



Dear Friends,

The Presbytery of Philadelphia Women's Empowerment Initiative (WEI), one of your new ministries in the Presbytery, is brimming with joy with the success of our GED program. And we want you to share that joy with you.

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WEI began hosting GED classes in 2007. Since that time over 75 individuals have attended the classes and 40 have successfully completed the requirements and received their high school diploma. Most of the students who seek a high school diploma through the WEI GED program are low-income and underemployed single parents. These motivated Philadelphians share an impassioned commitment to better the economic and social circumstances for themselves, their children and their communities. In doing so they demonstrate that obstacles can be overcome, no matter what the circumstances.

We celebrate the success of each graduating class with a special commencement ceremony. The most recent class of WEI GED students – a total of 26 - received their diplomas on Thursday, June 25, 2009. Many now are pursuing further studies at Community College of Philadelphia and other training programs.

**So, what can you do?** The answer: **Become a sponsor!** Levels of Sponsorship include the following.

- Level 1. \$ 12 GED fee for one student to take an exam
- Level 2. \$ 24 GED fee for 2 students to take an exam
- Level 3. \$ 60 GED exam fee for all 5 test
- Level 4. \$100 One month for class instruction

*Of course, you may sponsor as many students or sessions as you wish.*

Your tax deductible contribution can be made payable to: Presbytery of Philadelphia (Denote *WEI-GED* in the memo section). Mail check to Presbytery of Philadelphia, 2200 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

We will share photos and invite sponsors to drop-in on class sessions and attend the graduation ceremony. A copy of the GED announcement for our most recent graduating class is attached.

Please join us in ensuring the continuity and momentum of this tremendous ministry. We need your help and your support as WEI help to broaden the vision for a better life of these desirous and deserving Philadelphians.

With Joy and Anticipation,

Wanda Tanner-McNeill, Executive Board President  
Presbytery of Philadelphia Women's Empowerment Initiative

Copy: WEI Board of Directors  
Al DerMosesian, Acting General Presbyter  
Steward Spencer, Moderator

## WEI- GED Sponsorship Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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### Sponsorship Levels:

<b>Level 1: Sponsorship</b> (GED fee for one student to take an exam)	<b>\$ 12.00</b>
<b>Level 2: Sponsorship</b> (One week of student tutoring)	<b>\$ 25.00</b>
<b>Level 3: Sponsorship</b> (GED exam fee for all 5 test)	<b>\$ 60.00</b>
<b>Level 4: Sponsorship</b> (One month for class instruction)	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Other Sponsorship Amount:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

<b>Total GED Sponsorship enclosed:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
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*Mail the above GED Sponsorship Form with your check, payable to:*

**Presbytery of Philadelphia – Women’s Empowerment Initiative**  
**2200 Locust Street**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19103**

*Note in Memo Section of Check: **WEI GED***

WEI also accepts PAYPAL payments. Logon to: [www.weiphila.org](http://www.weiphila.org)

WEI thanks you for your continued support to help further the growth of WEI and to enable these individuals to become champions of their own success.



WEI GED: ACCESS TO SUCCESS..... 1



MAKE A DIFFERENCE: AN INVITATION FOR SPONSORSHIP AND RELATIONSHIP..... 2



WEI HOLISTIC MINISTRY: PRESBYTERIAN WORKFORCE TRAINING AND PLACEMENT INITIATIVE..... 2

Summer

2009

# Spotlight on success

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE: EMPOWERING WOMEN, STRENGTHENING FAMILIES, TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES!

## Salute to a Trailblazer:



*The Women's Empowerment Initiative (WEI) has been in the forefront in designing and delivering opportunities for educational, economic and social stability to urban Philadelphians. The impetus of these offerings is due in large part to the innovative genius and tireless commitment of WEI President Wanda Tanner-McNeill.*



Wanda Tanner-McNeill



June 2009 WEI GED Graduates

## WEI GED: Access to Success

The Women's Empowerment Initiative began offering GED instruction in the fall of 2007; since that time over 40 individuals, primarily women, have received their high school diploma. This experience of accomplishment has motivated many graduates to pursue further education through Community College of Philadelphia.

The most recent graduation celebration took place on June 25th as we celebrated the 26 individuals who received their diplomas. Many family members, friends, political and presbytery luminaries were in attendance, including Acting General Presbyter Al DerMovsesian. The speaker was Rev. Dr. Valeria Harvell, pastor of

Temple Church and professor of African American Studies at Penn State. Dr. Harvell challenged the graduates to view their education as a passport to a better future for themselves and their families. [See the full article and pictures of the GED celebration on the Presbytery of Philadelphia website: [www.presbyphl.org](http://www.presbyphl.org).]

On page 2, we extend an invitation for congregations and individuals to share in the WEI GED ministry and to join WEI in expanding the impact of WEI throughout Philadelphia.



Rev. Dr. Valeria Harvell



Al DerMovsesian, Valeria Harvell, and Ethelyn Taylor



A Glimpse of the Future!



*"God and Nature first made us what we are, and then out of our own creative genius we make ourselves what we want to be. ... [So] "let the sky and God be our limit, and Eternity our measurement. There is no height to which we cannot climb using the active intelligence of our own minds."*

[Marcus Garvey: Life and Lessons, ed. Robert Hill and Barbra Bair.]

# Make a Difference: A Special Invitation

On the first page of this newsletter, you learned of the tremendous community impact of the Women's Empowerment Initiative. The WEI GED program has gained a track record for success.

Please join us in ensuring the continuity and momentum of this ministry.

### We extend the Call to Sponsorship.

Fellow congregants, answer the call. Congregations, answer the call.

### Become a sponsor.

Join WEI in broadening the vision for a better life as we share the dream of desirous and deserving Philadelphians. We will share photos and even invite sponsors to drop-in on class sessions.

### Will you answer the Call?

See levels of sponsorship and instructions below.

#### Levels of Sponsorship:

- Level 1: \$12 GED single test fee (5 tests are required)**
- Level 2: \$25 One week of student tutoring**
- Level 3: \$60 GED test fee for all 5 test**
- Level 4: \$100 One month of student tutoring**
- Level 5: \$\_\_\_ Other**

**(Of course, you may sponsor as many students or sessions as you wish.)**


Checks should be made payable to the Presbytery of Philadelphia (Memo: WEI GED):

Mailing Address:

Women's Empowerment Center  
WEI GED Office  
4950 Aspen Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19139

Thank you for your generous contribution.

## INVEST IN EDUCATION: Phenomenal ROI



Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

- Marian Wright Edleman

### Another Link in the WEI Holistic Ministry:

#### Presbyterian Workforce Training and Placement Initiative (PWTPI)

WEI employs a total systems, holistic approach in all ministry components – job training and employment, education, fiscal literacy and homeownership counseling. We recognize that all of these tools are prerequisites for achieving long-term self-sufficiency and stability. The recently launched Presbyterian Workforce Training and Placement Initiative (PWTPI) is one such offering. The ultimate goal of PWTPI is to make a difference in the lives of unemployed and under-employed Philadelphians, particularly women in West Philadelphia. PWTPI focal points are (1) training, (2) workforce readiness, (3) workforce placement, and (4) employment retention.

The impetus for achieving these outcomes is aggressive pursuit of business relationships with leading corporate and organizational entities within greater Philadelphia. To-date, PWTPI has secured agreements for employment of qualified PWTPI trainees with CVS/Caremark, Head Start Learning Tree Centers, and New Life Services.

Learn more at the WEI website: [www.philawei.org](http://www.philawei.org). Perhaps you'll be inspired to become a mentor or to champion access to corporate employment agreements.

