The 2014-2015 fiscal year was a fantastic year of discovery and growth at Women’s Employment Network. We continue to serve a great number of women in the Kansas City community and, with the growth of our Financial Coaching and Credit Building program, clients are learning how to stand on their own financial feet and secure long-term financial stability for themselves and their families.

In 2016 WEN will celebrate 30 years as an organization focused on the financial self-sufficiency of women. Our vision for WEN continues to evolve as women become 50% of the nation’s workforce, enroll in college more than ever before, remain in poverty as single mothers and become self-employed at 1.5 times the national average. Challenges and barriers remain much the same, but providing all options to gain sustainable wages and education is necessary for WEN to continue leading women to success. WEN participates in a community strategy as a LISC Financial Opportunity Center, with emphasis on financial coaching as a model improving sustainable outcomes for our clients, and now also takes the lead in delivering financial workshops through the Kansas City Public Library system. We participate in the OneKC for Women alliance that includes the Women’s Business Center (WBC), the Women’s Capital Connection (WCC), and the new WE-Lend Initiative, our micro loan program. This alliance allows the highest quality model of financial success through job placement, credit/financial health, and aspirations to self-employment and small business ownership. We will continue to empower our clients as they grow in their careers and economic stability – and give prospective clients the courage to take a leap of faith and explore WEN as a place of care and compassion.

Sherry Turner
WEN President
Founder, OneKC for Women

2014-2015 WEN Client Demographics

- 65% of WEN clients are women
- 25.54 average per week
- 40% of women are sole providers of income
- 28.6% of clients make less than $10,000 a year
- 34% have advanced degree
- 17% are employed
- 78% graduated high school
- 37% have a high school degree or GED
- The majority of WEN clients (65%) live in Jackson County, MO
- More than 700 women served
- 185 new jobs reported
- 20% increase from the previous year
- Average net income is approximately $333.39 per month
FINANCIALS FOR WEN’S 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR

2014-2015 Revenue

Revenue

- Individuals: $55,547
- Legacy Circle: $61,228
- Foundations/Trusts: $457,159
- United Way allocations: $6,179
- Contract Services: $30,024
- In-kind: $13,000
- Special Event Revenue: $400,538
- Investment Gain: $9,247
- Miscellaneous: $12,649

Total: $1,045,571

Expenses

- Program Services: $708,468
- Development/Marketing: $189,497
- Administration: $111,968

Total: $1,009,933

FINANCIAL COACHING PAYS OFF FOR WEN CLIENTS

For women and families who have struggled to make ends meet, a secure job is the first step toward financial stability. But it’s only the first step. As a Financial Opportunity Center (FOC), WEN now provides long-term, one-on-one financial coaching to help take a client out of a downward spiral. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year:

- 282 clients served, surpassing the goal of 100
- 23 clients increased credit scores and 7 increased net worth
- 21 clients decreased # of outstanding collections
- 7 women accessed a secured credit card to build credit
2015 LUNCHEON - CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

The Women’s Employment Network annual spring luncheon was overflowing with some of the metro’s most influential business and community leaders. It was an inspiring event thanks to the over 1,000 supporters, volunteers, and professionals from across the community who came together to celebrate and honor women in our community who have overcome great obstacles to get to where they are.

Dianne and Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II were the Honorary Co-Chairs, and Katie Van Luchene and Beth Zollars served as Luncheon Co-Chairs. Alice Ellison, former Vice President of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City, received the 2015 Beth K. Smith Award, which recognizes those who advance the mission of WEN. The afternoon was a record-breaking success raising much-needed dollars to help women achieve economic self-sufficiency and forge positive change for themselves and their families. In fact, WEN has consistently been honored as one of the City’s Top Five Luncheons based on net dollars raised.

ALICE ELLISON RECEIVES 2015 BETH K. SMITH AWARD

Alice Ellison, former WEN Board Chair, was the 2015 Beth K. Smith Award recipient. Alice will received the distinguished honor onstage at WEN’s Annual Luncheon. The Beth K. Smith Award, named after one of WEN’s founders, was created several years ago to recognize individuals who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to advancing the mission of WEN. While serving as Vice President of Community Relations at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City, Alice got involved with WEN and later led the Board for two consecutive three-year terms, including roles as both Board Vice-Chair and Chair. We are grateful to her for her many years of outstanding service to WEN and our mission.

JOIN US FOR OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON

In 2016, WEN will celebrate 30 years of helping Kansas City women write their next chapter and reach their dreams. Join us on April 6th at the Sheraton Crown Center in to help us celebrate these real-life success stories.

Honorary Co-Chairs:
Barbara P. Allen and Deborah Allen

Luncheon Co-Chairs:
Debby Ballard and Cora Storbeck
CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

Legacy Circle Members 2014-2015

Legend - $3,000
Ann & Kenneth Baum
Tara & Jon Darbyshire
Elizabeth J. Ferrell
Ann Fish
Theresa Hursh
Teresa Kellett
Catherine Kelly
Cheryl Lockton Williams
Dawn Murphy
Marta Padula
Anne S. Peter
Beth K. Smith
Debbie Smith
Jeananne Strandjord

Visionary - $500
Christine Alexander
Terry Anderson & Michael Henry
Julie Anderson Clark & Vince Clark
Jennifer Atterbury
Dawn & David Baker
Katherine Baker & Dan Nelson
Carol & Tom Barnett
Sarah Baum
Linda Bemis
Joan & Bert Berkley
Karen Bissett
Janice Blansit
Tonia Bomar
Mary Branton
Pamela Breuckmann
Kathleen Brooke
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Burnett
Danielle & John Ciccarelli
Elizabeth Cleveland
Joan Cohen
Erin & Shannon Cole
Phyllis Collins
Mindy Corporon
Lucy & Fred Coulson
Julie Delonel
Darlene Dunn
Alice Ellison
Ann Fay
Hannah Fenley
Sherry Forsee
Theresa Freilich
Karen Fulghum-Mc Coy
Lisa Gioia
Jen Gulvik
Stephanie Guin
Carlene Hall
Donald Hall
Belinda Harrison
Deborah Hays
Shirley Helzberg
Karen & Michael Heman
Micah Hobbs
Kayden Howard
Heather & Jim Humphrey
Victoria Kandt
Stephanie Kearney
Haylee Kelley

Founder - $1,000
Cathy Baier
Kate Ferrell Banks
Rita Blitt
Laura Brady
Kay Callison
Michelle & Peter deSilva
Cheryl Flood
Brenda Hafner & Alexandra Strong
M. Suzanne Hall
Marilyn & James Hebenstreich
Angela Hurt
Lori Kelleher
Christine Kemper
Lily Hayes Maxwell
Jean McDonnell
Lori McGruder
Marti & Patrick McLaren
Arlene Mockapetris
Kelly Murphy
Jeanette Nichols
Michele Pope
Joan Redhair
Victoria Reisler
Cindy Richey
Dr. Michelle Robin
Kelly Scanlon
Deborah Starke
Shannon Swift
Anna Van Ophem

Nancy Kenner
Courtney Kounkel
Julie & Bill Lattimer
Lara Mauldin
Megan McCurdy
Norma McKelvy
Kate Migneron
Sandy Moll
Kelly Nash
Barbara Koval Nelson
Julie Nelson Meers
Roshann Parris
Cheryl & Ryan Poage
Wendy Powell
Maureen Purcell
Carolyn Reintjes
Stacey & Jim Saladin
Cynthia Weber Scherb
Melissa & Tom Schroeder
Barbara & Larry Schulte
Michella Shecut
Margo Shepard
Christen Shepherd
S. Sloane Simmons &
Harl A. Van Deursen
Jeannie & Charlie Sosland
Hillary Stamper
Jennifer Stevenson
Darcy & Lindsey Stewart
Deborah Throckmorton
Sarah Trembley Evans
Sherry Turner
Non Vail & Keith Bottorff
Martha Warren
Melody Warren
Paul Weber
Lynnette Williams
Julia Wilson
Beth G. Wiltig
Marie Woodbury
Board of Directors

Jen Gulvik
Chair
Megan McCurdy
Vice Chair
Angela Tower
Treasurer
Kelly Murphy
Secretary

Janice Blansit
Pam Breuckmann
Phylis Collins
Jeanetta Ellis
Kayden Howard
Angela Hunt
Victoria Kandt
Teresa Kellett
Lily Hayes Maxwell
Arlene Mockapetris
Elma Warrick

JOIN US IN CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

Big, systemic change can start by helping one woman secure employment and become financially and emotionally self-sufficient -- WEN is the agent for this change. We couldn’t do what we do without the support of the community. There are many opportunities to volunteer at WEN, including: workshop facilitation, mock interviewing, résumé writing, or working in WEN’s professional clothing bank. Other ways to contribute include sponsoring, attending or hosting one of our Special Events, joining the Legacy Circle or Young Friends of WEN, or becoming a monthly donor. For more information on ways to get involved, visit www.kcwen.org.

WEN Co-Founders

Two legendary Kansas City philanthropists Beth K. Smith (left) and Marjorie Powell Allen (right) founded WEN in 1986. In the three decades since, WEN has supported countless women and their families as they work to achieve financial independence.

HELPING WOMEN HELP THEMSELVES

Women’s Employment Network’s (WEN’s) mission is to help women raise their self-esteem and achieve economic independence through sustained employment. WEN is a nonprofit organization that offers job-search training and resources, individualized coaching, professional case management and financial education opportunities.

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