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Summer

2009



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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 DerMosesian. 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.]

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 DerMosesian, 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. Perhaps you'll be inspired to become a mentor or to champion access to corporate employment agreements.

