

(cont'd from pg 1)

Golf Tournament. If any of you have ideas about donor sponsored events you'd like to suggest to WWIN please contact Donna Batter.

Linda Jackman, Vice President, thanked all the volunteers and table captains at the 2008 luncheons. WWIN is fortunate to have help in the planning and execution of the luncheons well in advance. Our volunteers on the day of the event also make things run smoothly. They help us set up, they are greeters, and they help with name tags and table captain packages. And, of course, we couldn't have a successful luncheon event without the dedicated table captions. All of these volunteers are part of the reason WWIN is known for putting on the "best run luncheon benefit" in town.

In this newsletter we'd like to reiterate our thanks to everyone for all you do for WWIN. We thank you for your passion and commitment to this organization and for the tangible work you do to express that support.

## BELLEVUE AND SEATTLE COMMUNITIES JOIN TOGETHER

Over 1000 supporters from Puget Sound joined together at the Annual Spring Benefit Luncheons held March 25 in Seattle and April 24 in Bellevue to honor, celebrate, support and raise over \$540,000 (including pledges and one time gifts) for WWIN's mission to improve the lives of low income women. The funds raised will provide grants for women who need assistance for: education (tuition and books); physical, vision, dental and hearing health services; health care insurance premiums; and mental health counseling.

Emceed by Mimi Jung in Seattle and Lori Matsukawa in Bellevue both of KING 5 Television, the luncheons featured a testimonial by former WWIN client Jennell Hicks, a single mom who moved to Seattle with her three young children in search of employment and a better life. She earned an associate's degree from Seattle Central College, and then with the help of WWIN, went on to Seattle University and earned her bachelor's degree in public administration.

Today, Jennell works at the King County Health Department and provides in-home counseling to families in crisis on behalf of a Seattle psychologist. "I am eternally grateful for the education grant from WWIN. Allowing me to get a college degree has changed my life and my children's lives for the better in so many ways." Hicks said. "All three of my children are enrolled in college. I don't think any of this would have happened if it hadn't been for the help Washington Women In Need provided me". But Jennell is not finished yet. She began working toward a Master's degree in social work this September at the University of Washington.

Many thanks to all of our donors and partners for your contributions and continued support over the years as your commitment to WWIN helps to build a bridge to a brighter future for women in Washington – one woman at a time.

## SAVE THE DATES

*Imagine The Possibilities. You Are the Key.*

Seattle Annual Spring Benefit Luncheon, **March 26, 2009**,  
Washington State Convention & Trade Center

Bellevue Annual Spring Benefit Luncheon, **April 23, 2009**,  
Meydenbauer Center

October 2008

Dear WWIN Supporters,

Recently, I attended the life work celebration of a colleague. It was mentioned how he was a man of vision who dared to dream big and sought it out in others. We were asked too, "if we dared to dream big, could we expand our vision, could we move beyond our limits?", just as our honoree had.



In this year of dire economic challenges, we are asking, "how can WWIN dream big, expand our vision and move beyond our limits"? WWIN clients depend on us to do this very thing - dream big. This year WWIN will be asked to serve more low-income women and we cannot do any less but answer the call. In lieu of worrying in this economy, I am excited about the work WWIN is doing to address this challenge and reduce the number of women living in poverty.

While it is a year of many challenges, it is also the year of many possibilities. How will we be better prepared for the future? How do we help women create a better future for themselves? We know hundreds of women will come to WWIN to receive \$800,000 in grants during this fiscal year. What we cannot quantify is the extent of WWIN's impact on so many others – the children, families and friends of our clients. What we do know is Washington communities will be better off for the actions of WWIN and our clients. The success of WWIN clients creates a ripple effect that is endless. So with that in mind, I think of the unlimited possibilities for the volunteers, staff, and friends of WWIN to touch the lives of women in need.

Through partnerships, technology and outreach, WWIN has served over 4,100 low-income women in Washington. These individuals have benefited from education, counseling, dental and health care and insurance premium grants, thus helping women to achieve wellness and create a stable future.

When we could make other choices, WWIN chooses to face the future with creativity and innovation. I invite you to join us in meeting the needs of women. Together, we will "... improve the lives of low income women in Washington through financial assistance for health care and education". Together, WWIN will not only fulfill our vision, we will excel beyond our limits.

Helena Stephens

President, Board of Directors 2008-2009

**For the dates of the monthly informational meetings ("Key to WWIN") held in Seattle and Bellevue, please go to our website: [www.wawomeninneed.org](http://www.wawomeninneed.org) We'd love to see you; please let us know if you plan to attend.**