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## It's Our Birthday!

Womenade: Sisters of Servanthood was founded in February of 2006. This month we are celebrating our 4<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Thank you to all of our faithful supporters. We are looking forward to many more years of bridging the gap for women in crisis in Wake County – with your help, of course.

# Womenade Sisters of Servanthood Quarterly News

## 2009: Year in Review

In a year of severe economic upheaval, we are fortunate to count the growth of our organization among our blessings. During the 2009 calendar year, Womenade was able to serve 16 women in crisis situations.

We are thankful for the generosity of all of our supporters and volunteers and for the faith you have all shown in your continuing involvement with Womenade, especially during these hard times. Even as the number of referrals we processed increased and the donations necessary to fully support each of these women increased as well, no one was turned away due to lack of funding. Together we were able to help the following women and their families.

A young woman who was abandoned by her husband and is working part-time and caring for two small children who both have medical disabilities was assisted with a gift card for groceries and household essentials.

A young woman recently released from prison was assisted with payment for her medications.

A woman who recently left a domestic abuse situation was assisted with a gift card to cover some clothing, groceries and household essentials.

A woman with six children who was injured in an auto accident and temporarily unable to work was assisted with her rent payment.

A woman who lost her home was assisted with one night's hotel stay while waiting for housing assistance from another agency.

A homeless woman with children who was staying with a relative was assisted with a gas card to provide a means for her to travel to job interviews while looking for work.

A single mother of four in the process of looking for a job when her car broke down was assisted with the cost of car repairs in order to get to job interviews.

A woman who lost her job and had significant medical expenses was assisted with a car payment.

A stay-at-home-mom whose husband was badly injured in a car accident was assisted in covering one month's rent.

**(Continued on p. 2 – REVIEW)**

# Holiday Fair a Success



Womenade's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Fair was held at Interact's new facility in Raleigh on Saturday, November 14, 2009. Despite the economic uncertainty, we were able to raise \$1,800 for local women in crisis, \$500 of which was donated to Interact to be put toward their client emergency fund for domestic abuse victims.

The Board would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave of their time to make this event a success. Pictured at the left are the Leaders Club of the Cary YMCA, under the direction of Hannah Waite, and longtime Womenade supporters Joe Ryan, Jeanne deWard and Earl Barber, showing off their Womenade logo t-shirts.



## REVIEW – continued from p. 1

A woman who lost a partial source of income and is supporting extended family was assisted with the payment of a utility bill.

A woman temporarily living in a hotel and out of work while recovering from surgery was assisted with a grocery gift card.

A woman out of work while receiving treatment for breast cancer, and who had recently lost both her home and her car, was assisted with payment toward temporary shelter.

A woman, her several children, and some extended family members, who were forced to move due to bad living conditions, were assisted with securing beds for a new residence.

A woman living out of her van was assisted with a van payment and repairs in order to avoid repossession.

A woman out of work and forced to move due to bad living conditions was assisted with a utility deposit to set up an account in a new residence.

A woman temporarily out of work and recently released from the hospital was assisted with payment for medications.

A \$500 donation was made to Interact's Women's Shelter in Raleigh to be put toward their client emergency fund, assisting women who are victims of domestic abuse.

## Womenade on the Web

One of our goals for 2010 is to better provide you with more up-to-date information about what is going on at Womenade.

In addition to this Quarterly Newsletter, our web site is now a good source of current information. Look for upcoming events, future fundraising campaigns and new volunteer opportunities, as well as information on our policies.

The referral form is now deliverable by e-mail as well. It can be accessed and filled out online and e-mailed directly to us to expedite the process of applying for assistance. Please note that we are holding to our policy that a referral form must be completed before any request can be reviewed. See our complete list of eligibility policies on the form itself at [www.womenadesos.org](http://www.womenadesos.org).

# How You Can Help Womenade

## 1. **Attend an event**

See our calendar and homepage for more information on upcoming events and check your inbox for event announcements in between issues of our quarterly newsletter.

## 2. **Volunteer to help with our next event**

We can always use some help with advertising, organizing and carrying out our events. Please contact us if you are interested in putting your skills to work at a specific event. Watch our calendar, homepage and your inbox for details of upcoming events.

## 3. **Make a donation**

We will soon be able to accept donations directly through our web site through PayPal. In the meantime, checks can be mailed to us at Womenade Sisters of Servanthood, P.O. Box 1394, Cary, NC 27512.

## 4. **Host a Party with Purpose**

This is an easy Giving Circle-like way for you to raise funds for Womenade on your own time with your own friends. See details on page 3 of this newsletter.

## 5. **Introduce Womenade to your church group, women's group or mom's club**

Are you involved in a group in your church or community that is looking for a community service project to get involved with? Please contact us to receive an informational packet to share with your group to see if we might be a good fit.

## 6. **Purchase a Womenade t-shirt or pin**

Womenade t-shirts can be purchased for \$20 plus shipping. Choose between light green and lavender shirts printed with the Womenade SOS logo. There are limited sizes currently in stock. Pins cost \$18 plus shipping and gold- or silver-plated. Orders can be placed through the form on the contact us page or by contacting a board member. Once you receive confirmation that your order has been received and a total has been given to you, checks should be mailed to Womenade Sisters of Servanthood, P.O. Box 1394, Cary, NC 27512. Orders will be processed as quickly as possible.

## 7. **Help us to operate overhead-free**

If you would like to make a donation of any of the following items from our Wish List, please contact us to make arrangements.

### Womenade's Wish List

- Postage Stamps
- Copier Paper
- Printer Ink
- Envelopes
- Postcard Paper

## 8. **Sell your unwanted items online or at a yard sale and donate the proceeds to Womenade**

Did you make a resolution to de-clutter this year? Now you can turn your discarded items into a meaningful charitable gift. As the weather warms up, there's no better time to get started.

## 9. **Shop with IGive.com and set Womenade as your charity of choice**

## 10. **Spread the word**

Forward our newsletter, e-mail your friends our web address, or volunteer to post signs to advertise events or hand out our brochures at one of your group's events.

## Why Womenade Needs You Now More Than Ever

Approximately 1,152 people are homeless on any given night in Wake County, 181 of these people are children. 1 in every 496 housing units in Wake County received a foreclosure filing in December 2009.

2009 brought us record unemployment rates, upwards of 11% in North Carolina over the summer.

Wake County is the fastest growing county in North Carolina and the eleventh fastest growing in the United States. Wake County is expected to top one million residents in 2016.

## Upcoming Events

Please continue to check your e-mail inbox and keep your eye on our Web site for announcements about our upcoming events. We are in the process of planning our first Breakfast of the year for early March and our annual Charity Yard Sale will take place once again in mid-May.

If you are interested in hosting a small breakfast gathering in your home this year, the Board would like to hear from you. We would assist in the planning, procuring of donated food items, and would provide a speaker for the event. This is a great opportunity to spread Womenade's message to your friends and neighbors.

And as you complete those New Year's Resolutions to declutter and get that Spring cleaning underway, be sure to set aside your donations for the Charity Yard Sale. The sale will take place on Frolich Drive in Cary. Drop off times and place will be announced soon.

"The best service we can do for the needy and the unfortunate is to help them in such manner that their self-respect, their ability to help themselves, shall not be injured but augmented." -- Calvin Coolidge

## Womenade Survey

Do you have an idea you would like to share with the Board of Womenade? We would love to hear from you.

Was there an event you attended that you would like to see repeated?

Do you have a suggestion for a new event, fundraiser or speaker to present at one of our upcoming breakfasts?

Do you know of a conference, fair or other event that you think would be perfect for Womenade to attend or present at?

Do you know of another local organization that would be interested in partnering with Womenade in the future?

Would you be willing to submit a testimonial about Womenade in print or for our future video presentation?

Please contact a Board member or e-mail us through the Contact Us form on our web site at [www.womenadesos.org](http://www.womenadesos.org).

## New in 2010: Back to the Basics

After revisiting our mission statement and reviewing the practices that helped Womenade to grow in its early stages, the Board has decided to go back to the basics this year and focus on grassroots growth rather than big event planning.

This means you will likely see more frequent intimate gatherings focusing on fellowship and education and less of the larger events, specifically the Holiday Fair. See below for some ideas of how we plan to move forward, reenergizing our purpose and still supporting our community in the process.

### Party with Purpose

Need an excuse to plan a gathering of friends? Why not throw a Party with Purpose? You provide the food, friends and fun and we supply an informational packet for you to share with your guests. Whether you charge an admission or ask all in attendance to make a donation, all funds raised for Womenade will go directly to assisting local women in crisis. It's an easy way to support your community while celebrating with friends. Contact us for more information.

### Women in Business

Womenade is already known for providing aid for women in crisis. This year we are also making it a priority to support local women in business who are working hard to help themselves. For the last two years we have organized an annual Holiday Fair. This year, we are going to try something different. We are planning to feature one business at each of our breakfast events all year. This opportunity will allow a local woman in business to speak about her business and showcase her work for purchase in return for a donated item to auction off at the event. Details are in the works. Interested? Contact us to get involved.

## Amazing Women Campaign

Look for more details in the near future on the launch of Womenade's newest fundraising campaign. Just in time for Mother's Day, we will be taking donations in honor of the amazing women in your life. When you participate with a donation of \$20, the woman you are recognizing will receive a customized card with a special note affirming her role in your life, the listing of her name and the reason she is being honored in our newsletter and on our web site, and the knowledge that this recognition of her life is also helping us to improve the lives of more women. It makes a wonderful gift and is even easier than shopping for a card yourself!