

**2008 WOMEN'S FUND
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THE WOMEN'S FUND OF VANDERBURGH COUNTY
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Women's Fund
of Vanderburgh County
**ANNUAL REPORT
2008**

Women making a positive impact on the lives of women and children in Vanderburgh County

SUPPORT OUR GRANT FINALISTS

The Women's Fund of Vanderburgh County encourages fund members and other interested donors to learn more about our grant finalists. All finalists welcome donations of any amount.

DREAM CENTER

Kristy Jossa, Executive Director
16 W. Morgan Ave.
Evansville, IN 47710
www.dreamcenterevansville.org

EASTER SEALS

Ray Raisor, Director
3701 Bellemeade Ave.
Evansville, IN 47714
www.easterseals.com

HOUSE OF BREAD AND PEACE

Sarah Wolf, Executive Director
250 E. Chandler Ave.
Evansville, IN 47713
www.destination-home.info/services/houseofbreadandpeace.htm

THE SALVATION ARMY

Amy Kroeger, Director
1040 N. Fulton Ave., PO Box 4055
Evansville, IN 47724
www.usc.salvationarmy.org/evansville

For information on The Women's Fund, contact Barbara Dicken, director of the Vanderburgh Community Foundation, (812) 422-1245 or e-mail barb@vcfoundation.org.

House of Bread and Peace

The Women's Fund continues to fulfill its mission with a \$45,000 grant to a local homeless shelter

Women helping women and children.

Such is the mission of the Women's Fund of Vanderburgh County, an initiative begun in 2007 by a core group of women in the Evansville area who sought to make an immediate and long-lasting impact in the lives of women and children in their community.

Thanks to both a permanent endowment and nonpermanent fund established with the Vanderburgh Community Foundation, the Women's Fund is doing just that. In November 2008, the group announced that the House of Bread and Peace, a local homeless shelter for women and children, was the recipient of a \$45,000 grant from the organization.

Serving the Evansville community for a quarter century, the House of Bread and Peace was founded by Sister Joanna Trainer, a Benedictine nun who recognized a need in the city for a transitional shelter for women and children experiencing the devastating reality of homelessness. Meant to be more than just a place for residents to lay their heads at night, the House of Bread and Peace's mission has always been to heal the wounds of homelessness and



Lisa Jones, 2009 co-chair, talks with member Margaret McMullan and guest Jill Bertram.

"to have them leave in better shape than when they came here," says Sarah Wolf, the organization's executive director since 2003.

To that end, the House of Bread and Peace works in conjunction with many community organizations to give the women the skills and support they need to be successful when they leave the shelter. This includes a range of opportunities, including weekly visits with the medical staff at ECHO Community Health Clinic, intensive counseling with caseworkers from the nonprofit housing agency Aurora, Inc., and specialized programs such as the nutrition class sponsored by the local Purdue University Extension Office, which teaches residents about how to eat healthy on a budget.

The House of Bread and Peace has grown from its modest beginnings in 1984 to the 12-bedroom, four-bathroom facility that stands today at the corner of Chandler Avenue and Line Street on Evansville's Southeast Side. Though capable of serving up to 26 individuals at



Linda Cox, a member of the board of directors of the House of Bread and Peace, addresses the annual meeting of the Women's Fund.

HOUSE OF BREAD AND PEACE (CONT.)

any one time, there are rarely vacancies, says Wolf, who predicts that the economic downturn may lead to an increased demand for services.

Although the current structure has been well-maintained by both residents and staff alike, it has suffered from the usual wear-and-tear expected to be found in a facility that has had more than 600 residents live under its roof since it was built in 2002. "And that's where the grant from the Women's Fund will play such a significant role," says Wolf. The money will be used to pay for upgrades to the facility, including the installation of energy-efficient windows and appliances, new flooring in the bedrooms, as well as the construction of a roof over the facility's patio area

that will provide residents and their children with a backyard retreat during the warm summer months.

All of this has been made possible by the generosity of the Women's Fund of Vanderburgh County. "There was no way under the sun we'd be able to do what we're going to do without their financial support," Wolf says.

But it's been more than just the money for which Wolf is grateful. The networking with smart and savvy women who belong to the fund has been an added benefit that she believes will reap good things for years to come. "We've made a lot of new friends," Wolf says. "They've been our cheering section. That's what they do so well. They are women helping out women and children."

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: HELEN CHRISTIAN...

Two years ago, when Helen Christian first learned about the Women's Fund from friends who were instrumental in launching it, she immediately felt inspired. "I thought it was an excellent idea and a way women could impact our community," she says.

Helen has been a member of the Women's Fund for the past two years and has renewed her membership for 2009. This year, she's looking forward to even greater involvement with the Women's Fund. For the last several years, she's been deeply involved in her children's school and extracurricular sporting activities through committees, a parent/teacher organization, and more. "As they grow older," she says, "I was looking for something with a broader scope that I could be involved in. The Women's Fund fits the bill for me."

Helen has always been impressed by the Women's Fund's philosophy of grant making. "As an organization, we can keep needed work going, make a dream come true, and add needed services to our community," she says. "The other side of this, and perhaps the most attractive to me personally, is that half of our donations will go into a perpetual women's fund with the Vanderburgh County Foundation and help women and children tomorrow."

At the heart of Helen's involvement with the Women's Fund is a deep passion for improving the community she loves. "I have always believed that we can do our best work close to home," she says. "We

live, work and raise families in this community, and all our efforts in this fund are directed to this community. It is so important to take care of it. It is extremely rewarding to be a part of this!"

2008 GRANTS COMMITTEE

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Thank you to these ladies who donated their time and talents to the Grants Committee.

AN INVITATION...

The Women's Fund is a fundraising organization that is a supporting arm of the Vanderburgh Community Foundation. From July 1 to June 30, we recruit members to join us for that fiscal year. And each year, we do it again.

While we recognize these are uncertain times, our community needs us now more than ever. We should all be thankful for the many blessings we have today; some women and children in our community are not as fortunate.

Traditionally, women are known for putting others' needs before their own to make the world a better place. We hope you will consider joining the Women's Fund Advisory Board in doing the same. In doing so, you'll be supporting local organizations that address the needs of women and children in Vanderburgh County.

Those of you who have the ability to join as a \$1,000 full-member, we encourage you to do so. Group members are always welcome.

Please help us spread the word about the Women's Fund. Solicit your family, friends, and colleagues to join. The more women who participate, the more money we're able to distribute back into the community.

You can be involved as little or as much as you would like. Some members only attend the annual meeting; others like to get involved on the Grants Committee or host an event at their home or place of business. Just let us know by contacting Barbara Dicken or any Advisory Board member.

As the Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw suggested, let's pay it forward. Together we can dramatically impact the lives of women and children, now and forever.

Singie Hagey *Lisa Jones*

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