



Minnesota Women of Today 2011-2012 State Staff



Minnesota Women of Today 2011-2012 Executive Council

MINNESOTA WOMEN OF TODAY FACT SHEET

The Minnesota Women of Today is celebrating its 62nd year as a volunteer organization dedicated to community service, personal growth, leadership training, and forming long-lasting friendships. The strategic plan for upcoming years is to implement more technology, which will help reduce administrative costs and become more environmentally friendly. Local chapters serve over 80 communities across the state of Minnesota, made up of a dedicated volunteer force of over 1,600 members. Each chapter has a different personality and event schedule as the choice of organizations and causes on which to focus depends on the passions, interests, and talents of chapter members. There are opportunities for members to gain personal growth and leadership skills by chairing projects, giving reports at meetings or other public speaking opportunities, becoming board members at the chapter or district level and by participating in the governing body of the organization by becoming an Executive Council member.

In the past four years we have raised \$1,468,689 for various charities. Members have volunteered thousands of service hours. Major areas of support have included the March of Dimes Foundation, the Jacob Wetterling Foundation, the Shriners Hospital, The American Cancer Society, and many more. This year's statewide focus is on two organizations: GREEN SNEAKERS (www.greensneakers.com) and Can Do Canines (www.can-do-canines.org). For GREEN SNEAKERS, chapters and members will be collecting gently used tennis shoes for adults and children. Tennis shoes that do not have matches or need to be recycled rather than passed on area also accepted. Donations will be collected at our Winter State Convention, January 27-28, 2012, at the DoubleTree Park Place Hotel in Minneapolis. For Can Do Canines (formerly known as the Hearing & Service Dogs of MN), there are a variety of ways in which chapters and members can volunteer – time, fundraising, and awareness of the organization. If you would like more information regarding these programs, please contact pr@mnwt.org.

Past statewide projects have included: The Pajama Program, which collects new pajamas and books for children who are waiting and hoping to be adopted; "Operation Minnesota Nice", an organization that ships care packages to the armed forces to make a difference in the lives of those serving abroad in a time of conflict; Cheerful Givers, a 100% volunteer organization providing birthday gift bags for children served by area food shelves; Project Linus, a non-profit organization which provides donated, handmade blankets and afghans to hospitalized children; and the "Helping Hands for the Heartland" project, which benefited Camp Heartland, a camp founded in 1993 to serve children impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Our organization has been known as the Women of Today since 1985. The Minnesota Women of Today has its roots in the 1950's as the Minnesota Mrs. Jaycees. Upon reorganization of the Jaycee Women in 1985, eighty percent of our membership voted to become the Women of Today. Since that time, our focus has been to help women improve their own lives and the lives of the people in the communities around them. Opportunities exist for leadership at all levels of Women of Today, from committee work and officer positions in the local chapter, to management and supervisory positions on the district and state levels. Minnesota Women of Today always strive to uphold their creed and "...Leave the world a better place because we lived and served within it."

*For further information, contact Katie at the Minnesota Women of Today Chapter Service Center,
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