



Wing Tips

Wings For Success

Wing Tips Newsletter

Winter 2008

Mission

Wings For Success' mission is to improve the employment opportunities of disadvantaged women by providing work appropriate attire, wardrobe guidance and life skills workshops.

Purpose

Wings For Success promotes independence, stability and self-confidence for women in transition.

Vision

Wings For Success embraces the idea that all women should have the opportunity to better their lives and those of their families.

Board of Directors

Connie Rose	Vivian Kermon
Bonnie Blank	Kelly Gladfelter
MaryPat McDevitt	Donna Sherwin

Board Advisors

Carol Larkin	Alyce Ellefson
Sara Bleemer	

Wings For Success

Mailing: PO Box 3331
West Chester, PA 19381

Telephone: 610-344-9331

Location: 326 N. Walnut St. rear

Website: www.wingsforsuccess.org

email: info@wingsforsuccess.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
(Client services are by appoint. only)

WELCOME 2008!

After a challenging 2007, we are looking forward to this year. Wings enters our 10th year of existence, quite an achievement for any business, but especially for a non-profit. We are planning to mark the occasion with a number of activities later this year, and we promise to keep you posted.

First of all we want to welcome new board members, Bonnie Blank and Kelly Gladfelter. Bonnie has been a dedicated volunteer for the past several years, dressing clients and acknowledging donations. Bonnie has also served on the board of Temple Brith Achim. Kelly is a more recent volunteer dresser and has the added responsibility of compiling this newsletter. Other board changes include Carol Larkin, Alyce Ellefson and Sara Bleemer stepping into the role of Board Advisors. Each brings her own special skills and talents to the Board. An awesome team!!

We also hired a new Program Manager, Diane Mills (*see article*). We are thrilled to have Diane as part

of our Wings family. She's made a quick start by helping us get our office in amazing condition and bringing in a new referral partner. She even got us a free vacuum cleaner, courtesy of Brenda's Vac Shop in West Chester.

Most important for Wings this year is to find a new home. Our anticipated move for last year didn't work out, so we continue to search for a larger space. We need at least 2500 square feet, ideally a ground floor location that is handicap accessible, with parking, preferably in West Chester, Exton or Downingtown. If you have any leads, call the Wings office and ask for Vivian Kermon.

A new fundraiser in 2008 takes a "green" turn. We're going to sell re-usable grocery tote bags! This will be a replacement for the Women pins we offered previously. We believe we can make a difference on the planet and make money for Wings at the same time. Details to come.

(Cont. on page 3)



The 2008 Wings For Success Officers (left to right): Kelly Gladfelter (*Secretary*), Bonnie Blank (*Treasurer*), Connie Rose (*President*), Vivian Kermon (*Vice-President*).





Wings Tips

Wings Seeks a New Nest

We have an urgent need to find a new location for a bigger-and-better Wings. We are seeking a ground floor space of about 2500 to 3000 square feet, close to public transportation and with accessible parking. (West Chester, Exton, or Downingtown.) If you know of any such location or person who can help us in this endeavor, leave a message for Vivian Kermon at the office at 610-344-9331. We'd be happy to hear from you! ■

NEWS from the Board

On February 8, Wings held our annual planning session. A team of 12 Board of Directors Members and Advisors met to plan strategic goals for the year to come. 2008 marks our 10th anniversary, and the organization has ambitious plans. **Major initiatives include:**

- Moving to a new facility
- Securing grants and funding
- Expanding our Referral Partner base
- Exploring public and community relations opportunities
- Hosting our 10th anniversary celebration

Each attendee left the planning session with action items to help Wings meet our bold goals. Look for updates throughout the year on each of the above items!

In addition to goal planning, elections were held for the 2008 Wings for Success Board Officers. **Congratulations to:**

- Connie Rose, *President*
- Vivian Kermon, *Vice-President*
- Bonnie Blank, *Treasurer*
- Kelly Gladfelter, *Secretary*

We also want to extend many thanks to outgoing officers Donna Sherwin and Mary Pat McDevitt.

Many exciting opportunities (and a few challenges) lie ahead for 2008; however, with commitment from our board members, dedication from our volunteers, and support from our donors, Wings will be able to tackle these challenges. As always, our number one commitment will remain providing support to the clients we serve. ■

Client Comment Corner

“I received a lot of wonderful things. I was given a beautiful brown skirt suit that I wore to an interview. Low and behold, I got the job! Thank you for everything.”

– Natalie

“The ladies were absolutely phenomenal. They made me feel so comfortable.”

– Kimberly

“Thanks for helping me look good and feel great!”

– Marilyn

“Thank you for treating me with such kindness and respect.”

– Patricia



Wings
For Success *The Finishing Touch*

THANK YOU Donors

Individual financial contributions

Mary Alexander

Leslie Barringer

Jeffrey Blank

Sara Bleemer

Elizabeth Borel

Linda Capron

Barbara DeCastro

Carol Del Sordo

Aurora Dickson

Nancy Dore

Alyce Ellefson

Lorrie Fabrizio

Sandra Gera

Jane Ann Hornberger —
in honor of Florence Wilson

Anne Rose Jones

Vivian Kermon

Martha Kirby

Carol Larkin

Patricia Laskowski

Cathy Levy

Carol Luby — *in honor of
good friends Jeff & Bonnie
Blank*

Mary Pat McDevitt

Sharon McGrane

Grace Medwick

Heidi Neeb Dotts

Michael Neeb

Lisa M. Pedrick — *in honor
of Connie Rose*

Marie Powell

Donna Rastadter

Jennifer Reynolds

Linda Rice

Connie Rose

Linda Schneider — *for
Russ Brierly, Brian Swites,
and Kathryn Kovan*

Donna Shapanka

Judy Shelton

Donna Sherwin

Margaret Staarman —
in honor of Carol Larkin

Barbara Walker

Terri Whiteford

Marcia Wills

Lisa Worthy — *to honor
Laurie Todd*

In Honor of Carolyn Boyer:

Throughout much of 2007, a great many people made donations to Wings For Success in honor of our late and beloved Board member, Carolyn Boyer. To all those individuals, we express our gratitude. It was also our privilege to know and love Carolyn.

NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR Joins Wings

In January, Wings welcomed aboard our new Program Director, Diane Mills. Diane comes to us with a wealth of program administration and office management experience. Her background includes the role of Program Administrator for the National Arts Program in Malvern, where she managed 67 coordinators. Most recently, she was Office Manager with Creative Graphics in Exton.

Diane's responsibilities at Wings include volunteer coordination, clothing acquisition, client scheduling, workshop implementation, maintenance of referral partner relationships, funding agency correspondence, maintenance of records, and special projects as needed.

Although she has only been with the organization a month, Diane has already proven to be a great asset. She has streamlined office procedures, revamped the clothing drive process, and worked with volunteers to create a much-needed volunteer orientation manual. Diane has established a great rapport with current referral partners, established contact with former referral partners, and has developed relationships with possible new referral partners. Over the next few months Diane will be working to resume the Wings For Success workshop schedule.

"I feel so lucky to have this position," says Diane. "It is an honor to work with so many giving and talented people who are all working for the same goal."

All of us Wings are thrilled to have such a great new team-member! ■



You Can Help

Here are a few ways you can contribute to Wings For Success

Dollar Donations

Please consider a cash donation to Wings For Success as part of your annual charitable giving. As a 501(c)3 non-profit, your contributions to Wings are tax deductible. Mail a check to Wings at PO Box 3331, West Chester, PA 19381

Honor Cards

Wings will send a personalized gift card from you in honor or in memory of someone special when you make a donation to Wings For Success. Send us your check, along with the name and address of the recipient and the date you want it mailed.

Donated Services

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Wings For Success. Some volunteers work with clients, while others raise funds for the organization. Some come in on a regular basis to help keep the closets in order, while others may present a workshop. The opportunities vary widely and can be tailored to suit your talents and preferences. The organization is currently in need of the volunteer services from professionals in the marketing, public relations, accounting and legal fields. Please call the office if you'd like to join our team.

Donated Goods

Wings holds four public clothing donation days per year, one per season. (See schedule on back!)

Please keep in mind the following when making donations of clothing, shoes and accessories:

Wings can only use items that are (1) clean, (2) on hangers, (3) in good repair, and (4) of current style. We cannot accept clothing that is bagged, wrinkled, soiled, damaged, out of date, or too mature for our average client whose age range is 20-35.

In addition to traditional business wear, Wings can use business casual clothing, shoes, handbags, costume jewelry, new undergarments, stockings and knee-hi's. Uniforms, scrubs and maternity clothing are also needed.

Other Wish List Items:

Small paper shredder
Wardrobe Moving Boxes
Black Handbags
Bras and Undergarments (*new only*)
Size 0-2 clothing (*especially pants*)

WELCOME 2008! (Cont. from Cover)

We also have a new Grant-writing Team in place. Laura Rhubarb and Mary Pat Knauss have joined Carol Larkin in pursuing foundations for needed resources. This is one of the most demanding activities of a non-profit: identifying sources, matching their mission to ours, crafting an inquiry or proposal, compiling all the required documents (which vary for each submission) and delivering them on time. They've submitted eleven applications this year, and this is only the first quarter! Wish us "success".

Yes, we're off to fantastic start. At the same time, we are reaching out to you and asking for your support in any way you would like to provide it: volunteering, putting us into touch with the right resources, donating items, donating funds, buying a tote bag, or selling bags on our behalf. Those are just a few ways you can help. Whatever you do, thank you. We're just happy that you're part of our Wings family.

Connie Rose
Board President



Wings For Success
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West Chester, PA 19381

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With GRATITUDE

*Wings For Success Acknowledges
Foundation, Organization and Business Donors*

Financial Contributions

- The Patricia Kind Family Foundation
- Sovereign Bank – Lionville Branch
- Grainger Industrial Supply
- First Presbyterian Church
Women's Association
- Paoli Malvern Berwyn Rotary
- Ye Old Craft Shop (*Maureen
and Rich Jamgocian*)

In-Kind Gifts and Services

- Avenue Clothing Shop
- Boston & Associates, P.C.
- Brenda's Vac Shop
- Charmingly Linda's
- Dr. Ellin Kassow
- Employees of Joseph Virgulti, DMD
- Head To Toe Uniforms
- Jane Porter Designs
- Maria Fe's Upstairs/Toni Greco
- PJ Embroidery & Designs
- QVC
- Ruby Slippers
- Salon 7
- Talbots Misses – King of Prussia
- The Trading Post
- Willowdale Country Store
- Windridge/Cheryl Nash



Upcoming EVENTS

2008 Public Clothing Drives:

In 2008, Wings' will hold 4 public clothing donation days (*one per season*). Please keep these dates in mind when you find yourself thinning out your closets.

- **Saturday, February 23** –
spring/summer clothing
- **Saturday, May 17** –
spring/summer clothing
- **Saturday, September 20** –
fall/winter clothing
- **Saturday, November 15** –
fall/winter clothing

Queen for a Day Workshop:

Our next Queen For A Day Workshop will be held May 19 at Pulse Beauty Academy in Downingtown. Referral Partners may contact the office at 610-344-9331 to enroll clients in the workshop.