



WWEE Fact Sheet

How WWEE Began

A dynamic former nun named Lupe Anguiano who appeared on the television news show **60 Minutes** inspired four Puyallup women – Rose Stidham, Lu Foxford, Zoya Walker and Lori Thomas – to form WWEE in 1982. Anguiano was trying to change welfare policy to encourage employment for women. The four friends were passionate about giving struggling single mothers a better chance to earn a living and build their dignity.

WWEE now has two locations serving the South Puget Sound region and a staff of 22.

How WWEE Works

To qualify, students must be low-income, according to federal poverty guidelines. Men and women are accepted in the program, but 99 percent are women. Many are young, single mothers and others are older women re-entering the workforce. Students learn computer, workplace and life management skills. Many go onto college. It only costs \$1,500 to put one person through WWEE's five-week REACH program. The program includes 160 hours of training and opportunities for internships.

Impact in the Community

WWEE has helped more than 13,000 participants since it began. In fiscal 2008, the organization served nearly 900 people by providing career training that included training in computer and life management and workplace skills. Of those served last year, nearly half had only a high school education and nearly one quarter lacked a diploma or GED certificate. WWEE's goal is to help women become self sustaining by training them so they can find jobs that pay more than minimum wage.