



Women's Initiative

Members

Shelle Austin	Barbara Lucas
Kimberly Bailey	Betsy Marshall
Linda Ballou	Ann McArdle*
Liza Battaglia	Trish McConnell
Deborah Beacham	Diane McFarlin
Renee Brady	Deborah Miller
Marjorie Broughton*	Anne Nethercott
Dorothy Carlin	Sheryl Nessel
Grace Carlson	Judy Newdom
Karen Chapman	Kelly O'Brien
Jan Chester	Melissa O'Buch
Carolyn Collins	Nancy Ostrander
Tami Conetta*	Joan Kemeny Paru
Patricia Courtois*	Janice Perry
Brenda Davis	Alice Rau
Debra Douglas*	Tavis Resnick
Paula Dumas	Jane Ritter
Shaun Dumas	Andrea Rogers
Nance Enoch	Karen Rushing
Juliet Fechheimer	Karen Russell
Carol Fisher	Laura Sabo
Roxanne Foley	Joan Sands
Betty Franklin	Margaret Sanders
Dottie Baer Garner	Doratheia Sandland
Stacey Gillman	Betty Schoenbaum
Terri Groening*	Linda Seiden*
Kari Haggard	Barbara Siemer
Janet Hevey*	Eva Slane
Christine Holley	Monica Slater
Martha Honey	Denby Smothers
Kimberly Hopper	Susan Snyder
Catherine Hynes	Autumn Solomon
Kelly Jackson	Jennifer Spaan
Sue Jacobson	Anne Swain
Suzette Jones	Alice Tippet
Kristin Joyce	Virginia Toulmin
Catherine Knight	Barbara Vanek
Carolyn Kofler	Minerva Vasquez-
Claudia Leguizamon	Farmer
Jenny Lewis	Mary Wolf
Janice Litke	Marina Wolf-Schmidt
Barbara Lorry	Ruby Woodson
Leslie Loveless	

* = Leadership Council

Mission

To educate, inspire and recognize women from diverse backgrounds who are committed to strengthening our community with their leadership and informed, focused giving.



Educational Forum Facilitators

United Way Women's Initiative Presents

Women . . . Doing What Matters

Keys to Creating a Vibrant Future for You, Your Family and Your Community

The first *Women's Initiative* Educational Forum was held on Friday March 23rd. Focused on building personal skills and learning more about community needs, 62 attendees explored various topics, facilitated by community experts. Participants asked questions, shared experiences, and as one woman said, "Learned ways to be a more effective change agent".

Eight community leaders volunteered their time for United Way and presented the following topics in a conversation format: ***What impacts my physical health?*** (Linda Lemon Steiner, COO – Doctors Hospital of Sarasota); ***Am I a woman in transition?*** (Miriam Lacher, Clinical Supervisor - Bayside Center); ***How can I participate in non-profit governance?*** (Dr. Sandra Hughes - Hughes Consulting Group, Inc.); ***How can I help others adapt to change?*** (Trish McConnell, Director of Human Resources - Herald-Tribune Media Group); ***How can I promote Positive Youth Development?*** (Karen Bogues, Director - Community Youth Development); ***How can I understand my community better?*** (Suzanne Gregory, Associate Director – SCOPE); ***What options exist for my child after high school?*** (Janice Mee, Director of Suncoast Education Alliance - Suncoast Workforce Board); ***Why is Early Childhood Education important in my community?*** (Dr. Kathryn Stuckey, Program Manager, Early Childhood Education – Manatee Community College)

Dorothy Ridings, the keynote speaker, inspired and entertained by weaving stories, her experiences and knowledge into a warm and meaningful message for all. She is the former President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, immediate Past President of the Council on Foundations and past Publisher of the Bradenton Herald Tribune.

The event, proudly sponsored by Ruden McClosky, Janet Hevey, Body & Spirit and Monica Slater, P.A., provided great networking, knowledgeable women speakers, and resource information for the future. One participant said, "I learned about new community partnerships that I can bring to my business, and I made personal connections to pursue volunteer opportunities."

Message from the Chair



Save the Dates

"While You Were Out" Temple Shiloh Childcare Center

1050 Atwater Drive
North Port, 34288
(941) 429-0280
April 21, 2007
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Registration – 9:30 am

**Women's Initiative
Recognition Celebration**
May 2007
Location: TBA
Look for more information to
come

United Way of Sarasota County, Inc.
1445 2nd Street
Sarasota, FL 34236

Phone:
(941) 366-2686

Fax:
(941) 365-4368

E-Mail:
katiek@uwsrq.com

Dear Women's Initiative Members:

On Saturday, February 10th, over 30 volunteers from the United Way *Women's Initiative* participated in the "While You Were Out" makeover project at the Love and Laugh Fun Care Center. The "While You Were Out" project was chosen as the members' focus for 2006/2007, based on the popular TV show.

Research indicates the appearance of a childcare setting has a huge impact on the quality of care and creates a ripple effect on teacher morale and the excitement of children and their parents. New rugs, fresh coats of paint, flooring, child-size book shelves, pictures and accessories such as pillows, lamps, and plants made the center appear homey, warm, and inviting.

From 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., volunteers helped to paint the classrooms, doors and trim, assembled new furniture, planted new flowers and plants, and reorganized and refurbished the entire center. Love and Laugh teachers, parents and children returned to their classrooms after the weekend and were surprised by the makeover.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the first of two childcare center makeovers a huge success. Now I invite you to participate in the second makeover at the Temple Shiloh Childcare Center in North Port. Please contact either Katie Knight or Shelle Austin at United Way of Sarasota County if you are interested in participating in this "feel good" event.

Also, I want to thank the Knowledge Building Committee who did a great job organizing the 1st Annual Women's Initiative Educational Forum. The Educational Forum is one of our key events and addresses our mission to educate women about the needs in our community and how each of us is empowered to take action and do what matters.

The Women's Initiative works because each of you brings your unique contributions of your time, talent and resources to help make a difference. I thank you for your ongoing and generous support.

Sincerely,

Tami Conetta
Chair



"While You Were Out"
Love and Laugh Childcare Center Makeover Project Volunteers

Come Lend a Hand

"While You Were Out"
Makeover Project
Temple Shiloh Childcare Center
1050 Atwater Drive, North Port 34288
941-429-0280
April 21, 2007
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

To volunteer, please contact Katie Knight or Shelle Austin at 366-2686