



Women United in Philanthropy

in partnership with the United Way - Thomas Jefferson Area

Vol. 3, No. 1

June 2009

Smart Beginnings for Success

Women United in Philanthropy's March program, "Smart Beginnings for Success," afforded members a good opportunity to learn about the status of early childhood education in the community and the state. WUP Co-Chair Kakkie Brooks welcomed the members and guests to the meeting at City Space on the Downtown Mall and introduced the moderator, Sue Friedman. The panel members were **Kathy Glazer**, Director of Virginia's Office of Early Childhood Development, and United Way representatives **Miriam Rushfinn**, Coordinator of the Smart Beginnings Program, and **Jon Nafziger**, Vice-President for Community Initiatives, United Way. In 2008, WUP gave a \$36,000 grant in support of this program.

Kathy Glazer stressed the importance of a child's early years in determining school readiness. Brain research has shown that the majority of the architecture of the brain occurs in the first three to five years. Economists have demonstrated the benefit that accrues to society when a child is given high quality support from an early age. Such children will complete school and become responsible citizens. In Virginia, the cost for children to repeat a grade in elementary school is \$80 million per year.

The state Office of Early Childhood Development, created by Governor Tim Kaine, initiated Smart Beginnings as a partnership between philanthropy and business in which participating localities attract other partners and resources.

Miriam Rushfinn defined the aims of Smart Beginnings: 1) to promote school readiness; 2) to help parents, families, child



From left, Miriam Rushfinn, Coordinator of the Smart Beginnings Program; Jon Nafziger, Vice President for Community Initiatives, United Way; and Kathy Glazer, Director of Virginia's Office of Early Childhood Development, composed the panel on early-childhood education.

care providers, schools and employers; 3) to build a community-wide collaboration; and 4) to achieve measurable positive results. Their strategic goals are accessible and affordable quality child care, family support and school/community partnerships.

Jon Nafziger outlined the programs for which the WUP grant monies have been utilized. These include accessible, affordable

quality child care (\$12,500 for the Seal of Quality Child Care program, Seal of Quality incentives for providers, and child care scholarships); family support (\$5,000 for parent resources and Latino family resources); school-community partnerships (\$6,500 for transition to

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Best-Selling Author and Breast-Cancer Survivor to Speak at WUP Annual Lunch

Kelly Corrigan, author of "The Middle Place," has agreed to speak at the **Women United in Philanthropy** annual luncheon Tuesday, September 15, at Farmington Country Club.

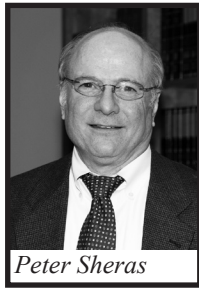
A gifted storyteller and the mother of two young girls, Corrigan describes "The Middle Place" as "that sliver of time when parenthood and childhood overlap." At 36, Corrigan was diagnosed with breast cancer at the same time her father was diagnosed with his own late-stage cancer. Corrigan's talk at the WUP lunch will focus on how women cope with the midlife dynamics of being a parent, caring for parents, and remaining a child to the parents.

More information on the event will follow.



Kelly Corrigan

Bullying and its Effects on a Community



Peter Sheras

Peter L. Sheras, Ph.D., Professor of Clinical and School Psychology at the University of Virginia Curry School of Education, discussed issues related to bullying at the **Women United in Philanthropy** event on November 19, 2008, at the home of Co-Chair Kacie Brooks.

Bullying, one form of violence, is a learned behavior that has been increasing in recent years. It is aggressive behavior occurring over time and involving the use of status or power over someone of lower status or power. Approximately 25 to 30 percent of school age children will be either a bully or a victim, and the classroom is the number one locale for this behavior. Many children are affected deeply by being a victim of or witnessing bullying.

To change this type of behavior, it is necessary to change the culture that teaches children that violence is an answer. Parents may not be aware of bullying that school personnel observe, since children may not communicate to parents that they are being victimized. Dr. Sheras emphasized the need for parent-child communication and vigilance. The key to violence prevention is to teach children to give information to their parents or appropriate school authorities.

In addition, schools may be hesitant to report bullying as it could be viewed as a reflection on them. Dr. Sheras emphasized the need for school officials to understand the behavior of bullies and to fit the punishment to the action. He stated that zero tolerance expulsions were not effective; bullies need a "path to redemption and a reward for stopping."

Why is it important to reverse this behavior? Bullies are six times more likely to become criminals when they reach adulthood. Their victims may develop mental health problems or become suicidal. In addition, 30 to 50 percent of bullies have been victims themselves. Thus, bullying is likely to result in significant costs to the community for social services and incarceration.

Letter from our Co-Chairs

Women United in Philanthropy has come a long way since its inception four years ago, when about a dozen committed women sat around a table month after month, sorting through the many details involved in effective, collective grant-making. That year, **Women United** was thrilled to offer its first Human Services Grant of \$15,000 to the Jefferson Area CHIP. Now, four years later, we have more than doubled our membership and the dollars available in our Collective Fund. **WUP** has made grants to four local agencies, and is getting ready to make its fifth grant this coming fall. **WUP's** impact is growing, and our incredible momentum is building.



Kacie Brooks

In addition to making grants, **Women United** has offered educational programs to inform and inspire our members about effective philanthropy and about issues of local concern pertaining to low-income families. We have drawn good crowds for those programs and have received generally positive feedback about them.

We take our educational mission seriously. To that end, we have established a strong Program Committee, whose mandate is to find top-notch speakers to

address the topics that our members most want to hear. After several years of **WUP** programs focused on local social service issues, mostly having to do with children (poverty, high school drop-outs, teens at risk, bullying, school readiness), the **WUP** Program Committee recognizes it is time for a shift in focus. Our members are ready to circle back to topics relevant to women, such as Laura Nash's talk on balancing happiness, legacy, achievement and contribution, Ellen Remmer's presentation on women as community donors, and Olivia Mellan's discussion about psychology of money.



Jennifer Feist

We are really excited to announce that our next Annual Luncheon speaker, scheduled for September 15th at Farmington Country Club, is Kelly Corrigan. We will also announce the grant recipient, for 2009. As always, we will look to our members to help us by bringing your friends - lots of them - to join you at your table. There will be copies of Ms. Corrigan's book available for purchase, and in the meantime, you can check her out at kellycorrigan.com. Mark your calendars, and get ready for a terrific third annual luncheon celebration.

Kacie Brooks and Jennifer Feist
Co-Chairs

SAVE THE DATE!

WUP Annual Luncheon

featuring

Kelly Corrigan

New York Times Best-Selling Author of
"The Middle Place"

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Farmington Country Club Ballroom

More details to follow...

Teens at Risk: News from the Front

At the **Women United in Philanthropy** gathering on September 23 held in the home of Susan and L.F. Payne, three women who work each day with teenagers at risk in our area spoke passionately about their views of what young people need to become successful, contributing adults. Representatives from two community organizations, **Dyan Aretakis**, director of the Teen Health Center (THC) at UVA, and **Sibley Johns**, Executive Director of the Music Resource Center (MRC), described the services provided by their agencies. **Carol Hernandez** of the Court Services Unit stressed the need for parental involvement and after school programs.

Dyan Aretakis, a nurse practitioner, said parents who are involved with their children and are willing to listen to the messages their children send, even if they are hard to hear, can help their children immensely. The THC's goal is to reduce the number of teen pregnancies, first through counseling to delay sexual activity as long as possible. Then, if teens either are or plan to be sexually active, the Teen Center offers methods of family planning that teens will be able to use reliably. To that end, Dyan is a proponent of long-term birth control methods such as Depoprovera that do not rely on daily compliance. In her opinion, buying into "Just-Say-No" sex education programs is "an enormous mistake."

Sibley Johns described the MRC as a state-of-the-art facility

where teens can learn the latest technology in the music industry and study and participate in every phase of music production. The Center's mission is to educate and inspire young people through music education and performance opportunities, as well as through life skills mentoring. In their after school programs, the Center not only keeps 600 teens engaged each year in fun activities that use their talents, but also provides real economic and personal development opportunities.

Unfortunately, the court must make judgments each day about teens in trouble in our community. Carol Hernandez emphasized that youths from every neighborhood in town find themselves under her watch. Her message was strong: parents need to be involved in their children's lives as parents, not as peers. She stated that gangs do exist in our community and emphasized that after school programs are essential to prevent teens from engaging in criminal activities.

A lively discussion followed the presentation; it could have lasted well into the evening! **Women United in Philanthropy** thanks Susan Payne for opening her beautiful home at Kenridge to a large turnout of members for this event. The views of the Blue Ridge Mountains were breathtaking, and the panel's information was thought-provoking.

WUP Member Receives Corporate Citizenship Award

On January 23, 2009, Liza Borches, president of Volvo of Charlottesville, was one of six North American Dealer principals to receive the Ford Motor Company **Salute To Dealers** award in recognition of outstanding corporate citizenship. At the ninth annual award ceremony in New Orleans, Ford board member Edsel B. Ford II said, "Liza's efforts provide living proof that despite challenging times, individuals of great character and generosity step forward and support their communities." Each honoree received a painted portrait with a montage of the philanthropic and volunteer activities that led to the award.

Liza's business acumen and philanthropic commitment are part of her heritage. She is the first fourth-generation Ford dealer in Virginia; her great-grandfather began selling the Model T in Petersburg in 1924. Her father owns Colonial Lincoln Mercury

and believes charitable leadership is integral to helping meet the needs of the community, customers and employees. The family acquired Volvo of Charlottesville in 2004.

As part of her civic commitment "to make our community a better place to live," Liza joined the United Way board in 2004 and has been an executive committee member for the past two years. In 2007-08, she was co-chair of a campaign that raised \$1.5 million in donations from companies and employees. Liza is the 2008-09 chair of the regional United Way campaign with a goal of nearly \$1.6 million.

In 2005, Liza and nine other women formed **Women United in Philanthropy** (WUP) that has now grown to 132 members. Each year, the members pool their contributions to award grants to nonprofit organizations that will make a difference to women and/or children. Thus far, **WUP** has given out \$85,000 in grants and sponsored



Liza Borches

many events to raise awareness of at-risk Charlottesville families and generate support for deserving organizations.

She is also a board member of the UVA Children's Hospital and sponsors a Drive for Life benefit each February. Volvo of Charlottesville makes a donation to that hospital for all test drives and

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Smart Beginnings

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kindergarten pilots, school readiness reports and a kindergarten readiness booklet); and community-wide collaboration (\$12,000 for the Smart Beginnings Director, and business and community engagement).

The challenges remaining for Smart Beginnings include expanding the Seal of Quality program, reaching out to more families, increasing the community's awareness of the need for early childhood education, and determining the parameters of school readiness. The framework, created by the state of Virginia, for early childhood education may be expressed as "ready schools, ready family, ready community, and ready child." WUP members look forward to learning about further progress in this program.

Award

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vehicle sales during the month. This year, for the first time, the dealership also held a blood drive for the benefit of UVA Hospital.

A graduate of Saint Anne's Belfield and the McIntire School of Commerce at UVA, Liza views her non-profit and charitable involvement as her free-time activity. She credits her capable and supportive employees for enabling her to attend meetings during the work day. In turn, her dedication to the betterment of the community has raised the awareness of her employees, many of whom give of their time in service to local organizations.

Liza and her husband Pete, who also works for Volvo of Charlottesville, are the proud parents of son Taylor (3½ years old) and daughter Parker (6 months old).

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Current Members as of April 27, 2009

* Jeannette Abernathy-Nanninga	** Sue Friedman	* Deana Nowell
* Mildred Abraham	Melissa Gardiner	** Mrs. Richard L. Nunley
Karen Ahern	** Leslie Gilliam	Nina Ozbek
** Robin Amato	* Grace Giras	Eileen Park
Alyson Ball	* Debbi Goodman	** Beverly Pawson
** Maia Bannan	Heidi Graff	* K.K. Pearson
Nina Barnes	** Doris Greiner	* Jacquie Pickering
** Kimberlee Barrett-Johnson	Pryor Hale	Kai Rady
Mimi Bender	** Ruth Hanft	** Sue Rainey
** Karen Boeschstein	** Margaret H. Hart	* Betsy Respass
** Liza Borches	** Deborah Adair Hayes	** Jane Rotch
** Maggie Bourgeois	** Bebe Heiner	** Caroline Satira
** Kathleen Bowman	Linda Hitchings	** Marty Saylor
* Antoinette Brewster	Marguerite Holmes	** Carolyn Schuyler
Sarah Bridenhagen	* Joyce Holt	Shelah Scott
** Katherine Brooks	** Sharon Lee Hostler	Linda Seaman
** Suzanne Brooks	Amy Hughes	Katherine Sheffey Douglas
* Virginia Brooks	Sally Humphrey	** Carol S. Johnston
** Lynn Brown	* Linda Hunt	* Shamim Sisson
Wendy Brown	Jennifer Jacobs	** Jane-Ashley Skinner
** Barbara Bruner	Susan Jacobson	Marcie Mott Slaughter
** Maxine Craddock Burton	** Joan Jay	* Diana Smith
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Rose Capon	* Mary Johnson	Anne Spence
* Johanna B. Chase	Anne Jolly	Jan Stalfort
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Martha Craddock	Barbara Kessler	* Lamar Toole
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** Jennifer Feist	Susan Mintz	** Melissa Young
Joan Fenton	** Karen Moran	Kate Zirkle
** Kay Ferguson	Elizabeth Morris	
* Anne Fife	Bruce R. Murray	
Alice Fitch	Mrs. James B. Murray	Total General Memberships: \$9,750
Dorrie Fontaine	Meghan Murray	Total Donor Memberships: \$24,500
* Carolyn Frazier	** Ann Myers	Total Other Donations: \$8,500
Shirley French	* Cynthia Neff	Total Collective Fund \$33,000

*** General Member – contributed additional funds to the Collective Fund**
**** Donor Member**

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