think we should review. If that is the case, we'd love to hear from you. In general, we are looking for something between 2000sf and 3500sf on a bus line in the Seattle or the Eastside area (ideally Bellevue) with plenty of parking and close to major arterials. If you have any information to pass on to us, please email the Task Force at [dcushing@wawomeninneed.org](mailto:dcushing@wawomeninneed.org)

Thanks! Robin Carey, Chair



**Where Do You See Yourself?** I hope you've read the article about our volunteer appreciation event and learned something about all the ways that people bring their passion, skills and talents to WWIN. Call us if you'd like to know more about our "donor sponsored events" or if you'd like to work in our office a couple hours on a weekly basis or if you have great database skills and could help input client information in our new grant database or if you have skills in PR, marketing, website hosting or... only you know how you can contribute your skills to WWIN. Contact us!