

NEWSLET

April 2011

The Official Communication Tool of the Minnesota Women of Today

Volume 51, Issue 3



Anne Johnson
State President

It's no secret that I'm a book-lover. I've always been a reader and learned to love books as a small child. Growing up with a mother who was a half time English teacher, half time librarian, certainly had something to do with it.

One of the best parts about a good book is the anticipation of the ending. I'm so easily addicted to a good storyline that I'll stay up until 3 a.m. reading, because I can't put the book down. I can imagine that there are a lot of you agreeing with me right now.

Any given year in Women of Today is like a book. This year's book began with a good plotline full of interesting and dynamic characters, the anticipation of great plans to introduce more characters and new friends along the way, and kept us reading with lots of exciting twists and turns. So, the question is: how will it end? Minnesota Women of Today, what role will you play in that ending?

You know from your own experiences as a reader, every character has a purpose, and a varying degree of control on the outcome of the story. Like the theme song goes, "Today is where your book begins...the rest is still unwritten." Decide today to be a *factor of influence* on what's written in the book. Learn from the following quote and make it the forward to your soon-to-be published work.

"Regardless of what came before or of what has yet to come, what matters most right now is how I choose to respond to the challenge before me. The choice is mine and I choose to finish strong." (taken from *Simple Truths Finish Strong*)

Did you have goals in your chapter this year of adding new members or starting new projects? "Congratulations" is the title of one of your book's chapters if you accomplished what you set out to do, and "Teamwork Can Get It Done" is the alternate

headline. Write the chapter now that welcomes *new* members that will be ready to begin a *new* year with *new* friends and *new* ideas. Your book will finish strong.

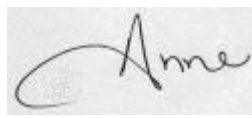
Did your chapter members participate in a special section of the book called "Extensions" this year? Anyone who's ever helped write an extension storyline will tell you that they have re-energized and transformed their involvement in Women of Today. Just ask the characters from this year's stories of Savage Area, Andover, or Hibbing. I don't want to "ruin" the ending for you on this one, but this year's plotline on extensions will break records! Get involved and be part of the history that's being written!

Possibly part of your role has focused on a well-loved part of the story each year – programming. Were you one of the passionate characters this year promoting fundraising for great organizations, charities, and events? Your efforts made us want to read more. Every dollar raised counts and has an impact on the stories of thousands around us.

Minnesota Women of Today, we're nearing the end of this year's book, and we're feverishly reading to see how it ends. It's not too late to introduce new characters and dramatically alter plotlines. This is where it really "gets good" and leaders rise to the occasion before them. Finish strong by accomplishing your goals for the year, and make every *day* and every *page* count in the final chapters. *"Today is where your book begins...the rest is still unwritten."*

"Regardless of what came before or of what has yet to come, what matters most right now is how I choose to respond to the challenge before me. The choice is mine and I choose to finish strong."

(taken from Simple Truths Finish Strong)



Anne Johnson, President
Minnesota Women of Today



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USWT President Deb,

Thank you for
visiting Minnesota!

MNWT appreciates
all you do!



USWT Deb Stein presenting Champlin President Wendy Homyak with a US Presidential Pin at Winter State.

FIRST TIMER'S VIEW OF CONVENTION

Hello, my name is Sharon. Will you please sign my book? Sure... Hello, my name is Sharon. Will you please sign my book? Sure. That is what I said many, many times at my first MN Women of Today Winter State Convention.

The hotel was full of women of all ages. Women that have been part of the group for many years and women who have been members for just a few months like myself.

Being new at this and a shy person at that, I have to admit that I was quite apprehensive about going to the convention. When I found out that I had to approach people that I don't know, introduce myself, and ask for their signature I really didn't want to do it. I committed to going and I was not about to let my shyness keep me from being part of this incredible group of women.

What I discovered was that everyone that I approached and asked was more than willing to sign my book. Although very busy, many of them took time to ask me what I thought of the convention, if I was having a good time and was more than welcoming. Surprisingly enough, with the help of Bernice, I found the activity to be fun, interesting and very informative.

The weekend was full of very interesting activities. Friday was a fun and casual night. Women dressed in flannel jammies, enjoyed a few drinks and danced to upbeat, fun music. It was a fun way to relax and break the ice.

I was very impressed with the business meeting on Saturday morning. I thought it was very well organized and enjoyed

watching the orderly process by which it was conducted. Following the business meeting was a very special luncheon. Not only was the meal delicious but the program was wonderful. Many women were honored for their time served, projects completed, being very special and dedicated women to the physiology and mission of the organization. The honor paid to these women by the organization and their families brought tears to my eyes.

A few hours after that very enjoyable luncheon was the evening dinner, another very special occasion. I enjoyed watching the transformation of everyone. Up till now the atmosphere was a causal one. Things changed. The women got all dressed up and looked beautiful. At this gathering people from the community were honored. I liked the reasons for their being honored: community service, hard work, sacrifice of themselves to help others and visions for a better community.

I have to say that attending this convention has reinforced my commitment to the MNWT organization. I learned how the group operates and what its priorities are. I know that I have much, much more to learn about the MN Women of Today but going to the convention was the first step for me.

So, at the next convention when a first timer comes up to me and asks, "Will you sign my book?" I will be glad to. I will ask them if they are enjoying themselves and be as welcoming to them as I was made to feel as a "first timer".

Sharon Sandvik, Duluth Women of Today

IMPORTANT!

CHAPTER SERVICE CENTER INFORMATION

Please address mail as follows:

Minnesota Women of Today
P.O. Box 44242
EDEN PRAIRIE, MN 55344

952-406-8578
(phone and fax)

Email: csc@mnwt.org



Terri Dahlberg
Administrative VP

Leading Your New Team Transmittals

Spring is here (well, it's supposed to be) and a fresh start is on the horizon. We're all working hard to finish these last few weeks *strong*, and making plans for an exciting new year. How will you lead your new team? Whether you're the next district director, chapter president, chapter or district board member – leading **and** being a member of a team has several requirements; the most important of these is **TRUST**.

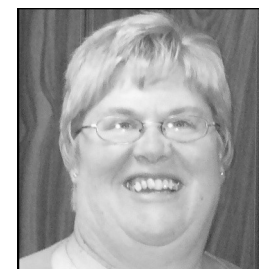
Make certain your new team knows *who you are*, share a little more than the basic bio. The more people know about each other, the better and easier it is to build trust within the group, or *team*. It's also helpful to socialize together before, during or after team meetings.

Teams should practice *clear communication*; if you're leading the team, communication starts with you. While email is great for quick notes and reminders, the person reading the email will never be able to get the real sense, or true meaning behind the words because the voice and eye connection is missing. Always be aware, and be careful, if relying heavily on email communication.

Be a role model – for everyone in your chapter. Model the behavior you want to see in others: listen well, treat others with respect, don't make assumptions, and don't engage in gossip.

If you hope to build trust among your team members, don't forget to trust them too. This means you must bury your desire to micromanage every initiative, project, or every detail. Trust your team, but also hold your team *accountable* for meeting goals (this includes you!).

Finally, recognize and appreciate the efforts being made on behalf of your chapter or district. As volunteers we don't get paid cash for what we do, so a little recognition can go a long way in motivating and energizing your team.



Jane Hanson
State Treasurer

A transmittal is the tool we use to track the funds our chapters and districts donate to their communities and/or other charitable foundations. By compiling information from the transmittals, we are able to see the financial impact we have made statewide. Determine who will be responsible for filling out the transmittals, i.e. treasurer, project chair, or local program manager.

- ◆ Fill out a separate transmittal for each donation made.
- ◆ Complete online at www.mnwt.org for any donations made locally or checks sent to a foundation
OR
- ◆ Complete a two-part form and send the white copy to the State Treasurer with your check (if it is a donation) and keep the yellow copy for your records.

What kind of a donation do you mean? A donation can be money from a fundraiser, chapter donation, clothing or other items donated. (craft supplies for a shelter or camp, books for a library, food shelf donation, cell phones for abuse shelters etc.) Any time a physical item is donated, you should fill out a transmittal with the value of what you have donated.

Do we include our donated time? No, your donated time is **not included on a transmittal**. The donation of time is very valuable and we track service hours too. However, the proper place to include service hours is on a program manager report to the State Program Manager (SPM). (Note: transmittals and service hours are **only** completed for our **external** programming areas: Community Connections, Can Do Canines, Women's Wellness and Youth of Today. If you are unsure which area to send a transmittal or report a donation, contact the state treasurer or external programming VP for assistance.)

Why is it so important that we report donations to the state organization? This is the best means of tracking the amount of money chapters raise and donate in their communities and to the foundations we work with. Women of Today chapters are classified as "non profit, non charitable." We should be abiding by the 70/30 rule for charitable organizations (at least 70% of expenses must benefit charities and not more than 30% toward internal use). Your transmittals help us track all of the donations that are made throughout our state on behalf of Women of Today.

We don't donate much so we don't send in transmittals. Each chapter is important! When we add all of the donation totals together from all of the chapters – the totals at Annual Convention are very exciting.

We missed filling out transmittals on our first and second trimester projects – is it too late? Absolutely not! Send in your transmittals for all projects that you have done from May 1st. Transmittals are due to the state treasurer by May 13th.



ATTEND Local Officers Training Session (LOTS)!

The BEST Start Your Year As A Chapter Board Member.

Saturday, May 7, 2011

ARE YOU GOING TO ANNUAL CONVENTION, MAY 20-22, 2011 IN MORTON, MN?

DISTRICT 15 Women of Today

JoAnn Miller, DD 15

District 15 has been very busy this year with lots of projects. Blooming Prairie started their year with their biggest fundraiser – the Fourth of July Bingo and Glo Necklace Sales. They continued with their Santa Shop and four members and one guest (a daughter) just participated in a polar plunge to benefit breast cancer research. And they wore t-shirts that spelled out "B-P-W-T-I".

Byron started their year with their annual sandbox fill, which was a huge success again this year. They followed that up with their food stand and children's games at Byron Good Neighbor Days, followed by the Food Shelf Scavenger Hunt and the children's Community Halloween Party. They worked with Christ the King Catholic Church, Byron First Security Bank, and the Byron Marketplace to provide Christmas presents for 52 families with their Sharing Tree project.

Glenville spent much of their time creating gifts for children to purchase from their Santa Workshop. In addition, they decorated Glenville's Main Street this fall with corn shocks and broom corn and encouraged merchants in town to add to these decorations to make Main Street a truly festive place to visit this fall.

Straight River does their fundraising with lawn care and uses their proceeds to support various organizations in Owatonna and for funding of the Straight River scholarships for Women of Today and local community college.

Unfortunately, we saw the Rochester chapter fold at the end of 2010, but four of the six members transferred to the Byron chapter where they will share their knowledge, talents, and enthusiasm.

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DEADLINE for the June 2011 issue is May 4, 2011. Articles can be submitted to Julie Hammel, 14672 Junkite Street NW, Ramsey, MN 55303 or newslet@mnwt.org

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Introducing Your 2011-2012 Presidential Candidate

Cindy Sanders of the Duluth Women of Today is pleased to announce her candidacy for the office of state president of the Minnesota Women of Today.

Cindy states: "I firmly believe that you will receive out of this organization what you put into it. Along with the leadership skills, teambuilding skills and confidence this organization has given me, I have gained many great friendships throughout the state that will last a lifetime."

Cindy first joined the Fridley Women of Today in 1996 and later after moving to Duluth, helped to begin the Duluth Women of Today in 2004. In her years of membership, Cindy has served her local chapter as president, state delegate, membership vice president, secretary and parliamentarian as well as several local program manager positions. On the district level she served as the district director (2), membership vice president and various district program manager positions. From there she went on to serve as state membership vice president, presidential assistant, administrative vice president, and extensions director. Cindy has also served as the Membership Management Committee Chair. In addition Cindy has served as a member of the Membership Management and Future Directions committees and Minnesota Women of Today Foundation. Cindy has also worked to extend several new chapters working on the State Extensions Team to extend to Duluth, Hibbing and Grand Rapids.

Cindy is not only active in Women of Today but also in her local community. Cindy volunteers in the Long Term Care Emergency Preparedness Committee and also volunteers through her work; helping at the food shelf, cleaning the highway and organizing groups to work at their local Christmas light display in downtown Duluth.

Her chapter writes: "Cindy has been a great leader in our chapter. She has a vast knowledge and love for the Minnesota Women of Today organization and has instilled that same knowledge and love in our members. She served as our "Mama Bird" and taught us how to fly using her leadership skills, no-nonsense attitude, commitment to excellence, motivational skills, patience and listening ear."

Cindy is excited to share her belief in the Women of Today with members across the state and invites you to attend an Area Meeting to hear her goals for the Minnesota Women of Today. Join Cindy as she shows us a, "Pathway to our Future".

Jen Kinzer, Chairman of the Board



Cindy Sanders
Presidential Candidate 2011-2012

Cindy's Staff:

Administrative Vice President
Nicky Anderson, Madelia

Membership Vice President
Wendy Lindberg, Morris Area

Chapter Management Vice President
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Internal Programming Vice President
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Heidi Westerlund, Aitkin

Extensions Director
Marie Robinson, Eden Prairie

Secretary
Beth Pearson, Saint Michael/Albertville

Parliamentarian
Dawn Scouton, Burnsville

Presidential Assistant
Bernice Graves, Duluth

Introducing Your 2011-2012 Treasurer Candidate

Vicki Rockwell of the Fridley Women of Today is pleased to announce her candidacy for the office of state treasurer for the Minnesota Women of Today.

Vicki joined Women of Today in 2004 to volunteer in her community and meet new friends. She has served in her local chapter as president, parliamentarian, membership vice president, treasurer, programming vice president and state delegate, as well as several local program manager positions. She continued her leadership experience by serving her district as secretary, parliamentarian, district director and several district program manager positions. She also has served on the state Finance, Membership Management and Future Directions committees and MNWT Foundation. Vicki currently serves as Manual Review Chair.



Vicki Rockwell
Treasurer Candidate 2011-2012

In addition to her contributions on the local and district level, Vicki has also served the Minnesota Women of Today as Records and Recognition State Program Manager and Internal Vice President. Vicki says this about her involvement in Women of Today, "Volunteering and helping others is something that both my daughter and I feel passionate about. (Her daughter recently turned 18 and became a member.) We both believe in the pay it forward philosophy and feel we are rewarded in many different ways by being able to help others."

Vicki works for Next Day Gourmet, managing multi-million dollar categories where she is responsible for making sure they are profitable, but also increase in profit each year. In addition to serving as chapter treasurer, her other financial experience includes being a two-year member of the finance committee, chairing vendor sales, promotional sales and the raffle. She also was instrumental in participating in the Ways and Means area during her year as internal vice president, when the state program manager needed to step down. She looks forward to providing training, information, and assistance to district and chapter treasurers.

Vicki desires to make a difference for our organization by continuing her leadership as state treasurer. Her chapter writes, "We are proud of Vicki's accomplishments and her dedication to the state organization. We are excited for Vicki to be a candidate in the state election and will support her in all her efforts." She looks forward to sharing her goals with you at the area meetings and annual convention encouraging us to, "Show me the Money".

Jen Kinzer, Chairman of the Board

Aitkin Women of Today Celebrates 55 Years

During the past 55 years many projects have come and gone. Some of our ongoing successes are Coats for Children and Adults, Kiddie Parade, Easter Carnival, Pumpkin Patch, and numerous bake sales. Along with these projects, Aitkin Safety Town for four to seven year olds began in 1998. Safety Town involves a week of safety training. A small town built by Sentence to Serve fills a school gym. Using three wheelers, children learn how to drive, stop at a traffic light and railroad crossing, and recognize different signs. Other classes consisted of stranger danger, good touch bad touch, eye safety, pet and farm animal safety, bike safety, food and poisons, electricity safety and school bus safety. Over forty teens also helped with this event and were paired with one or two children. The Sheriff's Department, Highway Department and City Police were present each day. Graduation and a new safety fair happened on the last day with the Crow Wing County Mounted Police, Smokehouse, an ambulance, fire trucks, MN DNR boat and four-wheel, and Highway Patrol car. Working with the Aitkin Women of Today were Community Education, Riverboat Lions, Sentence to Serve, Child Abuse Prevention Council, State Farm Insurance, and Rippleside Elementary teachers. Without these organizations and presenters this event would not be possible. Parents of attendees have commented how their children now tell them how to drive and make sure they look both ways twice before driving forward or when turning a corner.

Anyone interested in obtaining information on how to start a safety town in your community, please contact the Aitkin Women of Today.

Blooming Prairie Women of Today Jump for Cancer Research

By Lynn Borchert

The Blooming Prairie Women of Today made splash for cancer research on Sunday, February 13, 2011. Chapter President Lynn Borchert and members Naomi Smith, Caroline Imm and Brandy Munson, along with guest Davyll Smith jumped into the frigid waters of Beaver Lake near Ellendale. The plunge was part of the Ellendale-Geneva Area Sportsmen's Club's annual Ice Fishing Contest. The jump was held at 1:30 pm. The women had to bring a minimum donation of \$50, with all proceeds going to breast cancer research. Borchert said that the Blooming Prairie Women of Today became involved in the plunge when member, Naomi Smith, decided she was going to participate. She asked other members to join her at a recent meeting and the rest is history.

Donations came in up to the plunge. At last count, the four women raised \$500.



Shining Our Rays of Light

By Sharon Erickson

The Champlin chapter had a great second trimester. In October we had the opportunity to join the League of Minnesota Voters at the Champlin City Hall for a Candidate Forum. Our November Craft and Bake Sale was a success. It gives us an opportunity to give back to our community. We are enjoying this spring. We had a blast at our Taste of Wine Murder Mystery Party in January and our Electric Slide dance lessons at our M-Night. We enjoyed our District meeting in February Purse—uing Fun, Friendship and Future with our District Director, Kandy Dorlack. We continue to collect purses for Clutch for Cause and t-shirts for Camp Get-A-Wella.

Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today

By Becky Stock

Is it Spring yet? I am sure we are all wishing for the same thing--green grass and sunshine. Well, I don't know about you, but all the ladies in this organization bring us sunshine! The Brainerd Lakes Chapter has been up to some sunshine of our own! Tami Evanson organized a Fancy Fingers night, where we go to the Harmony House (an assisted living facility focusing on memory care), paint fingernails of the female residents and visit with the rest. This was such a rewarding experience we have planned to do it once every two months! As a part of Hometown Heros, we assisted a wife and her two small girls whose husband was serving in Afghanistan with some household tasks and visiting. We are happy to report the family is all together again!

We have been helping our community lately, assisting with the Frozen Fore Food Fest and Bridal Expo and having fun with our PALS chapter! Michelle Durant organized a dancing night with the Aitkin ladies. We enjoyed some fun on the dance floor listening to local band, October Son, after our District meeting!

We have some great things coming up! We are planning our Easter party for ECFE, helping with the Run for the Lakes Marathon and the March of Dimes Walk for Babies. We've even started planning our annual Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction! We started a book club months back and are still enjoying our time with that. And of course, we're Brainerd, and we're still managing to throw in some fun stuff too! A few of us are attending Rock Night at a local supporter's sports bar, in costume of course, and are looking forward to our annual awards banquet. I do have to brag! We have managed to stay in the One A Month club and are hoping to end the year that way!

Our chapter has grown in size and heart. I am so amazed by these women every day. Each is a vital part of this organization as are the rest of you! Thank you President Anne, for such an inspiring year. Thank you for your support and friendship! We, in Brainerd Lakes, are excited to be a part of such an amazing organization.

Sharing Tree

By Byron Women of Today

Once again, the Byron Women of Today, Christ the King Catholic Church, First Security Bank and the Byron MarketPlace sponsored the Sharing Tree in Byron. The project started small many years ago and has grown so much that we had to add a third tree last year. People interested in receiving gifts from the Sharing Tree picked up forms at the Byron Food Shelf and sent them to Byron Women of Today.

Volunteers from the Byron Women of Today and Christ the King Catholic Church made paper ornaments listing items from the forms submitted. Each form has room for four gift requests per person on the form. A sticker is placed on the back of each ornament requesting the gift be purchased and wrapped and the ornament taped to the package, and placed under one of the trees. The ornaments were hung on the Sharing Trees at Christ the King Catholic Church, First Security Bank and the Byron MarketPlace. The gifts were collected from the trees on December 11 and distributed on December 16 at Christ the King Catholic Church.

This year we helped 52 families, 225 people and wrote out over 900 ornaments. Many parents didn't ask for anything for themselves. Most of the gifts requested this year included outer winter wear, socks, toys, clothes, DVDs, and CDs. The Byron Middle School held Penny Wars and collected about \$2,000 that they used to purchase gifts for the Sharing Tree.

Byron Women of Today had articles in the local newspaper (The Byron Review) and one in the Rochester Post-Bulletin newspaper regarding the Sharing Tree. One of the local television stations had stories on their newscasts on November 27th when we decorated the trees and again on December 16th when we distributed the gifts. The December 16th story included an interview with one of the gift recipients who stated her children would not have had a Christmas without the Sharing Tree and generosity of the people who purchased gifts.

For additional information on the Sharing Tree, please contact Michelle McGowan, 507-273-3066 or mickimcgowan@yahoo.com, or JoAnn Miller, 507-251-2265 or bwtjomiller@yahoo.com.

Burnsville Women of Today Presents Check From Spa Ahh Fundraiser To 360 Communities

The Burnsville Women of Today donated \$3,000 from their Third annual Spa Ahh fundraiser to 360 Communities to be used for their Partners for Success Program.

The Spa Ahh fundraiser was held in November. It included brunch with a variety of pampering services. In addition, there were raffle prizes and a silent auction.

360 Communities was founded 40 years ago by volunteers as a nonprofit organization serving the south suburban metro area. The proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit their Partners For Success program. This program, in 39 schools in Dakota and Scott Counties, helps parents create a home environment that encourages learning, values achievement and prepares students for successful careers.



Pictured is Burnsville Women of Today President Beth Molitor presenting the \$3,000 Spa Ahh check to 360 Communities President and CEO Mary Ajax.

*"I am a leader. I lead by example.
I am a woman on a mission.
To get what I've never had,
I must do what I've never done."*

2010-2011 Minnesota Women of Today Executive Council

What Do Your Members Really Think?

by Nancy Arey Cohen, IVP, Eden Prairie Women of Today

Are you interested in discovering just what your members think about your Women of Today chapter? Try what the Eden Prairie women recently did: send out a survey to members. Sometimes the only opinions that are heard are from those people who are willing to stand up and be heard, while some of the best ideas go unnoticed because those who have them may be too shy to speak up. Give your members an equal chance to voice their preferences by sending an electronic survey. It's easy to do and takes very little time for members to complete. Eden Prairie used the Survey Monkey website which creates the templates for you and allows you to ask up to ten questions free of charge. An e-mail is generated, which you can personalize. All you have to do is input your members' e-mail addresses. The website does the rest. It sends the survey and collects the responses. You then log on to see the results.

Eden Prairie Women of Today is a large chapter in District 11 (soon to be District 10). The board, led by President Beth Wojahn, wanted to find a way to determine if the chapter was meeting the needs of its members. To do so, we recently conducted two surveys. The first was a general interest survey, which asked members why they joined EPWT, what they hoped to gain from their membership, and whether or not the chapter was meeting their needs. The most striking data from that survey was that 79% of the members joined EPWT to do service. Armed with that piece of information, we conducted a follow-up survey to determine if members wanted to define a focus for the service we provide, or continue to respond to the community's requests.

If anyone else is interested in conducting a similar survey of members and would like to see the questions we used, please contact the Eden Prairie Chapter.

Longville Women of Today

The Longville chapter had a unique service and fundraiser opportunity for which we are very grateful. We were approached to assist with an estate sale for a former antique dealer and collector. The home was filled with inventory as well as personal items. There were boxes everywhere, from floor to ceiling, every room filled to capacity. We wanted to help but were frightened by the sheer volume of items. There were antique dishes, glassware, silver, fabrics, jewelry, dolls, crocks, tools, teddy bears, sewing machines, books, furniture pieces, artwork and more. Where would we start?

We developed a plan; don't start with a room, start with a corner. We enlisted the help of friends and family. After 1200 volunteer hours we were finally ready for our first sale. We had no idea if people would find us on this dusty rural road. The response was unbelievable. We had multiple sales. Some items were donated to our local Tossed and Found Shop which funds the Food Shelf. Some were donated as Christmas gifts for needy children. Some were sold to other collectors or put on E-bay. We tried to be respectful of this responsibility. After all, these were not our items. So far we have sold over \$40,000 worth of inventory with one-third of the proceeds going to our chapter. We are so thankful to have had this once in a lifetime opportunity. Not only did we raise funds but it was an amazing learning experience. We'd be happy to share more information if your chapter is interested in trying this type of project!

Rice Women of Today

By Cindy Moen

Relay for Life is a life changing event that brings together more than 3.5 million people every year to **celebrate** the lives of those who battle cancer, **remember** loved ones lost, and empower individuals and communities to **fight back** against a disease that takes too much from too many. To learn more, get signed up or donate visit www.RelayForLife.org.

The Rice Women of Today and District 7 are participating in the Relay for Life on June 10-11, 2011. The team captain is Cindy Moen and the team name is District 7 Women of Today. At the event there will be a silent auction, games and many other things going on throughout. If you have any questions, contact Cindy at moen210@jetup.net.

There are still spots open so grab a friend or potential Women of Today member and let's get walking! If you can't join us please consider assisting with fundraising. We have luminary bags for sale. You may wish to be creative by having a potluck at your work for donations, offer to watch your friends kids while they go out or walk your neighbor's dog.

Straight River Women of Today

The Straight River Women of Today was founded in the early 1980's to provide opportunities for personal growth and community service to a special community in Owatonna. Their efforts have garnered them several state and national awards for all-around programming.

The chapter currently conducts three major projects each year.

- ◆ Over Memorial Day, a group of 15-20 members and their families motor to Camp Friendship to assist with the CampAlongCleanAthon weekend. The group cleans hiking trails, burns brush and cleans cabins.
- ◆ In the fall, the chapter charters a bus to attend the Fall Dinner Dance at South 80 in Gibbon. The 45-50 members and friends who attend renew friendships with people from many of the group homes in south central Minnesota. They also partake of a delicious meal and dance the night away.
- ◆ The primary fundraiser is a lawn care project throughout the summer. Members apply fertilizer and weed killers to the lawns of about 50 customers. The profits are used to fund activities at Camp Friendship, Special Recreation for the Owatonna Parks and Recreation, flowers at Jaycee Park, scholarships for the MNWT Foundation and the Riverland College Foundation, Transitional Housing, Special Olympics and other projects that address the special needs of this Owatonna community.

Several members of the chapter were founding members of the US Women of Today and attended the first convention in Mankato. For more information please contact Cherry Schwartz, 507-451-6676 or presike2@live.com.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A PUPPY SHOWER!

Minnesota Women of Today....We are expecting!!
The MNWT puppy and its siblings will be arriving on April 20th.

In celebration of the blessed event, there will be a Puppy Shower at Annual Convention.

Date: Friday, May 20, 2011

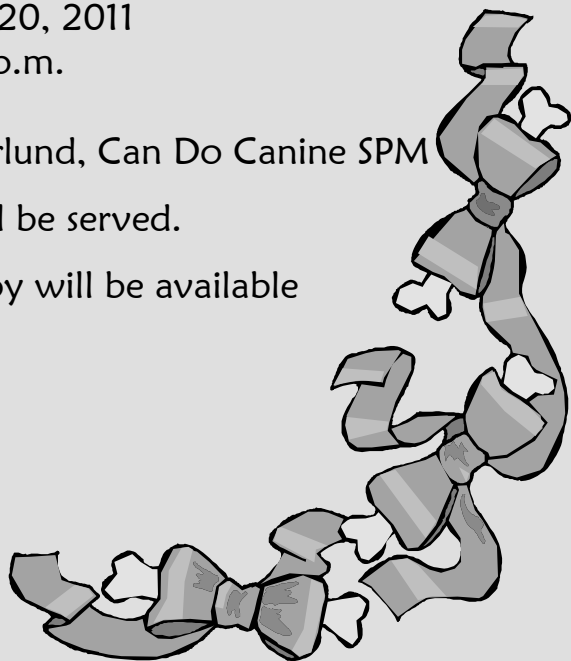
Time: 8:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Place: Salon A

Host: Heidi Westerlund, Can Do Canine SPM

Cake and punch will be served.

Pictures of our puppy will be available to view.



IF . . .

Wendy Lindberg, YT SPM

"IF . . ." in this last month of the trimester, this word could really make something amazing happen! Please help me make "IF" become "WHEN".

I have the goal to raise \$7,000 for Isaac's Journey this year. This wonderful organization was started three years ago when an amazing woman, Linda Lieser, lost her two year old son to cancer. This foundation has now raised over \$90,000 in those three years with all the proceeds going to childhood cancer research at the University of Minnesota.

Now, I know this involves a few "ifs" but when I consider the following things, the task at hand becomes far less daunting. I need your help completing this goal that we can make happen by year's end!

IF Melrose and Avon's possible "Stuck for a Buck" and other fundraising events happen, and bring in \$1,500, and

IF the 33 cookbooks out to various chapter members all get sold, and

IF a few chapters to pitch in a donation, time and passion,

THEN all that is needed is only \$800 to complete the \$7,000 goal!

So you ask me, "Wendy, what can I do to help?"

Simple (and thanks for asking): go back to your chapters and ask for a donation to Isaac's Journey! If 32 chapters with a \$25 donation or 16 chapters with a \$50 donation, or eight with a \$100 donation, we would be set! Another 40 cookbooks sold instead and the Isaac's Journey \$7,000 fundraising goal would be met **AND** the Outstanding Young Adult Scholarship goal would only be \$150 from completion, too!

HELP MAKE THIS HAPPEN! I want so much to this Isaac's Journey benefit to the max from our amazing organization!

WANTED! MEMBERS TO BE SPMS!

SPMs are still needed for Internal Programming areas of Living and Learning, NEWSLET, Records and Recognition, and Ways and Means. The following external areas also need SPMs: Community Connections, Youth of Today, and Women's Wellness.

Contact IVP Dana (ivp@mnwt.org) or EVP Sue (evp@mnwt.org) for more information.

Grow Me the Money

Dana Hoenig Schmidt, IVP



Let's end the year strong! Help our organization by supporting ways and means. Here's how:

Annual Raffle sponsored by the finance committee. Tickets are only \$5 and we are only selling 750 Tickets. Prizes are: \$200, \$150, \$75, \$50, and \$25. Tickets can be purchased from any finance committee member or by contacting Raffle Chair, Vicki Rockwell or Treasurer Jane Hanson. Drawing will be done Saturday at Annual Convention; you need not be present to win. There are 50 bonus success points for selling \$50 in Raffle Tickets.

Fudge coming to Annual Convention – Walnut Grove Mercantile Fudge will be available at Annual Convention for sale. No pre-orders necessary – make sure you get your favorite flavor before it's gone!

Ways and Means Donation – Each chapter that donates \$50 or more to Ways and means third Trimester will be entered into a drawing for a state store incentive basket. Make your checks payable to MN Women of Today and mail to Jane Hanson, 31078 790th Avenue, Madelia, MN 56062. There are 25 success points for a \$35 donation – consider at least that amount.

New Products coming to the State Store - The Finance committee has approved new products for the State Store. Check them out at Annual Convention. If you are in need of items before convention, please contact Dana Hoenig Schmidt at kidscountry@msn.com or 763.438.8311 to place an order to be shipped or delivered.

Living and Learning

Michelle Gag, LL SPM



Have you certified yet in the Living and Learning? Thank you to those members who have taken time to complete the certification. I need 130 completed certifications to reach this year's goal.

Come to Annual Convention in Morton and join the MNWT Planned Speech Competition. Judging will be based on speaking ability, organization, and ability to use the time allotment appropriately. The speech length is between three and five minutes.

THE TOPIC: What is the one thing you dislike doing but do it anyways because it makes you a better person. Explain how.

Hola! Minnesota Women of Today!

Cindy Umland, USWT PVP

So have you heard the news? The USWT is spicing it up in programming next year. Here are some of the changes that will be happening next year.

Currently, there are four programming areas: Focus on Woman/Chaplain, Personal Enrichment, STEP, and the External Area Priority Area (Domestic Violence). Beginning on May 1, 2011 the programming areas are changing. The new programming areas are:

Health & Wellness which is designed to help individuals be aware of their physical, mental, and spiritual well being. This area will consist of a certification and the program manager will be responsible for fellowship services at convention, sending cards and the updating the prayer chain.

Personal Development which is designed to help individuals advance in personal growth, careers, and citizenship. This area will encompass a certification competitions at mid-year and annual conventions. The competition may be speaking, writing or other things this program manager may do. It could include a resume entry, interview, poetry or impromptu competitions. This area will also be responsible for STEP. Beginning on May 1, 2011 there will be four STEP levels. STEP 1 is for the new member during their first 120 days; STEP 2 is for the first-year member; STEP 3 is for members in their second through fifth years, and STEP 4 is for members over six years.

There will be a permanent external programming area – **Domestic Violence Awareness**. This area will provide educational and fundraising information to the state organizations.

The Programming Vice President will continue promoting the Outstanding Achievement in Programming and Project Recognitions.

If you have any questions on any of these areas please contact me at cindycam7@juno.com. Help the current Programming Team finish this year HOT, HOT, HOT by certifying one last time in the current areas and participating in competitions.

Minnesota Women of Today Foundation Now Accepts Credit Card Donations

Have you heard of www.GiveMN.org? This organization's website is an innovative online resource that is helping Minnesotans give funds and help create a stronger nonprofit community for Minnesota. By visiting this site, you can donate to any Foundation area (Diamond Endowment Fund, Scholarship Program, Sustaining Membership, etc.) by using your credit or debit card. Personal or chapter checks are also accepted as in the past, but for many, this on-line tool helps streamline the process of donating funds. Utilizing the service is easy.

1. Visit www.GiveMN.org.
2. On the "Donate" screen in the upper right hand corner, search for "Minnesota Women of Today Foundation" in the top search line. Please note: You must spell out "Minnesota Women of Today" for the search to work. Searching "MNWT Foundation" will not locate our page. Also, Minnesota Women of Today is also listed in the options and you can donate to the MNWT. However, these donations are not tax-deductible; only donations to the MNWT Foundation are tax-deductible.
3. Click on Minnesota Women of Today Foundation in the drop down list.
4. After being taken to the Foundation's main page, scroll down on the page to view the available fundraising pages available. At this time, only the Diamond Club is an option – but check often for more donation possibilities. You have the option to choose to make a general donation or choose to donate to one of the pre-specified funds. See below for instructions.

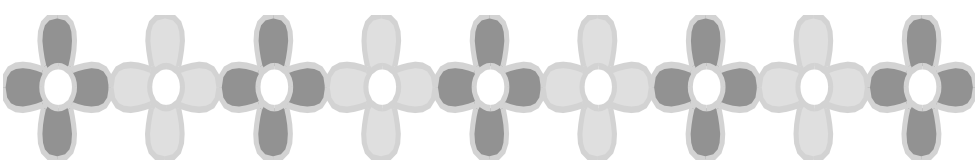
Completing a General Donation

1. If you opted to not click on a specific fundraising area, you simply enter the amount of your donation on the right hand side of the page where indicated and click "Donate"
2. The next screen allows you to click an option to "Add a Designation" or "Create a scheduled donation." If you click "Add a designation", this allows you to communicate to the MNWT Foundation where you would like your donation to be allocated towards (scholarships, chapter grants, technology fund, etc.). If you do not make a designation, your donation will be placed into undesignated funds, and used at the discretion of the Board of Directors. By clicking "Create a scheduled donation," you will be taken through steps to have the site make periodic payments. This could be helpful if you are a sustaining member donating \$25 each year. You won't have to remember each year to make the payment.
3. Enter your credit card information and click "Donate Now."
4. You will receive an email confirmation indicating that your donation was successful. You're done! Thank you for your donation!

Donating to a Pre-Specified Fund

1. Click on that fundraising area.
2. You will be re-directed to a donation page specifically for the fundraising area you selected. Choose one of the options on the right that indicates the amount of your donation. Click "Donate" after you are done.
3. You will be directed to a page that asked for your credit/debit information. Complete this page and click on "Donate Now."
4. You will receive an email confirmation indicating that your donation was successful. You're done! Thank you for your donation!

If you have further questions regarding the GiveMN website, contact Jodie Meyer at 763-529-2630 or Jodie.meyer@usfamily.net



MNWT FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

Lisa Leisenheimer

Tickets for the upcoming MNWT Foundation fundraiser at the Old Log Theater in Excelsior, MN will be available beginning May 20, 2011. The fundraiser will be held on Sunday, August 14, 2011. Doors open at noon. Lunch seating begins at 12:30 p.m. After lunch, guests will enjoy the play, "On Golden Pond". "On Golden Pond" is a heart-warming and hilarious celebration of every day life, love and family. All Women of Today members are invited to attend as well as spouses, significant other, friends, family or neighbors. The \$50 ticket price includes the meal, performance and financial donation to the MNWT Foundation. Tickets will be on sale at Annual Convention or contact Lisa Leisenheimer at 507-775-6351 or lisa@live.com to be added to a contact list for tickets.

What's New at Membership Management Committee (MMC)?

Sue Ellen Toppings, MMC Chair 2010-11

What a fun year it's been! Great attendance at our meetings; members stepped up and helped our MVP, CMVP, and Extensions Director; and we accomplished some wonderful things! **THANK YOU, MMC Members!**

"What did we accomplish?" There were changes in the First Timers' Booklet for conventions – new questions at Winter State and at Annual Convention and a **NEW PAGE** was added! Find a First Timer to see what it is! By year-end, we will have held and promoted with the Marketing Committee **THREE** "Ladies' Nights Out: Dinner and [activity chosen by each chapter]!" Having MANY chapters out on the same evenings during the year is a great way to promote our organization and get some prospective members! Lastly, nineteen MMC Members worked hard to revise the Gold Team Manual!

If being an MMC Member or Chair of the Membership Management Committee for the upcoming year sounds fun, contact me and we'll make a deal!

Marketing Committee

Lucia Gonzalez, Madelia

It has been a whirlwind of expos and new innovations to market Women of Today. The Ultimate Pajama Party at the Doubletree Hotel and the HandsOn Twin Cities Volunteer Expo at the Mall of America, were exciting, fun and a great hit. The Marketing Committee especially had fun at the Mall of America and hopes to participate again next year. A new event in the works is having a table at Normandale College for a event that will present the documentary, "Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority". Patsy Mink was the first woman of color elected to the U.S. Congress. The event will take place May 10, 2011 and will be attended by up to 1,000. It will be great exposure for MNWT.

Have you been on the website and found mistakes, have had difficulties, or can't find something that should be on there? Contact Katie Castro, MNWT Executive Director (csc@mnwt.org) and let her know. Katie will pass the information on to the webmaster. While you're online, keep your Facebook updated, your tweets in order and an eye out for new social networks to reach out to your communities with and recruit new members.

Do you know what branding is? Branding is an essential step toward carving out your own unique niche in a crowded marketplace. Marketing is working on branding the name of Women of Today name, so that everyone will know what MNWT stands for when they see it. Have any ideas of how to do this? Join the Marketing Committee and share those ideas with everyone. All are welcome.

Hope your chapter participated in Ladies' Night out. Don't know what Ladies Night Out was? On Saturday, April 16, 2011 (the last day of National Volunteer Week) your chapter went out to dinner and a _____. What does the blank mean, you wonder? Go out to dinner, wearing your Women of Today apparel, and then go bowling, play darts, mini golfing, or do something where everyone can see who you are and how much you fun you are having. Let your communities know that you are there and the awesome organization you belong to!

Buckets of Sunshine Statewide Project Bids for 2011-2012 Still Needed!

If you have an organization you would like to see the Minnesota Women of Today partner with for 2011 - 2012, please complete and submit a Statewide Project Bid Form. Completed forms mail be sent to the Marketing Committee Chair at marketing@mnwt.org. Bids are due no later than May 5, 2011. Organizations will present their bids on Friday evening, May 20, 2011 at Annual Convention in Morton.

The bid form can be found at www.mnwt.org on the Marketing Committee page (go to Members, Committees, Marketing, Buckets of Sunshine).

Please contact the Marketing Committee Chair at marketing@mnwt.org if you have any questions.

HOT FLASHES

Greenbush Chapter:

Thank you for nominating me for the Key Woman Award. Thanks for the support you've given me over the years. I couldn't have gone this far without you all. A great big thank you to my family for surprising me! Thanks to all those who congratulated me and your support!

Mary Ann Johnson

Avon Chapter: Thanks for everything you do to keep things "popping" in our chapter.

Sue Lemke

Thank you, **President Anne**, for making this a great year in Women of Today!

Michelle Gag

Kelly Neu:

Thanks for leading our district to "Finish Strong!"

Avon Women of Today

Lisa,

Good luck with your 2011-12 year. You are an amazing person. You will be a great DD! Also thank you for your help on the path. I know you will lead our chapters "Home!"

Ginny Winkelman, DD07

Anne Johnson:

Looking forward to the years ahead, Roomie!

Tanna

Jessy Goble:

Sorry for my snoring at Winter State!

Tari Sieler

Good Luck to the 2011-2012 **New Ulm Women of Today** board!

Michelle

DD04 Leslie:

Mom, thanks for a FANTASTIC year and all of your help!

Jessy and Heather

Congratulations Jen!

I wish you many happy years with your new bundle of joy!

Melissa Bueckers

Thanks to **Dana and Sue** for making this a great year!

Michelle

Kelly Neu:

Thanks for being a great DD!

Avon Women of Today

Nicky Anderson,

Thanks for a fun murder mystery!

New Ulm Chapter

MNWT SPMs,

Thank for keeping programming spicy in Minnesota! You are HOT, HOT, HOT!

Cindy, USWT PVP

Thank you to **Sue S.** You have been such a great support and help! I appreciate your help!

Debbi Johnson, DD2

Anne & Staff:

Thanks for a great year ~ lots of laughs along with lots of work ~but it's been so much fun and so worth it!

Terri, AVP

Jen:

Congrats on Lynea - what a wonderful bundle of joy!

Heidi

Melissa Bueckers :

YOU ROCK! Thank you for your leadership, friendship, and for all of the countless hours of time you put into this organization. Congrats on being elected the next District 6 Director!

Pam Przybilla

Fridley WT:

You are an awesome chapter! Thanks for all the wonderful projects and socials this year!! Can't wait to see what we can do next year!

Jo

Bowl-A-Thon Supporters,

Thank you to anyone who donated to the Spare the Violence Bowl-A-Thon. The money raised by the USWT was over \$1,400.

Cindy, Brenda, and Sarah

Sue Lemke :

Thank you for all of your hard work being our chapter president this year. You're doing a great job and I appreciate your friendship and leadership!

Pam Przybilla

St. Cloud,

Thank you for leading me down the Candyland path. Truly it meant the world to me! You held an amazing 3rd Trimester meeting. It was a "treat" rific time! You really are a treat in my life!

Ginny Winkelman, DD07

Lisa Hahn,

Congratulations on being electing DD 7 for 2011-12. You will make District 7 Home Sweet Home next year.

Friends! Cindy (your assistant)

Eagan WT:

Congratulations on an amazing first year in Women of Today! You all rock! Thank you for all of your hard work!

Brenda and Sarah

Eden Prairie WT:

You are the greatest group of women! Thank you for the opportunity to be your president and see "the places we will go!"

Beth Wojahn

District 2 is "Energized and Excited!!"

I want to thank all the District 2 members for a wonderful year full of fun, warmth, and smiles! I enjoyed each and every district meeting! Thank you to the LOW chapter for holding the first district meeting this year and to Roseau and Warroad. You all did an amazing job! Thank you!

Debbi Johnson, DD2

Carol (Mommy),

Thank you for your support this year. Thank you for the long shopping trips, coming up with fun ideas, and just being there. You are a "treat" rific Mom!

Ginny

Thank you to my AVP - and <good> friend, **Terri Dahlberg**, for being a support even with everything she went through this year! You are an extra special - AMAZING person!

Debbi Johnson, DD2

Eden Prairie WT Board :

Thank you for an amazing year. I can't believe all the "places we have gone!" Love you all!

Beth Wojahn

Sauk Rapids Chapter:

I want to thank you all for a wonderful year! I have truly enjoyed being your president. Your support and encouragement has been an inspiration. I also want to thank you for supporting me in my bid to be next year's District 7 Director. You're an amazing group of women.

Lisa Hahn

Anne:

You are a great leader, and I appreciate all of your training this year!

Heidi

Welcome Hibbing!

We are looking forward to meeting you and having you in our district!

Aitkin, Brainerd, Duluth, Longville, Nisswa, and Virginia Chapters

To My Awesome DDs!

Thanks for Being My Light this year! You are THE best!!

Friends Always, Terri

Thank you to my wonderful **MOM** and **KEY WOMAN**, Mary Ann Johnson. You are a huge part of my life and I thank God every day for you! Thank you for supporting me while I took the DD position and for helping me with my upcoming wedding! You will be the most beautiful Matron of Honor! Thank you!

Your daughter and #1 supporter, Debbi

Congratulations **Jess Bjerk** on your presidential pin! You rock! Thank you for sharing your enthusiasm and energy to make our community a healthier place!

Sue S.

District 4,

Thank you for a great year. I have enjoyed it immensely. Good luck to the new board - Tari, Becky, Mindy, and Roxy.

Leslie, DD4

Hey Brainerd,

It is always fun having you as a PALS chapter! You rock - including on the dance floor!

Your Aitkin Friends

Aitkin,

Thank you for your support this year - especially Heather, my PA, and Heidi, my travel companion.

Leslie, DD4

Congratulations to the District 4 Winners! Heidi (Key Woman), Jessy and Becky (USWT pins), Tal (MNWT medallion), Cindy (Presidential Award of Excellence), and Rhian (Outstanding LPM).

Leslie, DD4

Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers during my time with my mom and her passing! They brought great comfort!

Julie

Fridley Chapter:

I am so proud to have each and every one of you in our chapter. Each has their own special talents to share. Thank you!

Joanne

Kelly:

Thanks for being a super District Director for District 6. It was a ROARING good time!

Melrose Area WT

District 7:

Thank you for allowing me to lead you down the Candyland path this year. It was an honor to share my knowledge and lead through the Candyland adventures! It's been a "treat" rific time!

Ginny Winkelman, DD07

District 2:

Great job on a good year and the fun times that have been had!

Middle River WT

Leslie Goble:

Thanks for being a great DD this year! Thanks for letting me room with you at Winter State.

Tari Sieler

Heather Goble:

Sorry I kept you awake with my snoring at Winter State!

Tari Sieler

Vicki:

Good luck on your candidacy for State Treasurer!

Joanne

Kandy:

You are going to do a wonderful job for Can Do Canines next year!

Love, Heidi

Leslie:

What a fantastic job as DD this year! You were excellent!

Heidi

Congratulations and Welcome Lynea Katherine Kinzer! We are proud of your mom, Jen!

Aitkin WT

Renee Benson:

Good luck with your year as chapter president! You will be great!

Wendy Lindberg

Kellie Hentges:

Congratulations on a successful year as chapter president! You have done a great job!

Wendy Lindberg

MNWT:

Donate to Isaac's Journey and help tape President Anne to the Wall at Annual! Wendy Lindberg MNWT: Thanks for all your help with reports for Youth of Today! Keep 'em comin'!

Wendy Lindberg

Mama Jen:

I'm looking forward to visiting you this summer and meeting Lynae. So HAPPY for you, Jen!

Love, Terri

Terri D. and Mary P.:

It was so much fun serving on Exec. Council this year. Love you girls!

Dawn

Julie:

Thanks for all your input so far on the TTT materials. We make a good team!

Joanne

Anne:

Thank you for sharing your book with us!

Sarah

Sue S.:

I have enjoyed being a part of your team this year. Love ya!

Dawn

Exec Council Secret Sis:

Thank you for the awesome gifts this year! You spoil me and I love it!!

Terri

Clutch Cares

By Amy Wollmuth, President & Founder of Clutch

How many single parents do you personally know? Is it too many to count easily? Statistics show that the number of single parent households in the U.S. continues to grow dramatically year after year. That's where we come in the picture. Clutch is a registered nonprofit organization, focused on helping single parents gather as much useful information as possible to provide a safe and healthy home for their children. We provide contact information for county agencies (child support, custody, assistance, WIC, family court), family law attorneys, counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, doctors, pediatricians, licensed daycares, in-home daycares, free and inexpensive family activities and much, much more.

Here's how your chapter or yourself can lend a hand to Clutch:

- ◆ Purse donation drive: Advertise on your Facebook page, local newspaper, Craigslist, email, etc. Place a large box at a location of convenience (your work or school) where the purses can be dropped off. Once your drive is finished, contact Clutch on how to get them to us.
- ◆ Pass the Purse: Pass an empty purse at chapter meetings and fundraisers for monetary donations. Try to fill it up!
- ◆ Recruit Single Parents: If you know of a parent with whom you believe could use our help and would like to become a member, please get them our contact information.
- ◆ Purchase Purses: Search for them on Ebay (clutchforcausecares). Also check on our website (www.clutchforcause.org) and Facebook (Clutch For Cause) for upcoming purse sales and parties.

Clutch is a registered nonprofit with the state of Minnesota since August 2009. This year we will have our tax exempt status (501(c)3) filed with the IRS. It's a big step for a small nonprofit organization. We are excited to continue to work with the MN Women of Today! We appreciate all of your support and donations thus far.

