



Helping Women Help Themselves

2011-2012 Annual Report





WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

Helping women help themselves

Dear Friends of WEN,

On behalf of our Board of Directors and the women that we are privileged to serve each year, I would like to thank you for your support. Our 2011-2012 fiscal year has been an amazing year and we know we would not be able to continue to do what we do without your support. Thank you so much.

Financial stability remains strong for our organization and additionally, there have been enhancements to our program deliverables that allow us a broader reach to women in our community. Through our OneKC for Women alliance with the Women's Business Center and the Women's Capital Connection, services to help women become financially successful have been strengthened.

Thank you for supporting the work we do for the women and families in our community. Our dedicated staff takes great pride in the services we provide and we continue to work efficiently and diligently to ensure we remain good stewards of the funds that are raised.

As we move forward in the next fiscal year, we continue to be encouraged and motivated by the courageous women that we serve. Together with your involvement we will continue to help women in our community who are striving for a brighter future for themselves and the families that depend on them.

Sincerely,

Sherry Turner
President
Women's Employment Network

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Martha Comment
Mike Ferguson
Elizabeth J. Ferrell
Susie Haake
Martina and Patrick
McLarney
Anita and Gary Maltbia
Lori C. McGroder
Cynthia Weber Scherb
Sheridan Sechter

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Co-Founder and
Board Advisor

KCone *for* **WOMEN**

Resources • Opportunities • Connections

Helping Women Help Themselves

Our Mission:

To help women raise their self-esteem and achieve economic independence through sustained employment.

Women's Employment Network (WEN) is a nonprofit organization that offers job-search training and resources, individualized coaching, and professional case management. We also provide a shoulder to lean on, day care advice, professional wardrobes, transportation assistance and fresh starts. We specialize in turning dreams into reality, heartbreak into hope, despair into determination.

We are WEN.

Where women work together to find new jobs.

And new lives.

Meeting the Need:

An Overview of WEN's Program and Services

WEN's program offerings are uniquely structured to meet the varying needs and skill levels of women in all stages of unemployment. WEN understands that achieving economic stability requires training and support at multiple levels. WEN's program and services are described below.

- **Social Support Services:** Not every woman who comes to WEN for assistance is prepared to jump into job-search mode and secure employment; often, there are challenges with housing, domestic abuse, legal issues, to name a few. WEN provides these clients with personalized assistance to address these barriers and challenges.
- **5-Week Curricula/Training:** Our top-quality, five-week intensive training is held eight times every year, with an average of 15 women attending each session. It is comprised of the following components: Career Exploration, to identify skills and interests; Essential Job Tools, to create well-written resumes and cover letters; Interview Strategies, to hone skills and gain confidence through mock interview settings (which have, on occasion, produced jobs on the spot); and Job Search Resources, to assist with self-directed job searches and networking opportunities.
- **Workshops/Alumnae Support:** To ensure continued success, WEN graduates may return to us at anytime for continued case management support, community resource referrals, resume updating, job referrals and career counseling. Supplemental Workshops are offered to further build life skills.

WEN takes a forward-looking view of our clients' lives and futures. We believe firmly in the value of "teaching a woman to fish, instead of giving a woman one fish." Through goal-setting, perseverance, hard work — and with a strong network of support — WEN graduates are on their way to a bright future.

Learn more about the programs and services offered through the Women's Employment Network by visiting us online at www.kcwen.org or call our office at (816) 822-8083.

Wanda's Story

"I am someone whose life has been transformed because of WEN.

I am a mother of three boys. I had just gotten out of the military, was attending DeVry, and had a 4.0 grade point average — when everything changed. My ex-husband, who watched our children while I went to school, left town, leaving me and our kids without support.

I found myself applying for public assistance; they told me about WEN — and I enrolled.

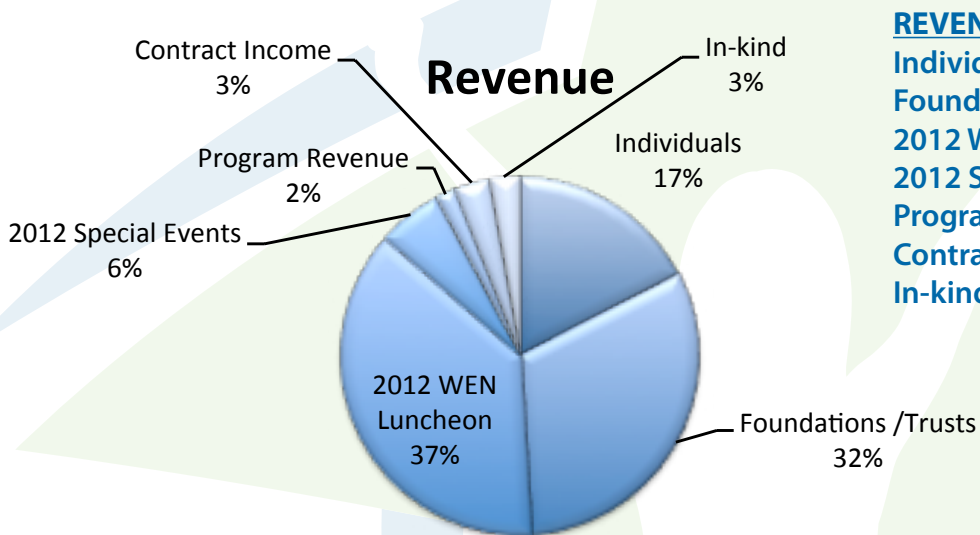
WEN is more than a place to go and learn employment preparation and career skills. It became a sort of home-base for me, a place where I received support on multiple levels. The staff there was — and continues to be — incredibly supportive, tough, fair and incredibly competent. They encouraged me, and all of their clients, to be at my best. And they gave me the tools to do this. It was not easy work, but it was everything I needed.

Today, I am proud to be a Senior Software Quality Analyst for a large Kansas City based company. I was offered this job soon after graduating from WEN in 1995 and I have been promoted several times. I am very proud to say that I became a member of the Legacy Circle in the summer of 2011 after my last promotion.

I wanted to give back to WEN because they are the reason I am where I am today."

— Wanda Coleman

2011-2012 Financial Information

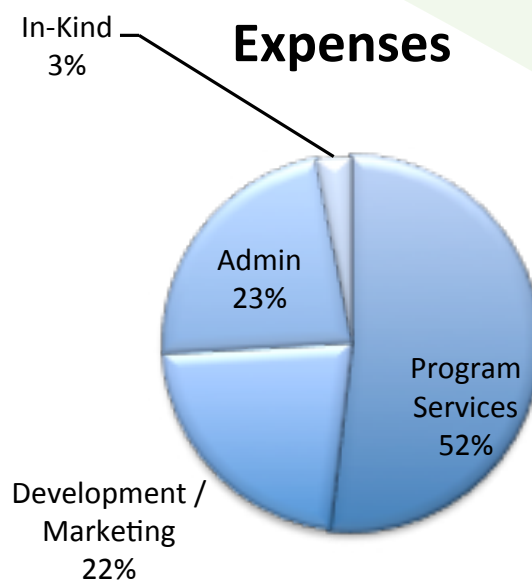


REVENUE

Individuals	\$136,626.00
Foundations /Trusts	\$248,127.00
2012 WEN Luncheon	\$292,648.00
2012 Special Events	\$45,724.00
Program Revenue	\$14,364.00
Contract Income	\$25,020.00
In-kind	\$21,404.00

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$386,648.00
Development / Marketing	\$165,732.00
Administration	\$171,902.00
In-Kind	\$21,404.00



Kate/Inner Superwoman

A young woman, “Kate” (name changed), in her late twenties, came to WEN. She was determined to change her life, make improvements, and take steps that would lead her to success and opportunity. She had held jobs and done just fine, but the bulk of her work experiences had been at Wendy’s and McDonalds. She thought this — and she herself — was not good enough, “less than.” This was faulty thinking, it was self-defeating, and it was wrong. The women at WEN helped her understand, appreciate and realize that she had experience with customer-service, money-handling, and most of all, she had proven herself to be a reliable, trustworthy, and honest employee. She was someone who could be counted on. To this young woman, this truth that seemed clear to others was news to her. And it felt good when she learned it — and even better when she believed it and owned it.

Part of WEN’s 5-week Employment Preparation and Career Transition Training involves attending workshops on various personal and professional development topics. One such workshop offered is “Finding Your Inner Superwoman.” Kate attended. And, no joke, the next day, she came into class and the WEN receptionist truly did not recognize her. Kate sat down in the WEN classroom, and the Program Director had to do a double-take because she too saw someone totally different. It wasn’t just that Kate had changed her haircut (yes, dramatically, she had gone from a long-haired brunette to a red-head with a shoulder-length style). But it was that she was shining from within. Kate told the class — and our Program Director — that she had been listening, taking in, and contemplating all that she had learned over the past four weeks, and that it all just “crystallized” during the Superwoman workshop. She was going to let that Superwoman, who had been hiding in herself for so long, fly free. She was going to make way for changes, for good things, for a future to open up and happen.

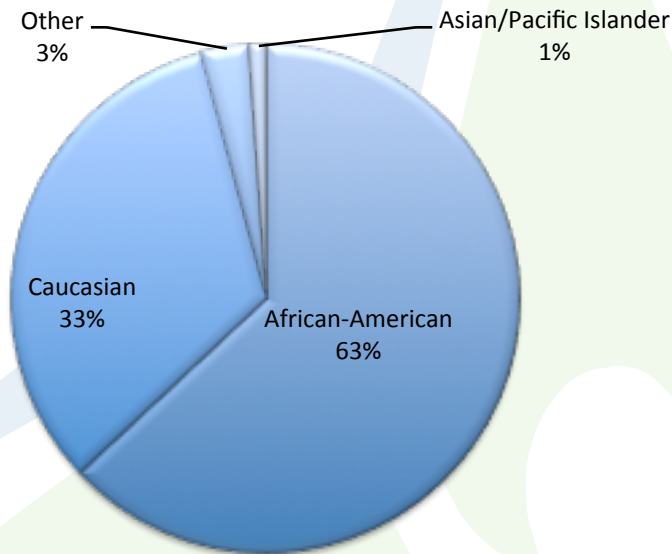
The Graduation ceremony just concluded. Kate was there, proud of herself, happy, a Superwoman on display. And she is poised and ready to take her new attitude, new sense of self, new resume and interviewing skills into her job-search process and find herself that next employment opportunity that she deserves, can ably handle, and will love.

More WEN Stories

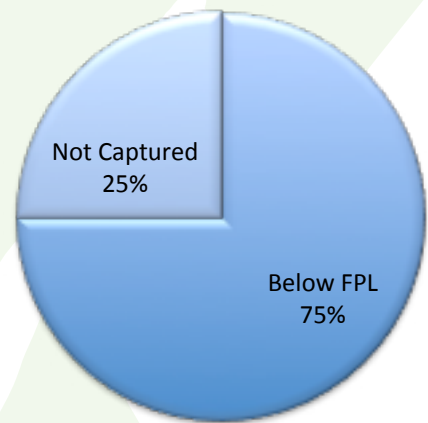
For more client success stories, visit
our website at www.kcwen.org.

2011-2012 Client Demographics

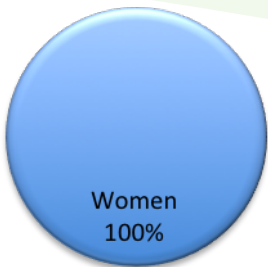
Ethnicity



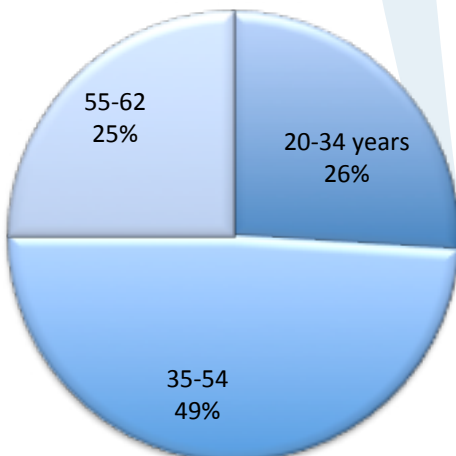
Economic Status



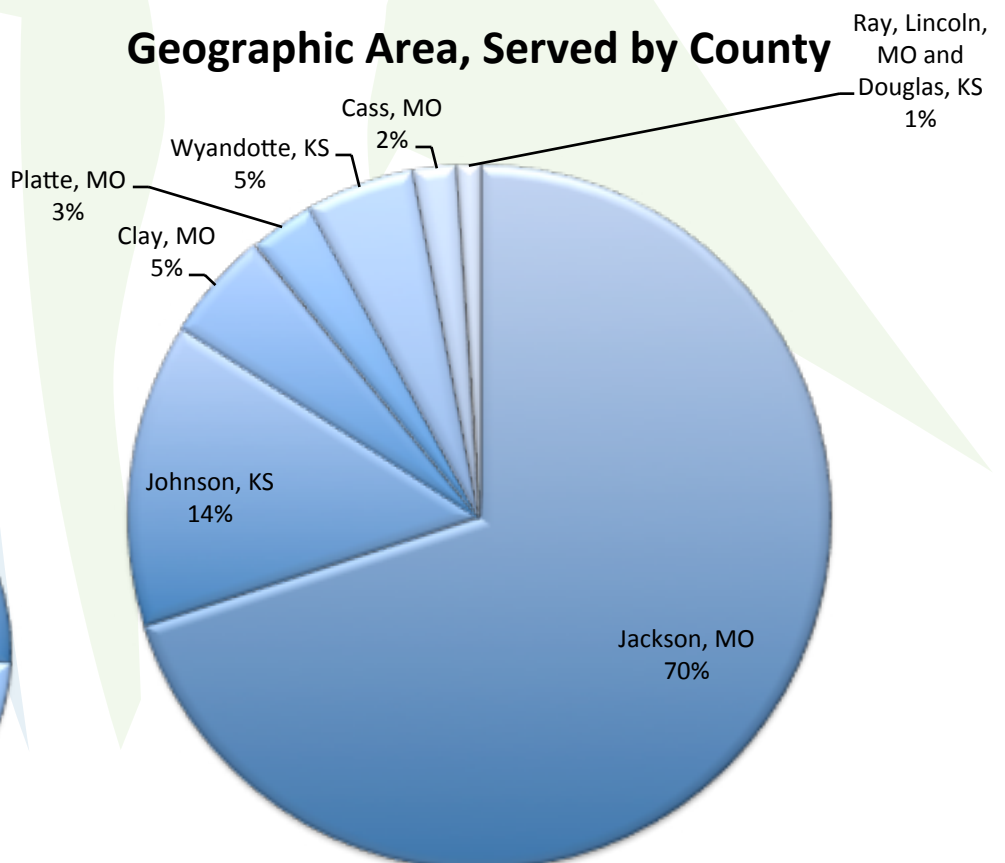
Gender



Age



Geographic Area, Served by County



Joyce/Special Assistance Story

We wanted to include a real-life example of how the Direct Special Assistance Fund has been able to make life-changing differences to our clients. Here is one such case: A grant was recently provided to Joyce, a graduate who works two part-time jobs in order to support herself and her three children. Neither job provides benefits, nor do they always add up to equal 40 hours/week.

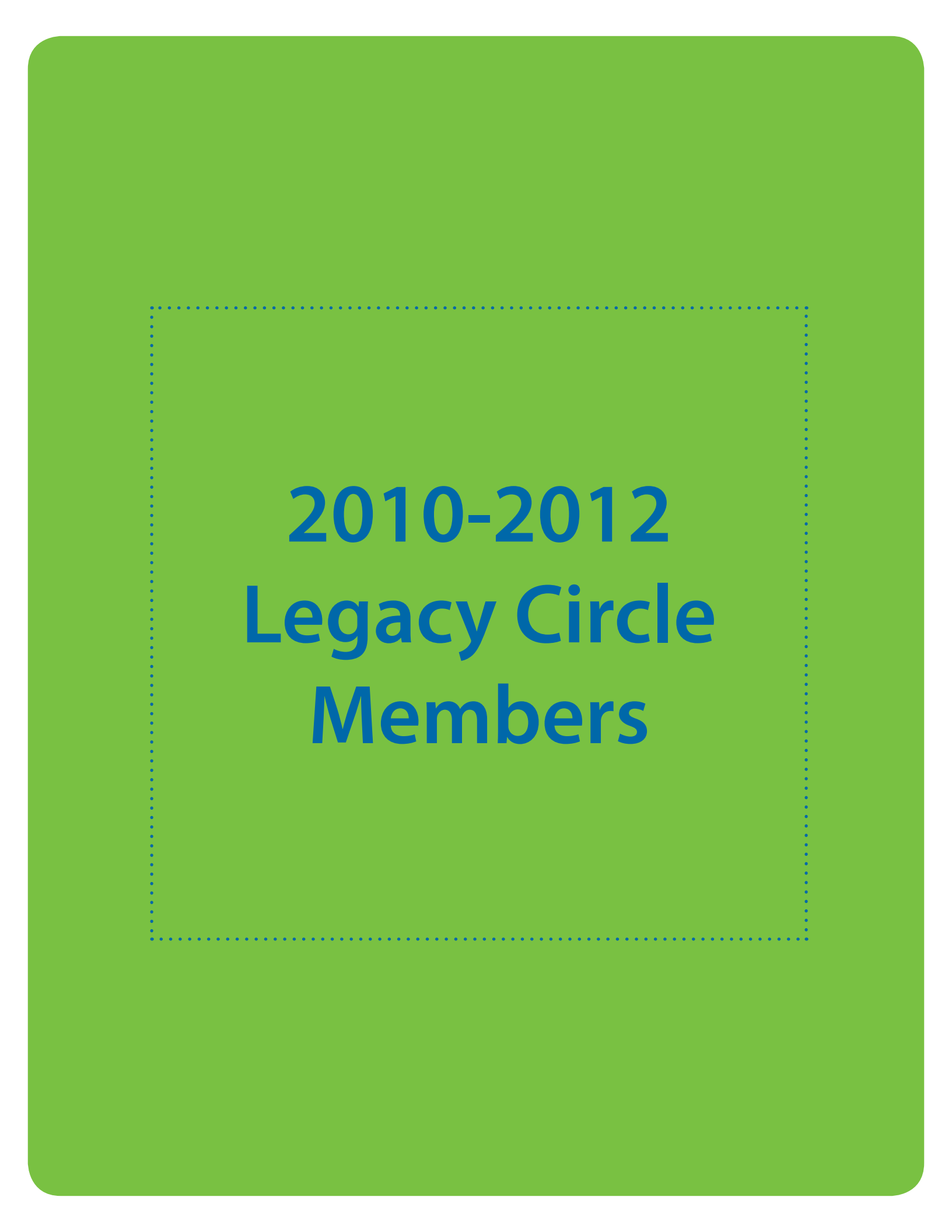
Due to having one child getting sick (causing her to miss work hours) and a significant car repair, she suffered a major financial set back and was unable to pay her rent on the due date, which would have resulted in a 20% late assessment. This would have been an untenable situation for her. She would have lost her apartment, and, along with her three children, become homeless.

Thanks to the SkillBuilders Fund (Direct Special Assistance Fund), we were able to help her.

This client continues to work her two jobs, take care of her family, without having to couch-surf or stay in a shelter. She diligently continues to look for better part-time jobs, with the goal of securing full time employment. She is better able to focus on this goal without having the added barrier and burden of homelessness on top of her other life-challenges. She, and all of us at WEN, are very grateful for this support.

WEN Facts

- WEN provides services to over 500 clients per year.
- WEN currently averages 40 new clients each month.
- On average, 13 jobs reported each month.
- Average hourly wage reported by clients was \$12.28.



**2010-2012
Legacy Circle
Members**

Legend - \$3,000

Tara & Jon Darbyshire
Elizabeth "Zibbie" Ferrell
Ann Fish
Theresa Hursh
Catherine J. Kelly
Christine Kemper
Anne D. St. Peter
Beth K. Smith
Debbie Smith
Cheryl Lockton Williams

Founder - \$1,000

Christine Alexander
Kate Ferrell Banks
Ann Baum
Rita Blitt
Mary Shaw Branton
Kay Callison
Michelle & Chuck Campbell
Joan Cohen
Mindy Corporon
Karen Daniel
Jessica & Jeremy Dixon
Julie & Brendan Donelon
Cheryl Flood
M. Suzanne Hall
Shirley & Barnett Helzberg
Anya Holmes
Angela Hurt
Linda Klein
Janice & Tom Kreamer
Lori McGroder
Martina & Patrick McLarney
Barbara Koval Nelson
Jeannette Nichols
Marta Padula
Wendy Powell
Gwyn Prentice
Joan Redhair
Vicki & William Reisler
Lisa & Steve Roatch

Dr. Michelle Robin
Kimberly Robinett
Cheryl Smith
Deborah Starke
Jeannine Strandjord
Shannon Swift
Jill Turner
Anna Van Ophem
Martha Warren
Paul Weber
Marie Woodbury

Visionary - \$500

Jennifer Atterbury
Jamie Berg
Joan & Bert Berkley
Karen Bisset
Tonia Bomar
Mary S. Bloch
Laura Brady
Pam Breuckmann
John Ciccarelli
Virginia Clark
Elizabeth Cleveland
Gaye Cohen
Wanda Coleman
Martha Comment
Blish Connor
Brenda Craig
Janis Dickey
Heather Dixon-Magness
Kathleen Dodd
Alice Ellison
Sherry Forsee
Sherri Foster
Theresa Freilich
Adele & Donald Hall
Carlene Hall
Amie C. Hankel
Jamie & Bush Helzberg
Karen Herman
Mary Lou Herring

Micah Hobbs
Kayden Howard
Heather & Jim Humphrey
Mary Hunkeler
Lisa Kiene
Linda Laurence
Elizabeth Lawrence
Peggy Lyons
Barbara Marshall
Lana Maudlin
Norma McKelvy
C. Stephen Metzler
Mary Morris
Dawn Murphy
Sheila & Joe Myers
Kelly Nash
Roshann Parris
Cheryl & Ryan Poage
Maureen Purcell
Carolyn Reintjes
Kelly Scanlon
Theresa Schekirke
Cynthia Weber Scherb
Barbara & Larry Schulte
Mickella Shecut
Susan Spaulding
Darcy & Lindsey Stewart
Dr. Linda H. Talbott
Sherry Turner
Nan Vail
Tammie Wahaus
Melody Warren
Lynnette Williams
Mindy Wilson
Kim Winnett
Beth G. Wittig
Sally Kemper Wood
Augustine & Andrea Yang
Annie Zander
Julie Zwillenberg

2011-2012 Highlights: A Year in Review

We collaborated with over 75 local employers on job leads, and coordinated with volunteers from these companies to conduct mock interviews, resume assistance and workshop facilitation for our clients.

Our 2011 Reach for the STARS Campaign raised over \$18,000 in just six short weeks.

We had seven local companies/organizations host clothing drives for our Professional Clothing Bank.

We had nearly 40 people join, or renew their commitments to, our Legacy Circle.

We formed a partnership with the Junior League of Greater Kansas City and they held five professional development workshops for our clients and graduates.

We held our 1st Annual Kansas City's Got Talent event last November and the participation was phenomenal.

Our 2012 Luncheon raised a record-breaking \$292,648.

We had 165 women report employment last year.

We were selected as a beneficiary for the 2012 UMB Big Bash and received \$50,000 from the event.



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EMPLOYMENT
NETWORK

www.kcwen.org

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