



WICHITA WOMEN'S INITIATIVE NETWORK, INC

watch

WINTER 2011

Celebrate

the success of our women

- **One woman** graduated as a certified physical trainer
- **One woman** has over a 100% in her college English as she works on her two year degree
- **Three women** are studying intensely preparing for their GED placement test.
- **One woman** returns to massage therapy school and will finish in Jan 2012.
- **A new woman** began work on November 22. She is expecting twin girls in February.

Karen Schmidt named WIN Executive Director



Greetings! I have been in my role as Executive Director for three months now and am excited to have the opportunity to introduce myself and share our progress and plans with you. I am a Licensed Master's level Social Worker and Licensed Addiction Counselor with thirteen years of experience in social services including five years in management. I have practiced in the areas of adoption, foster care, case management, domestic violence and family preservation. My work has given me the opportunity to gain

experience with different populations in a variety of settings.

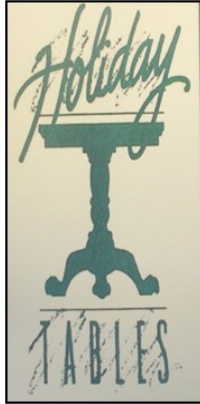
My first few weeks at WIN were spent getting to know the staff and the women in the program. I am lucky to have a great staff who were welcoming and very helpful in assisting me in learning about the day to day functioning of the program. They are all invested in the participants and in doing what they can to carry out the mission of WIN. It has been a pleasure getting to know the women in the program, hearing their stories and the progress that they have made up to this point. They are all strong women who are on their way to becoming *(continued on page 3)*

WINners' Circle and 15th Anniversary Great Combination!

In 2010, WIN created the WINners' Circle. For a pledge of \$1,000 a year, donors joined this group to help us in our goal to break the cycle of abuse and poverty. WINners' Circle members received periodic personal reports about our program and the success of each participant. They also received invitations to various events during the year. In 2011, we had 16 compassionate people join the WINners' Circle. Their donation expressed belief in the value of our mission and had a powerful impact on our ability to sustain and grow our program. These funds assisted in WIN's ability to hire 2 additional women bringing the total to 7 participants.

As we look forward to our 15th Anniversary in 2012, we would like to double the number of members in our WINners' Circle. Last year's fiscal cash donations equaled approximately 38% of our income. The support of our donors is **vital** to the continued success of WIN. Every donation, no matter the amount, contributes to our ability to make a difference in the lives of the women we serve. Please consider becoming a member of the 2012 WINners' Circle and help us "**Break the Cycle of Abuse.**"

Janice VanSickle, Board of Trustee Chair



A REASON TO CELEBRATE

This year's 2011 Wichita Center for the Arts Holiday Tables theme, "Seasons for Celebrating," allowed WIN to highlight 4 women whose lives have changed dramatically since leaving their abuser. The women and their children are celebrating a new season. A photo frame featured each woman with a family picture and a summary of how their lives have changed and what they are celebrating now because of these changes

Thank you to WIN board member Barbara Thiessen, owner of **Barbara Thiessen Interiors, Inc**, who designed the WIN table.

Participants, staff and volunteers of WIN proudly gather around the WIN table. This is the third consecutive year WIN has participated in Holiday Tables. Participants enjoyed this social event and spent time perusing other table designs. Colorful and unique table themes gave participants ideas for decorating their own home. Lunch at the Olive Garden concluded the day.



WIN welcomes new partnership

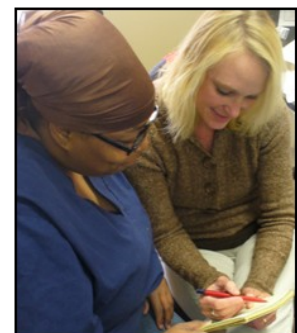


Cero's Candies will pair their flavored marshmallows with WIN's *Coco for Two* creating a special Christmas gift ready for upcoming office parties or a last minute stocking stuffer. Sold in a special Christmas mug, your purchase will help pay wages to the WIN participants and support a local, small business. Cero's is located at 1108 E. Douglas in Wichita.

Welcome Sheri Lewis

Sheri Lewis joined WIN in September as part of her practicum for the WSU Masters' Social Work Program. She spends 16 hours per week providing some case management for the WIN participants. Sheri also leads group and helps transport women to appointments.

"I chose WIN as my practicum because I'm interested in helping survivors of domestic abuse. It's inspiring to see how strong, resourceful and resilient these women are and how the WIN program guides and helps survivors reach lifetime goals."



WIN Participant Speaks at United Way Luncheon

Graduating from WIN in 2006 set Alicia on a path of success one small step at a time. First she worked for three franchise salons in Wichita. She gained experience and built a clientele. But her most exciting goal was achieved in 2009 when she began her own business, *Eden Salon*. Over the years, WIN has called upon Alicia to tell her story of survival as a victim of domestic violence. Alicia was asked to be one of two speakers at the United Way Victory Luncheon. To hear Alicia's speech go to

www.win@wichitawin.org

If you want to make a appointment with Alicia at her salon, you can reach her at 806-8126.

Mention this story and a portion of your service will be donated to WIN. Just one more way Alicia shares what she has received.



(new director cont.) independent and self-sufficient. I plan on building the quality of the WIN program by focusing on the goals of increasing employment skills and reaching educational goals. Our program is unique and fills a much needed gap for survivors of domestic abuse. I am committed to providing a quality program that assists the participants in healing and transitioning to financial and emotional independence.

I am very excited about the opportunity to be a part of WIN and help grow the program. As Executive Director, I plan on doing all I can to increase WIN's presence in the community. During the month of October, WIN was featured in a story relating to domestic violence on the Channel 12 news at 6:00pm and an "Upklose" segment of Cindy Klose's 4:00pm news. After delivering a powerful testimonial at our United Way presentation, one of our former participants, and now part-time employee, was invited to speak at the United Way's Victory Lunch on November 17th

I have had several speaking engagements and am looking forward to the opportunity to speak to many more groups in the Wichita area. Our Facebook page is gaining more "likes" everyday! So, stop by to say hi and shop in our store anytime! We're always happy to see you.

Karen Schmidt LMSW, LAC
Executive Director

Save the Date

February 21, 2012 'Divas on a Dime'
Fundraiser for WIN
Evening Social Hour and Fashion Show





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

15th Anniversary

In 2012, WIN will celebrate our 15th anniversary of making a difference in the lives of more than 130 women and 248 children. Check our website win@wichitawin.org for more activities.



Funded Partner



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Program Manager/Advocate
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