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June 2011 Edition

Women in Business

A MESSAGE FROM OUR 2011 PRESIDENT RACHEL KIMMAN

Did you know that Women In Business has been conducting programming since 1982? Our Mission statement still stands today **"WIB is organized for the purpose of recognizing women within the business community. Its purpose is to pursue goals of civic, cultural, and professional leadership by providing opportunities for education and the exchange of ideas."** Much has changed since that time, but what hasn't changed?

1. professional women serve on the board of directors dedicated to meeting the needs of current, active members
2. varied speaker topics that focus on professional and personal growth
3. business women seek to join our organization, and
4. monthly luncheon opportunities for networking.

As I mentioned previously, I enjoy reading books for personal and professional growth. Let me know what books have made an impact in your life. This month, a friend recommended, "Crucial Conversations" by K. Patterson, J. Grenny, R. McMillan, A. Switzler. I have made some startling discoveries about how I handle discussions where 1. stakes are high, 2. opinions vary, and 3. emotions run strong. Let's just say, I have some growing to do in this area! When we face crucial conversations, we can do one of three things:

- we can avoid them
- we can face them and handle them poorly
- we can face them and handle them well



Marie Barrientos, Dr. Stacey Mounce

The Woman of the Year event in May was incredibly inspiring and touching! Upon receiving the award, Marie Barrientos responded with humility naming the women who had impacted her life and sharing past experiences which helped her overcome adversity to become a strong, confident wife and mother.

Check out our new website www.wibwinona.org for the calendar of events. Thank you for your patience as we make much needed revisions to create more user friendly online registration with Constant Contact and coming soon...PayPal!

ANNOUNCEMENT: BOARD MEMBER CHANGE

"Hello wonderful WIB ladies! Sadly this will be my last report as Treasurer. I have taken a job in La Crosse and will not be able to continue to be a WIB member. The past 5 years I have spent as a member of this organization have been wonderful. I am sad to be leaving such a wonderful organization and will miss you all greatly. I am, however, leaving you in good hands with Jenna Gazelka taking over the Treasurer position. Thank you all for the wonderful experience and friendships that I will take with me." – Sarina Like-Johnson



Please join us in welcoming Jenna Gazelka. Jenna is a Staff Accountant at Wolter & Raak, Ltd. and has worked there since May 2009. Her experience includes not-for-profit auditing, financial statements, tax engagements, and payroll and bookkeeping services. She previously worked with the Great River Shakespeare Festival for two years as the Finance Associate. Jenna is a 2009 graduate of Winona State University with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. Jenna is the Treasurer for Women in Business and is a member of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and Winona Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals. In her free time, she enjoys arts and crafts, cooking, and spending time with family and friends as well as her three cats and a dog.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: FATIMA SAID

Project FINE

Project FINE (Focus on Integrating Newcomers through Education) was founded in 1990 to meet the needs of immigrant and refugee youth. Over the last 20 years, the demographics of our community have changed and many new refugees and immigrants have moved to Winona County. Today, we help newcomers of all ages as they settle into their new home. Our mission is to strengthen and enrich our community by facilitating the integration of people who are ethnically diverse.

I came to the United States in 1993 as a refugee from the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I grew up in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and received my college degrees there as well. When I came to the United States, my family and I settled in Rochester, where I was able to use my experience in business and education as a teacher and director of the Head Start program at Child Care Resources and Referral in Rochester. I accepted the position of Executive Director at Project FINE in August of 2005. I am very proud to say that I became a United States citizen in 1998. I am very involved in both the Winona and Rochester Communities, and currently serve on the Winona County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the MN State Colleges and Universities Council on Diversity and the Winona Area Public Schools Diversity Advisory and Staff Development Committees and Winona Human Rights Commission. I also served as chair of the Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association Board of Directors in Rochester and a member of the Rochester Public Health Advisory Board.

My current job is truly my passion and life mission. My experience as a refugee helps me to understand the importance of helping newcomers, especially refugees from oppression and violence, adjust to life in the United States.

That is Project FINE's mission, and it is a mission in which I deeply believe. I think of all the people who helped me and my family when we came to the United States, and I am so pleased to be able to assist the refugees and immigrants of today. They come to our community to build a better life for themselves and their family, and I am both pleased and honored to be able to help them.

As a small organization, we all wear many hats. Because we seek to serve the client, we must be flexible in terms of the tasks that we perform. Some days, I spend time in management and in networking with people and organizations in the community. Some days, I spend more time talking to our clients and developing a plan to help them. The staff is very small, but very motivated, and we work very well together. It really is true that collaboration leads to efficiency and effectiveness. We are a small non-profit, but the Board of Directors and I are committed to following a business model that will maximize our resources and enable us to provide more services to the community. My college education in business has been a great help to me in managing a not for profit organization.

WIB is a wonderful organization to have in our community. There are so many wonderful, capable and powerful women in this area, and WIB is a great way to bring us all together. The WIB organization and events have helped me learn about other businesses and organizations in the area and establish great friendships and networks with other women in the community.

I truly believe in the power of working together to benefit the common good. Everyone in the community must be able to live the life to which they aspire. In life and in business, relationships are very important, and much more can be accomplished through partnerships than by working alone. Because I have seen what can be accomplished through collaboration, my personal philosophy is that, "working together, we can always achieve more."

Read more about Fatima on our website at www.wibwinona.org

WOMAN OF THE YEAR: MARIE BARRIENTOS

Marie Barrientos has experienced great personal achievements, as well as great trials. That journey led her Thursday to receive the 2011 Women in Business Woman of the Year award.

Marie, the executive director of the Winona County Chapter of the American Red Cross, was described at Thursday's ceremony in her nomination form — written by her husband, Justin — as a professional executive, wife, mother, daughter, friend, volunteer and role model. "I felt she deserved the award," he wrote. "Ever since I met her, she has been willing to spend time in the community. She inspires me to do more."

Speaking to the crowd after receiving the award, Marie said she felt a little awkward, knowing she was surrounded by women equally deserving of the award. "I have learned more from others than I have ever given," she said.

Women in Business President Rachel Kimman said she was impressed with Marie's community contributions, particularly her passion to end child abuse. For Marie, fighting child abuse is a lifelong goal. "A child should be laughing and not worrying whether they are good enough," she said. Barrientos and friend Carol Girard recently founded a nonprofit, Reach Everyone and Choose Hope, which raises funds to help prevent child abuse.

Marie's life — particularly her earlier struggles — led her to rely on three pillars: faith, family and freedom. As part of the award, Marie will receive \$500 for the charity of her choice, which she said will likely go to support her nonprofit. "The women around me are my saving grace," Marie said during her speech Thursday, standing before the 50 or so women gathered for the 11th annual ceremony.

— Excerpt from Winona Daily News, posted Friday, 5/20/2011

VICKI DECKER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Rachel Kimman, Cody Evanson, Vicki Decker, Joseph Kelly, Deb Hegland

Joseph Kelly recently graduated from Park Center High School in Brooklyn Park, MN and will be attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA to pursue a degree in engineering. He would like to be a part of a diverse integrated team that creates advanced technical innovation and processes that will enhance America's competitive advantage in the global market place. While in high school, Joe has been a full International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate. This program provided him with a rigorous curriculum that has prepared him for college and provided him with a more global perspective. IB is a worldwide program and one of its aims is to create an appreciation and understanding of different cultures. As new technologies bring the world closer together it is becoming increasingly important to be able to understand and work with different cultures. Joe maintained a 4.0 GPA and is ranked in the top 1% of his class. He has earned academic letters as well as gaining a spot on the National Honor society. In addition to his academic achievements he has excelled in sports. He was a captain of both the cross country and track teams. Joe has been part of the formation of a new non-profit business "The A-List" in Brooklyn Park. The purpose of this is to create a community where every young person is involved, valued, and educated in a healthy and peaceful environment. They just had their grand opening of their first office and service center a few weeks ago.

Cody Evanson recently graduated from Winona Senior High and will be attending North Dakota State University majoring in architecture. In the past Cody has done a number of volunteer services for the community, the elderly, and the public schools. He has participated in highway cleanups and volunteered his time to sing in the Winona High School Chamber Ensemble which sings at many events in the community. He is a member of the Big Nine Music Festival and Vice President of the WSHS Concert Choir. He has also helped deliver meals on wheels for Winona Volunteer Services. Cody has also helped an elderly gentleman in the community doing things around his home. Cody is also a member of the WSHS Spanish Honor Society. This group volunteers their time to teach Spanish to local elementary school classes. He has also volunteered to teach karate and basic self defense to elementary and middle school students. Cody was a Link Crew member which means he mentors incoming freshmen students to make their transition to high school an easier one. He has also had a job at the Bridges Golf Course the past 2 years.

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check out our newly redesigned website at www.wibwinona.org. While you are there, please update your WIB profile. Spread the word about Women in Business by becoming a fan, visit <http://www.facebook.com/WIBWinona>.

Join us in July for a Laid Back Summer Luncheon on Thursday July 21, 2011 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM at Valley Oaks Lodge, 260 Valley Oaks Drive Winona, MN 55987.