

## WWEE Models Self-Sufficiency

### Number of Clients Served Increases Nearly 30%

While the economy seems to have started to rebound, WWEE and our clients continue to feel the effect of the recession. Participation in WWEE programs has increased more than 28 percent over the past year and the demand has not let up.



Education Specialist Shelby McCulloch teaches self-management, goal setting and workplace expectations in WWEE's Tacoma classroom.

Half of WWEE participants are recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and are referred to WWEE by the Department of Social and Health Services. Deborah Howell, WWEE Program Director, said state workers refer clients to WWEE because of our record of success in putting clients on the path to employment.

It is not only our community's most vulnerable families (those living below the federal poverty guidelines) who have been financially hit by the

recession. CEO Robin Lester assures: **"The current economic climate is affecting everyone. Workers in lower level positions are particularly vulnerable."**

**"Many who lost their jobs need to start over again to find sustainable-wage employment."**

It has been challenging for WWEE to absorb the 28 percent increase in participants needing service.

**"Like all businesses today, WWEE is doing more with less!"** says Lester.

To further support the increase in demand for services, the staff continues to rely on a team of dedicated volunteers to help. Lester explains: **"To leverage the staff time we use volunteers to help in the classrooms and Boutique, on client follow-up and on Board committees. WWEE models the behavior we teach our participants regarding self-sufficiency."**

**"WWEE helped mold a woman who believes that she can do ANYTHING."**

- Stephanie, WWEE



## Daughter's Transformation Inspires Mother's Success



REACH Plus students gain essential computer skills, learning the entire Microsoft Office Suite in five weeks.

WWEE program. Kathleen participated in the REACH Plus program full time while fulfilling the duties of her night job. This meant that for five intensive weeks, Kathleen worked from 8:30 in the morning to 11:00 at night; but, as she explains: **"I needed to know that I had that kind of discipline."**

Without the technical skills that she learned at WWEE, Kathleen would not have been able to get her foot in the door in a job she wanted. The portfolio that Kathleen created at WWEE is what "sealed the deal" of her current employment as a full-time Administrative Assistant at GE.

**"Because of the training and personal development that I got with WWEE... I gained a world of self-confidence."**

She was astonished to discover that the self-analysis that she underwent in REACH Plus was equally as important and certainly more challenging than learning new computer skills.

**"I hadn't even realized that I lacked self esteem,"** Kathleen reflects. **"[REACH Plus] gave me a much better perspective and it allowed me to clear my slate and reevaluate myself."**

Inspired by Kathleen's completion of the WWEE program, Kathleen's mother attended and recently

graduated from the Goodwill Training Program. After many decades of providing for her family at home, she is now also working full-time. Mother and daughter remain positive and strong.

## WWEE Events



### 2010 King County Benefit Breakfast "Futures Within Reach"

March 23, 2010 • 7:30-8:30 am  
**New location!** Doubletree Suites  
16500 Southcenter Parkway - Seattle

#### Talk & Tour / Graduation Events

Hear about the impact of the WWEE program in our community, attend a participant graduation and information event. Light refreshments are served. These events are held from 12:30-2pm at both WWEE offices.

#### WWEE Kent Office

Nov 19, Dec 18, Feb 4, Mar 11

#### WWEE Tacoma Office

Nov 20, Dec 18, Feb 5, Mar 12

#### New Volunteer Orientations:

**January 29, 2010**

Tacoma office 10am or  
Kent office 2pm

Reservations are required for these events. To learn more contact the Development Office at 253.590.0649.

## Looking for a new way to give back?

Here are a few simple ways you can give back this holiday season:

- Instead of buying a gift for that person on your list who has everything, send a donation in their name to WWEE.
- Tell someone who hasn't heard of WWEE about our work and invite them to attend an upcoming graduation event with you. Stay after and enjoy the potluck and congratulate the graduates.
- Turn your holiday party into a fundraiser for WWEE. Note your charitable intentions in your invitation. Then, at your gathering, collect donations (money or professional clothing) in a designated area, and make giving easy for your guests by setting your home computer to WWEE's online donation page.
- Are you an eBay fan? If so, when you sell an item you may give a portion of your proceeds to WWEE.

## Thank you to the 2009 Pierce County Benefit Breakfast Sponsors

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Sponsors and supporters raised \$94,000 to support WWEE programs at the September 17th Pierce County Benefit event.



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## Did you know you can donate money to WWEE just by searching the Internet?

Goodsearch is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates approximately one penny per search, to listed American charities. All you have to do is designate WWEE as your charity.

It's easy to get started:

1. Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter WWEE as your charity.
2. Use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) every time you search the web.
3. As a result, about one penny for each search you do will automatically be donated by Good Search to WWEE!

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