



**2006-2007  
Annual Report**



## *Our Mission*

To improve the lives of low income women in Washington through financial assistance for health care and education.

### *Board of Directors*

Robin Carey - President  
Melissa Byrkit - Vice President  
Shawn McCord - Treasurer  
Marilyn Enright - Secretary  
Deborah Champion  
Patricia Dye  
Liz Feucht  
Linda Jackman  
Donna Linn  
Kazumi Mechling  
Kathleen Miller  
Malia Radford  
Rosalind Schoof  
Susan Stead  
Helena Stephens  
Nadia Tucker  
Lark Young

### *Emeritus Council*

Christine Anderson  
Gary Badt  
Sue Bohman  
Karen Bloomquist  
Beth Calkins  
Ellen Canaday  
Theresea Cheng  
Colleen Crowley  
Carmel Duerr  
Nancy Duncan  
Sam Dunham  
Ray Eineigl  
Dena Gregory  
Karen Hadley  
Penelope Meisel  
Steven O'Donnell  
Barbara Porter  
Julia Pritt  
Joel Rosenberger  
Leslie Savina  
Kristen Marie Schuerlein  
Peggy Swayne  
Pamela Tamplain  
Libby Walgamott  
Sarah Weaver  
Jeff Werthan

### *Staff*

Deborah Cushing - Executive Director  
Donna Batter - Fund Development Director  
Paula Dickason - Office Administrator  
Kathy Young, MA - Program Manager

*Investing in the community, one woman at a time*

# 2006-2007 WWIN Annual Report

Dear WWIN Community,

We are pleased to announce that as of June 30, 2007 we have served almost 3800 women since inception. We report on pages 3 and 4 how almost \$725,000 in grants were disbursed this year, including to Erica, Dotty, Sherri and Velma. Their thank you letters share how WWIN grants allowed them to transform their lives. These powerful and heartwarming words are directed to you – our supporters.

There are many steps WWIN takes to ensure that it fulfills its mission and meets its Strategic Plan goals, including increasing the funds available for grant making each year. As Executive Director of WWIN commencing August 2006 I would like to share some of my observations about how WWIN achieves these goals.

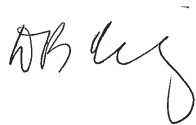
My hunch when I interviewed was that in part it had something to do with the people who are attracted to and passionate about this organization. I have found that this is indeed true.

From the interview process forward I realized my good fortune – to be offered the opportunity to work with a diverse, smart, and dedicated board of directors. I could not fully appreciate the critical role our volunteers play until I had seen them in action throughout this fiscal year. And, of course, we couldn't do our work without our donors. It has been a great pleasure to connect with so many of you in this first year. I hope some day to be able to say I have contacted each of you personally to say thank you! It will be a challenge that I would relish accomplishing.

One moment from my first days at WWIN is seared in my mind -- the day of the dental grant opening. The demand was overwhelming. Women gasped with delight when they heard they qualified. Then there were no more applications -- but the calls kept coming. I was shaken to the core by the call from Nelda who explained that she was homeless, living in her car, since she had finally summoned the courage to leave her violent and abusive husband. She confided in me the depths of her despair. I couldn't get her story out of my head. I was determined that I would work with all of you, our ever expanding community of compassionate WWIN supporters, so that we could say "yes" to more women next year and each year thereafter.

Thank you all for making that happen! The more than 1500 people who attended the luncheons raised more than \$730,000 in outright gifts and pledges and we expanded our multi year giving society. Community groups, foundations and corporations continued to provide additional substantial support. We received our first major bequest from a remarkable woman. Her story is on page 5. Our successful fundraising this year along with our multi-year sustainability program meant that at the end of this fiscal year we had \$775,000 in the bank for grants in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

On behalf of low income women in Washington, we thank each and every one of you listed in this Annual Report. Thank you for investing your time, talents and resources to WWIN – when you lift a woman, you lift a family and you lift our communities.



To our faithful WWIN supporters,

Washington Women In Need has now been in existence for 15 years, and many of you have been supporters for much or even all of that time. On behalf of our Board of Directors, allow me to express our gratitude for your faithful support and encouragement through the years. We wouldn't be here without you. And to those of you who may have joined us more recently as supporters, welcome and thank you for joining the WWIN team.

I'd like to share three significant events that were the primary focus of our year. First, your support and participation was especially meaningful this fiscal year because it helped us achieve a long time goal to move from a private operating foundation to a public charity. In order to make that change, the IRS requires that an organization pass stringent tests that indicate a broad base of support over the prior five year period. Thanks to each of you, WWIN successfully met that test and now can enjoy the benefits of being a public charity. You can all take pride in that accomplishment!

A second exciting moment this year was being named the Nonprofit of the Year at the Bellevue Chamber luncheon. (See page 5 for more information.) It was quite an honor.

A final big event was our move to a new office location. For many years the WWIN office was located in a converted home generously donated to us by Julia Pitt. We had to sell that office/home to the Washington State Department of Transportation for the I-405 expansion project. Thanks to wonderful volunteers we found a new location only a few blocks away, did much needed tenant improvements, and were able move in late summer. In the fall of 2008 we will be forming a task force to address our long term needs in this area.

Every year at the luncheons we hear some people say "I'm so glad I came. I'd never heard about your good work before today." Often as people hear our story and, more importantly, the stories of the women we serve, they are moved. In response, they become eager to join us. If you've ever thought you'd like to get involved with WWIN in a greater way, one simple way to do that is to come visit our office and hear about our work firsthand, where it happens. We call these informational meetings "Keys to WWIN"; they have been held the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30; but check for upcoming dates. Our dedicated staff would love to meet you and share great stories of the women who come through our doors. And feel free to bring a friend who has never heard of WWIN!

Grateful for your commitment to WWIN,



Deborah B. Cushing  
Executive Director  
2006-2007



Robin Carey  
Board President  
2006-2007

**Washington Women In Need** has provided critical services to women in need since its founding in 1992: educational grants for tuition and books at any accredited school in Washington and health care including insurance premiums and co-pays, vision exams and glasses, hearing examinations and hearing aids, physical exams and tests and dental care and mental health counseling.

In the 2006-2007 fiscal year WWIN provided 284 grants to 259 grantees (some grantees qualify for and access more than one kind of grant ) totaling over \$723,000. Not only does WWIN provide funds sufficient for women to choose a program or service that can transform their lives, but we do this in a manner that provides the utmost respect and dignity for the client. To pick up the phone and ask for help can be a very difficult first step to a changing life. Clients often comment on how easy the process is. The first step is to fill out an application to verify one's low-income status and other eligibility standards. If the woman satisfies these criteria she meets with program staff who carefully explain the grant requirements, including that it is the client's responsibility to choose her health care provider or educational program. Once the grant is accepted and the client chooses the provider and begins the work, WWIN pays the provider directly. WWIN also periodically checks in with the client, if necessary, to make sure she is on track and moving forward in life.

How do we know that WWIN grants work? Because the clients tell us so... in the follow up surveys conducted approximately a year after completion of the grants in which they are asked to rank the quality of their life before the WWIN grant and the quality of life after, and in their thank you letters that come into the office on a weekly basis. What follows are personal stories of grant recipients this past year who share how your generosity helped them improve their lives.

## HEALTH CARE

### Physical, Dental, Vision and Hearing (PDVH Grant)

WWIN provides a grant up to \$3,000 for approved medical care services including restorative dental care (no cosmetic services are covered), vision exam and glasses, hearing exam and hearing aids or preventive medical care such as physical exam, blood tests, mammogram and a pap smear. In this fiscal year WWIN provided grants to 114 women. Although women can choose to use this grant for any of the approved services, about 95% of the PDVH grant money is used for dental work.

***Erica, a 26 year old single mom with a three year old son, came to WWIN in August of 2006 for a PDVH grant. Although she worked full time, it was a minimum wage job and she didn't have the resources to pay for adequate dental care. She felt helpless – her teeth were so bad that she worried that she would need to have all her teeth pulled and dentures fitted. In her letter that she addresses to "all who will help Washington Women In Need" she states that WWIN gave her back her smile and her confidence. She further recounts that her dentist not only accepted the WWIN grant for treatment but also reduced his fees so she could get all the work done that she needed. "It was just so wonderful to know that there were people out there who would help me." She proudly reported that "with the help of WWIN I was able to get most of the damaged teeth fixed and for that I am forever indebted to you.... I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart".***

### Insurance Premiums, Co-pays and Deductibles

WWIN will pay up to \$4,000 for insurance premium payments and up to \$1,000 for co-pays and deductibles for up to one full year. The amount of this grant varies widely among grant recipients depending on the cost of the monthly premium; it could be as little as \$17 per month or over \$500 per month. Thus, the number of grant recipients can vary greatly from year to year depending on how much money needs to be allocated to each grantee. In the 2006-2007 fiscal year WWIN provided insurance premium grants to 31 women.

***Dotty originally came into the WWIN in 2003 for a counseling grant. At that time she was a 45 year old widow with two teen age children. Dotty fully utilized her counseling grant to develop a plan to improve her life – a future in which she envisioned attending college to become a sign language interpreter. Dotty implemented that plan and was attending college and working as an apartment manager when she applied to WWIN for an insurance premium grant. Although the amount of the grant was relatively small as the Washington Basic monthly premium was only \$17 per month, it made a world of difference to Dotty as she tells us in her thank you letter.***

*Building a bridge to a brighter future*

**“By paying for my health insurance premiums and the co-pays for my doctor visits, I have been able to get the medical attention I needed without having to worry ... about whether or not I could go to the grocery store or even have gas.” She said that this grant allowed her to get eye exams, medication and an appointment with a neurologist for her severe migraines. Dotty further reports proudly that she was in her last year of school to become an interpreter for the deaf community and having the medical help allowed her to feel better and have less stress. She closes by saying “I take advantage of every opportunity I can to let others know what a great service you provided and how much you have helped me.... You have changed my life for the better... thank you so much.”**

## Counseling

WWIN pays for up to 24 sessions with a licensed therapist for individual or group counseling over a year. WWIN provided this life changing grant to 95 women in the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Year after year counseling grant recipients report the highest overall increase in the quality of their lives after completing this year of counseling. For some it has literally saved their lives.

***Sheri was 59 years old and struggling with severe depression and anxiety when she came to WWIN for a counseling grant. She had had some counseling sessions with the division of vocational rehabilitation but Sheri and her counselor realized that she needed to have additional counseling – including addressing some of the issues related to being married for almost 30 years to an abusive alcoholic – so that she could become a functioning member of society. In her thank you note in which she asks us to thank Julia and all the donors Sheri states “I was so desperate when I applied for the mental health grant. I was sure my life was over.... I felt hopeless.” She tells us how the counseling sessions gave her the skills to see things with a different point of view and that she has “learned to apply them to make my days brighter and better.” She closes by saying “thank you, thank you! Please keep up the good work by being there for the Women of WA State.”***

## EDUCATION

WWIN will pay up to \$10,000 over two years for the educational needs (tuition and books) at any accredited institution in Washington. In 2006-2007 forty-four additional women were funded using their grants at vocational and technical schools, community colleges and four year institutions to obtain certificates, AA degrees or BA degree at a range of schools including, for example, Bellevue Community College, Clark College, Eastern Washington University, Evergreen State College, Renton Technical College, Seattle Midwifery School, Seattle University and Western Washington University

Sometimes women need the full \$10,000 to cover tuition and books over two years. Other times a smaller WWIN grant allows a woman to complete her degree without incurring additional debt. Women who successfully complete their education or training often find that a whole new world opens for them. Education grant recipient survey respondents frequently tell us that they are employed in their field earning good money so that they lift themselves and their families out of poverty – they no longer would qualify to be a WWIN grant recipient.

***When Velma, a 24 year old African American former foster child came to WWIN in 2006 for a grant to cover her last semester at St. Martin’s University, she stated that her #1 goal in obtaining an education was to provide for herself and her family. She proudly sent us an invitation to her commencement in May of 2007 where she received a B.A. in Community Service and followed up with a thank you letter containing the exciting news that she had been nominated to teach English at an all girls academy in Tanzania that would allow her “to pass on what Washington Women In Need has given me”. In thanking WWIN for her grant she stated “I am the first person in my biological family to graduate from college. The Washington Women In Need Education Grant has helped to end the vicious cycles of academic failure and poverty that have plagued my family for many generations.”***

*Imagine the possibilities... You are the key*

## Julia Pritt - WWIN Founder

Fifteen years ago Julia Pritt drew on hard times – and her financial independence – to envision a Washington in which low income women faced with turmoil or tragedy would have the means to access education and health care, changing their outlook from despair to hope. This difficult period in her life included the loss of her mother, the end of her 27-year marriage and participation in a company she helped form and led to great success – and a diagnosis of breast cancer.

A compassionate visionary, Julia realized that she, unlike many women facing similar obstacles, was fortunate to be able to access the services to address each of them and move on to a bright future. She also thought about her recently departed mother, who had faced difficulties in her own life.

From these reflections – and asking God, “What do you want me to do now?” – Julia realized that access to education and the types of health care that WWIN offers – mental health counseling, medical, dental, vision, and hearing and insurance premiums – could help many low income women cross that bridge to a brighter future and, ultimately, enable them to contribute more positively to their families and their communities. From that realization, Julia set out to found WWIN.

Because of Julia’s continuing commitment to WWIN – which includes a substantial personal gift that covers all costs of operation – donors know that every single cent of their contributions goes to grants that help improve the lives of low income women in Washington. As of June 30, 2007, almost 3800 women have received grants since WWIN was founded in 1992.



*Julia Pritt accepts  
Nonprofit of the Year Award  
(photo courtesy of Mike Nakamura)*

## Julia Pritt Accepts WWIN “Non-Profit of the Year” Award

In 2007, WWIN won the Eastside Non-profit of the Year Award from the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce for its commitment to quality, community and innovation. WWIN founder Julia Pritt accepted the honor at the Chamber’s annual awards luncheon in May. WWIN was acknowledged for its “commitment to making the Eastside a better place to live through the development and operation of programs that benefit the community and individuals.”

## Warm, Loving Centurion Bequeaths \$97,000 to WWIN Genevieve Georgia Pack Weber, 1902-2006

The lives of many low income women will be improved immeasurably by a generous, unexpected bequest from Genevieve Georgia Pack Weber, an African American who lived for most of her life in Seattle until she died at the age of 104 in 2006. Born in Kansas, she had the hardship of outliving two husbands and her only child, a daughter, and chose to leave her estate to a few selected nonprofit organizations doing work in areas that she felt provided important services to low income women and families.

As a young nurse, Genevieve volunteered as a tutor for a low income children’s program, and was concerned that low income people had medical and mental health care and that women and children in particular were well-cared-for in Seattle. Not surprisingly, we’re told she was a warm and loving person.

*Improving the lives of low income women*

# 2006-2007 Financial Summary

## Support & Revenues

Contributions.....	\$522,291.
Foundations/Corporations.....	\$136,000.
Major Gifts.....	\$160,713.
Special Events .....	\$536,095.
Community Groups .....	\$ 52,851.
Other .....	\$119,048.

TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES .....\$1,526,998.

## Expenses

### Program Services:

Direct Client Expense .....	\$723,102.
Other Program Expense .....	\$134,070.
<i>Subtotal</i> .....	\$857,172.

### \*\*Support Services:

Management and general .....	\$114,090.
Fundraising .....	\$172,735.
<i>Subtotal</i> .....	\$286,825.

TOTAL EXPENSES .....\$1,143,997.

## Net Assets

Beginning of year .....\$2,571,459.

End of year .....\$2,954,460.

\*\*The founder of WWIN, Julia Pritt, pays 100% of Support Services and Other Program Expense.



2285 – 116th Ave. NE \* Suite 100 \* Bellevue, WA 98004  
(425) 451-8838 \* Fax (425) 451-8845  
[www.wawomeninneed.org](http://www.wawomeninneed.org)

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Seattle, WA

PERMIT NO. 5544



*Investing in our community, one woman at a time*