

CONNECTIONS

Winter 2009



WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER
of manatee
**Compassion, Connection and
Courage for
Every Woman**

1926 Manatee Ave W
Bradenton, Florida 34205
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www.wrcmanatee.org

Programs

Ongoing Individual and group sessions, with mental health professionals in the areas of employment, divorce, parenting and Self-Esteem

Mondays Latina Empowerment Group
6-7:30pm
Open Computer Lab
1-4pm

First Thursday of each month 'Girls Night Out' at Restyled Rags 5-7pm
Refreshments & Shopping

Ongoing Girls Rule Giving Circle
Circle of Friends
Book Club
Yoga

Women's Resource Center Corporate Partners

Entwistle/Elzer Group



Mike and Jaymie Carter



Introducing WRC Bloc Jewelry

Dedicated to all the women who have overcome obstacles and struggles in their lives, who can proudly say, "I've been around that block Sister"! We encourage you to support others on their journeys and salute you.



The Spirit Necklace is a fine silver pendant with a sterling silver spirit charm on black leather cording.

Call the Center to place your order. They are available in Fine Sterling for \$95 and Bronze for \$55. Matching Earrings are also available! Support a Woman on their journey to success.



Cheryl Hughes- *Vino 100* shows **Coleen Collins** gift items at "Shopping For A Cause" event at WRC.

WRC Honors Jan & Chuck Entwistle and Jim & Pat Roberts

During the Holiday Open house on December 22nd, we took the time to pay tribute to the contributions of two families that have been integral in bringing services to the women in Manatee County.

The first meeting to discuss the concept of a Women's Resource Center was held in Jan's living room. 6 years later, Jim & Pat Roberts made it

possible to purchase our permanent facility on Manatee Ave. Both of these women and their husbands have worked tirelessly to turn a conversation and a dream into a reality. We were pleased to dedicate the *Jan & Chuck Entwistle Great Room* and the *Jim & Pat Roberts Counseling Room*.



Jan and Chuck Entwistle and family



Pat Roberts and family

We Love our Volunteers

The annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon was held on December 5th at Freedom Village. We had over 40 volunteers in attendance this year. To give you a comparison, 5 years ago we had the event at the Center with 15 volunteers!

Last year our volunteers donated over 3,000 hours of their time to the WRC. You are invaluable to us and the women we serve. We can not say it often enough....**THANK YOU!**



Volunteer Joan Pease wins a trip at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon held in December

Happenings at Restyled Rags.....

Once again, we would like to thank **YOU** for helping make Restyled Rags the very best resale boutique in Bradenton. Your wonderful donations and continued patronage have helped us surpass our goal for 2008 and we look forward to an even better 2009!

We are now open on Saturdays from 9 am - 1 pm. We hope this will make it easier for those of you working full time to come in and shop. We also need volunteers to work on Saturdays.

We have a CHANGE to **Girl's Night Out!** Beginning March 5th, **Girl's Night Out** will be the **FIRST Thursday** of every month. We have a great line-up of events planned throughout the year. Be sure to stop by and enter to win our monthly \$25.00 gift certificate.

Thanks, again for all of your generous support! Hope to see you in the Boutique very soon.

In Their Own Words: A Counselors Letter

Each week I serve as Employment Strategies Counselor for the WRC, meeting with women in transition, working to provide support in a meaningful way. Often, we do the best that we can do and hope that those we meet each week will find their way in the search for employment. We know the needs are great; it is never just a case of unemployment. The women we meet have varied histories, a personal story—it makes them individuals and not just a case or situation.

On occasion, a woman will call and leave a message: "I found a job! Your services helped me do this!" I can't tell you how much this means to me. Time spent, money earned--none of that is more important than knowing that we made a difference.

I am thankful to the Women's Resource Center for giving me this opportunity. I am thankful for the

women that come to the WRC for services. Both have given me an opportunity for fulfillment.

*Irene Rodarte,
Employment Strategies Counselor*

Did You Know ???

Charitable giving can help reduce income taxes, estate tax and capital gains tax, so it is crucial to think about how you can best leverage tax rules to expand your philanthropic impact. Two basic rules include itemizing deductions on your tax return if you plan to deduct charitable contributions and requesting a receipt for donations of \$250 or more to a single charity. Since the tax aspects of charitable giving can be complex, it is a good idea to consult with a tax professional.

Even with stock prices down significantly, many investors have securities (stocks, mutual funds) worth more than they paid for them.

You may want to consider transferring some of those appreciated securities to charity. Giving the securities to charity--rather than selling them and donating the cash from the sale--enables you to avoid the capital gains tax liability which would be due if you sold them. If you've held the donated securities for a year or more, your income tax deduction will be based on the appreciated fair market value at the time of donation

The Latina Self Empowerment Group

Meets weekly at the Center and is facilitated by Maria V. Zavala, M.A. Maria designed a curriculum especially created to assist Latinas in their search for their own identity. The group invites women on a journey to self-discovery where they can find their true identity and power while learning to live up to their fullest potential. With humor, music, poetry and peer support women have moved beyond their comfort zones to achieve whatever they want out of life.

The group has grown dramatically in the last year and includes women

representing Argentina, Spain, Venezuela, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Colombia. They come from Manatee County, St. Pete, Naples, Tampa and Sarasota. We are **Dona Quixote's: "Latinas Making each others dreams come true".**



The annual Latina Christmas dinner was attended by over 35 women in the community

Notes from the Director

As we enter 2009, I am more excited than ever about the programs and offerings at the WRC. We have the Health & Wealth series in motion; we are starting our Women's Exchanges again in February, both of these offering relevant information to women in our community.

We are seeing people affected by the economy, people that are facing struggles they never dreamed they would have in front of them. I am very proud to be part of an organization that is working hard to provide programs, information and hope to the women who come to us in need.

It would not be possible without all of you who support the work we are doing. YOU are making a difference and I want to you know it is appreciated and needed now more than ever. The WRC is making its own tough decisions in these times, but we are moving forward in a positive direction and we are happy to have you with us!

In closing, I would like to add a special thank you to Jim and Teresa Rawe for opening up their home for our Major Sponsor and Donor Appreciation event in January. My best to you all,

~ Ashley

"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

~ Will Rogers