



# Charlotte's vision



women of vision

Women of Vision Charlotte Chapter [www.wovcharlotte.org](http://www.wovcharlotte.org)

Summer 2010

## God is Calling, Will You Answer?

Over 390 partners and guests attended the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Vision Charlotte Fundraiser at Quail Hollow Club on February 25. The ballroom was transformed into an environment that was clearly filled with the love and compassion that is so prominent among the women in our partnership.

Anne Dowd welcomed the guests and shared a little about the mission of Women of Vision. She closed by dedicating the evening to the Lord and introducing the Spirit of Excellence, from the Harvest Center, to sing "Amazing Grace."

After dinner, Deborah Harris introduced the guest speaker for the event. Board games, fine china, and disposable razors are seemingly unrelated products, but each of these was a brick in the path that led Rich Stearns to World Vision.



Rich opened by explaining the meaning of the title of his book, The Hole in Our Gospel. When there's a hole in the road, you fill it. When there's a hole in the wall, you repair it. When there's a hole in your jeans, you mend it. It is the same for the problems in our world. Rich encouraged us to look beyond the four walls of our churches in order to come together and reclaim the world for

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## **Women of Vision**, a volunteer

ministry of World Vision, is a partnership of Christian women who are called to invest their time, intellect, compassion, creativity and finances to meet the needs of impoverished and oppressed women and children. Founded in 1950 World Vision is an international Christian humanitarian organization serving the world's poorest children and families in nearly 100 countries, including the United States. As women who believe that God works through human hands and hearts, Women of Vision seeks to educate and motivate women of diverse ages, backgrounds, and circumstances to use their God-given resources to meet human needs in their own communities and around the world.

### **Mission Statement**

In the name of Christ, we are committed to making a significant difference through Him, by Him, in Him, in the lives of women and children in poverty in our community and in the world.

### **Vision Statement**

Being a Christ-Centered Women's organization working in partnership with each other and with the people we serve, we seek to make a difference in the lives of others as we grow in Christ.

### **Women of Vision Charlotte Goals**

- Deepen our commitment to Christ.
- Promote and increase awareness of World Vision and its international mission of relief and development, working with the poor in the name of Christ.
- Educate ourselves and others about the condition of women and children in poverty.
- Strengthen committed partnership within the organization working to increase diversity.
- Make a significant difference in the lives of women and children in poverty as we work together in partnership with World Vision internationally, Women of Vision nationally, each other locally, people we serve globally, and with all other organizations.

## **Upcoming Events**

- September 13** 9:15-11:00  
Speakers: Fall Retreat, S.H.A.P.E.  
Christ Church - **All Saints Hall**  
Rev. Jane Summey Mullennix  
Avondale Presbyterian Church  
Dr. Anita Schamber, Masterful Designs
- October 18** 9:15-11:00  
Speakers: Partnership Meeting, **All Saints Hall**  
Appalachia (bring a guest!!)  
Marilyn Shearer, Jennifer Morral, Carol Malcom-Parsons - WV Staff  
Donna Seaman and Sally Mazella
- 11:00-12:00  
Speaker "Lunch and Learn" First Purse  
Rev. Renee Bradford
- October 25-27** Philippi, WV Trip  
Winter Coat Drive Delivery
- November 9** 7:00-9:00pm  
Speaker: Evening event, **Duke Mansion**  
Bring a Guest!!!  
Manny O'honme - Samaritan's Feet
- November 2010** Local Advocacy Day
- December 13** 10am - 12pm  
Christmas Coffee - Home of Midge Barron  
Devotion: Jean Ford
- January 10** 9:15-11:00  
Speaker: Partnership Meeting, **All Saints Hall**  
Advocacy and International Projects  
Bob Zachritz-Director of  
Advocacy & Government WV  
(Bring a guest!!)  
11am-12pm "Lunch and Learn", Charlotte Urban  
Eagles, Mitch Sanford
- February 2010** Fundraiser, TBD
- March 7** 9:15-11:00  
Speaker: Partnership Meeting,  
Tour of Druid Hills Elem. School followed by meeting  
at the Harvest Center  
Beverly Newsome, Principal, Druid Hills Elementary  
School
- April 2011** Appalachia Spring Trip  
Guatemala Trip
- April 13** 11:30-1:00  
Speakers: Friendraiser, Charlotte Country Club  
Child Sponsorship  
Emmanuel Mutangana Former WV Sponsored  
Child from Rwanda, Sheri Lynch - Radio Talk Show  
Host
- May 9** 12:00pm  
Partnership Luncheon  
Home of Sarah Belk

# Friendraiser Charlotte Country Club April 21, 2010

Angela Mason was our guest speaker at the April meeting and kept us in stitches with her humor. She shared her story of coming to America. After many years in the states, Angela realized that some of her dreams had been forgotten. She had a beautiful, seemingly perfect, life. It was comfortable. All that changed after she watched a Barbara Walters program documenting the story of orphans in Romania. Angela said that she remembers being “horrified” by the program and has not been “normal” since. After watching the program, she knew what God was calling her to do for the rest of her life. Angela studied the Bible, prayed “listening” prayers to hear God’s direction, and researched to learn more about Romania.



The purpose of her first trip to Romania was to find one of the orphanages featured in the television program. These “death capsules” housed 300 small boys and girls. She described the sights and smells of these facilities. Angela remembers standing in the orphanage feeling completely helpless and cried out to God for guidance. God’s answer was, “You are a mother. Start where you start; hold them, bathe them, love on them, and when you go home, shout as loud as you can to get people involved.”

Upon returning home, thousands of people stepped up to be a part of the work in Romania. Angela

said that, initially, her newfound calling was about what **she** could do. After that first trip to Romania, it became about what the **community** could do.

Angela’s passion and contagious enthusiasm were felt throughout the room. She closed by saying, “God calls us to participate in His work. He promises plans ‘to give us hope and a future.’” We have the outstanding opportunity to share that future with those in need.

## Spiritual Nurture and Prayer

The focus of Women of Vision Charlotte is spirituality, education, and partnership. Our spirituality is the tie that binds us as partners in fellowship. It is the “prayer before our plans and programs” and our “worship before our work.” Everything in Women of Vision starts and ends with prayer, it is our fellowship with Christ.

The Spiritual Nurture and Prayer Team is open to all partners, the only requirement is to attend at least one gathering. We meet for an hour the week before our monthly partnership meeting or event. It is a time for us to gather before the Lord and pray aloud if you feel led. We pray for every detail of our event, for each other and all shared requests are kept private. If you would like to join together with like-minded friends for a sweet, holy time of conversation with our Lord, please join us on the following dates:

Tuesday, September 7	3:00 – 4:00
Monday, October 11	11:00 – 12:00
Monday, November 8	11:00 – 12:00
Monday, December 6	11:00 – 12:00

All meetings will be held at the home of Jean Ford. Jean lives in Morrocroft, off Govenor’s Row and Sharon Road, at 4029 Doves Roost Court, Charlotte, NC 28211.

## Cross Cultural Study

We are blessed to have 31 women signed up to participate in the 2010 Cross Cultural Study. The study will kick off in September at the annual retreat and continue weekly until the end of November. We will be delving into the newly-written study by Rene Stearns and Cindy Brielh. The first book, "Hope in a World of Hurt," looks at the Biblical call for Christians to respond to the needs in the world. The second book, "Communities Transformed with Change that Lasts", examines the root causes of poverty and the transformational development that builds hope and lasting change. Our study will last a total of 11 sessions, two will be General Partnership meetings.

If you have a friend signed up for the study, please call and offer to meet or drive together to the retreat in September. We want everyone to feel welcome at this first gathering.

The following is a list of those currently signed up:

Cari Berger	Louise MacVaugh
Renee Bradford	Annie Melton
Marcy Coker	Renee Moore
Lisa Compton	Meg Moore
Debra Cordell	Jane Morgan
Ashley Craz	Charla Muller
Mary Katherine Cuthbertson	Marsha Newton-Graham
Cathy Dawson	Gloria Olsen
Allene Dean	Lynn Pearce
Fonda Doerre	Mary Scott Peterson
Michlene Daoud Healy	Caroline Simas
Beth Heeseman	Tracy Stouse
Janet Isola Johnson	Priscilla Walters
Kay Jones	Lisa Warren
Angela Kleitches	Nan Williams
Bennett Lancaster	

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## Passing of the Globe

The Annual WOV May Luncheon is always a special celebration for our Partnership. This year's event on May 10th was held at the beautiful and welcoming home of Kim Belk. A garden setting on a perfect spring day set the tone of thanksgiving as founding partner Frannie Martin asked a blessing on our partnership and gave thanks for the incredible year we have had.

Treasurer Gloria Johnson recognized the work of her co-chair Susan Rankin and outgoing Co-Chairs Posey Mealy and Anne Dowd thanked the partnership for their service during the past year and reminded everyone that we were a called community and as we prove faithful to the Lord and to His calling we will "shine like jewels in a crown across His land" as we serve His people in need.

Deborah Harris commissioned the WOV partners who will be traveling to Appalachia this summer as counselors for Camp Appalachia. She charged each woman to put "feet to their faith" as the very hands and feet of Christ on earth. It was a truly special and meaningful 'send off' for the trip team.

The "Passing of the Globe" followed. This ceremony signifies the annual changing of Leadership for our WOV Partnership. Posey and Anne presented the globe to incoming chairs Catherine Collins and Jan Stubblefield who then thanked the Partnership and outgoing Leadership.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch in the garden and shared a time of fellowship and reflection.

## Women of Vision Charlotte Trip to Ethiopia January 29—February 10

In February, Cindy Breilh, WOV National Director, and the WOV Charlotte team of Jennifer Lamarre, Nicki Bryant, Susan Goode, Teri Hart, Pam Pillmore, Pam Dennis and Susan Rankin traveled for 14 days through Ethiopia, Africa.

We visited the projects that WOV Charlotte invested in and toured the country as well. We made a trip to the Rural Water Project, the Boset ADP, and visited with the Microfinance recipients, as well as the sponsor children at the Sifa Rasa School.

The highlight of our trip was the Hamlin Fistula Hospital. From the lush beautiful grounds, to the starched uniformed nurses standing in a receiving line to greet us, this was a special and wonderful place. I wrote in my travel journal at the time, "It feels like we have landed in an oasis, touched by God." Addis Ababa is a sooty bustling city, and right in the middle of town is the Fistula Hospital.

Dr. Hamlin and her brilliant staff gave us a tour and shared story after story of the lives changed through obstetric fistula surgery. We met one patient who came to the hospital weighing 22kg (49 lbs) after her in-laws stopped feeding her. After giving birth at fifteen, a fistula caused her to be incontinent and the family no longer wanted her around. She was just one of the many patients who would smile shyly at us through a multi-colored, hand-woven blanket in a hospital bed.

All the employees seemed happy and in the right place, possessing a sense of calmness and joyful purpose. The hospital recently established a midwifery school, the Hamlin College of Midwives. We toured the school with the dean of the college, Annette Bennett. The school's goal is to provide a long-term prevention solution to the poor quality of women's healthcare in Ethiopia. The midwifery college started with a

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# What's Happening at The Harvest Center...

## The Harvest Center Achievers go to Atlanta!

The Harvest Center Achievers class is a literacy, math and life skills class for adults. And like many students, they love to take field trips! We have been to both Discovery Place and the Nature Museum. With each trip, the students not only learn, but also grow in their relationships with volunteers and one another. Women of Vision partners form a majority of the teachers for the Achievers class, and the students on these field trips have transformed our lives. The bonding time together is very special and these students feel like our second family. Conversations that would not normally take place in our weekly classes become the norm as students open up about their situations, their goals, and their dreams. The field trips are a remarkable time for all involved.



Many of the students are fascinated with marine life, so the teachers decided that a trip to visit the Georgia Aquarium would be next on their list. This was no small undertaking, as a trip to Atlanta would require an overnight stay, and the number of students grows each week. Sister Rosa Marion, Ministry Director for the Harvest Center, decided that the students could host a car wash to help fund the trip. Plans were made to host not one, but three different car washes. Women of Vision partners, volunteers and students worked together to provide an impressive detailing and car wash service on three separate occasions. We felt like we created our own Auto Bell franchise! The car washes netted approximately \$1,300 to go towards the Atlanta field trip. The students were so proud that they were able to contribute to the fundraising. The responsibility of helping with the car wash made the trip even better for each of them. Then, thanks to kind donors, we received free tickets to both the Atlanta Aquarium and the World of Coke. Because of the fundraising efforts, generous donations, and only \$700 from our Harvest Center Education fund, we were able to take 22 people (16 students, 4 teachers – all WOV partners, and 2 staff) to Atlanta!

The road trip was truly amazing for all involved. Before departing, we gathered in a prayer circle outside the Harvest Center and Pastor Blease Turner prayed for our trip. What a perfect way to begin our journey! We then loaded up our caravan of 4 vehicles and left Charlotte early Thursday morning in April. On

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the drive, the women shared stories about the Harvest Center's history, while the men sang gospel music. We all laughed incessantly. We went straight to the Aquarium once we arrived. The Georgia Aquarium is the largest aquarium in the world. From whale sharks and manta rays, to African penguins and albino American alligators, there were animals to see and touch in every exhibit. The students were blown away by the scale and scope, and they learned so much about life under water.

Next, we walked to the World of Coke, a museum dedicated to the history of Coca-Cola around the world. Students watched a movie about Coke's history, learned about the production and bottling of Coke products, and visited the tasting room to try over 60 different products that Coca-Cola offers around the globe (that was the best part). They gained an international perspective as they saw the breadth of Coke's influence in various countries.

That evening, after dinner, one of the students shared his testimony. Dana was new to the Harvest Center and said "No one has ever done anything this nice for me. I can't imagine getting a chance to come to Atlanta, and you all asked me without even knowing me. I can never thank you enough!" Dana joined our field trip at the last minute (literally 15 minutes before we left) when another student was unable to go. Now, mind you, his testimonial took place in the parking lot of Ryan's Steakhouse on Buford Highway in Atlanta. Imagine seeing a somewhat unusual group, with many ages and colors represented, standing together in the parking lot, holding hands, and cheering on our new friend as he shared his story. After Dana spoke, we all broke into a rendition of "Let Go and Let God have His Way". I cannot tell you how much fun we had! Certainly, God was in the midst of our gathering, and love was all around.

The next morning, we visited the Martin Luther King Junior Museum, birthplace, and memorial. What a treat it was for the students to actually walk the birthplace of their greatest hero! We watched movies about his childhood and walked the streets where he used to preach at the original Ebenezer Church. The students have a passion for black history, and this was a highlight for all.

Finally, we bought t-shirts for everyone and stopped for lunch at the Varsity (you can't visit Atlanta without eating at the Varsity!). After a good, albeit greasy meal, we loaded up our caravan once again and headed back to Charlotte.

The trip was fun, exciting, hysterical, moving, and exhausting, all at once. The energy and excitement were contagious, and everywhere we went we had strangers asking about our special group. The men and women were appreciative of the teachers for planning the trip and showing them sights that they might never have been able to see otherwise. Now, they keep asking when we can plan another trip! What the students may never fully realize is that the trip was more meaningful to us, the teachers, than they could ever imagine. Taking a road trip with our second family... sharing meals and stories about life and faith... laughing and getting to know one another



on a whole new level... hearing their fears and dreams... was a treasure that we, the Women of Vision partners, will always remember. *Now... where are we going next??*

## Harvest Center Fashion Show

The Harvest Center hosted a Fashion Show on May 6th as a way to say “thank you” to all of the outstanding volunteers. Thomas Davis, linebacker for the Carolina Panthers, and Kendall Phills, a local celebrity and Harvest Center supporter, emceed the event. Over 150 people attended the event. Harvest Center residents walked the runway, and the emcees shared each model’s story. Belk Store Services provided the clothing. Hair and make-up was provided, free-of-charge, by professionals. The models all looked incredible! The transformation of their outward appearance through new clothes, hair, and make-up was a symbol of the inner transformation of their hearts and lives through faith in Christ. It was a blessed event!



## Bridal Shower at the Harvest Center

Phyllis and Anthony were married at the Harvest Center on Sunday, February 14th, 2010. Yes, Valentine's Day! For those who were homeless and had a history of addiction, the ultimate sign of growth and self-sufficiency is often found in the age-old institution of marriage. When individuals are strong enough to support themselves and share their life with another, it is a true testament to their strength to overcome many of life’s obstacles.



God has a way of bringing people together, especially at the Harvest Center. Phyllis and Anthony have been at the center for years. Phyllis, as you may remember, spoke at one of our partnership meetings last year. Thanks to funds provided specifically for education by WOV Charlotte, she is in school at Central Piedmont Community College and hopes to get her degree in Office Technology next spring.

The wedding was a glorious celebration of their love and all they have accomplished. Because of the support from the Harvest Center, Phyllis and Anthony moved into a home of their own shortly after the wedding. Over 15 WOV partners came together to throw a bridal shower for the couple. We met at the couple's home and blessed it with prayer. The gifts from our partners include: a new washer and dryer, kitchen and bath items, and gently used furniture. Phyllis and Anthony were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of our WOV partners.

This amazing couple is striving to discover God's plan for their lives. They are growing in their faith, attending church, going to school, and working. After the shower, Anthony expressed his desire to have the WOV ladies to their home for dinner as a way of saying thank you!

It is a thrill to see Phyllis and Anthony work to achieve their dreams. Thank you to all of our partners who made the shower for the couple a success. It was unforgettable!

## Druid Hills Elementary Our Local ADP!

We had no idea that God would call us to Druid Hills when our journey began over a year ago!! Our task force, comprised of 8 women, set out to find a project that met the criteria of World Vision and WOV, as well as take into account our partnership's desire to serve those in need. We kept Bob Pierce's charge in mind, "to let our hearts be broken by the things that break the heart of God". This has been an incredible experience as we developed new friendships.

We are thrilled to be partnering with Druid Hills and have the full support of their principal, Beverly Newsome and the Communities in School Site Coordinator, Joseph Allen. Mrs. Newsome was hand picked by Dr. Peter Gorman to be placed in the school in February 2009, due to her ability to take on a school with a 95% poverty level. Mr. Allen will also be an invaluable partner because of his deep commitment to the children he serves. The experience has been incredibly rewarding, and at times, heart breaking.

Druid Hills is a beautiful school, located in north Charlotte off of Graham Street, and boasts a beautifully renovated building. It is warm and inviting, and the children are precious. There are so many opportunities to serve; we know that we are exactly where God is calling us to be.

We asked Mrs. Newsome to submit a list of critical volunteer needs and priorities at Druid Hills. As you can imagine, the list was lengthy. The school does not have a Parent's Association or regular volunteers. We looked at the list, as well as our partnership's desires, and came up with three areas of service to begin. We want to offer weekly, monthly and one-time volunteer opportunities that allow partners to work both directly and indirectly with the children.

The first area of service is Grade Level Moms for JK-5<sup>th</sup> grade, which we hope to expand to include Classroom Moms as well. The idea is to serve as a mentor to the parent of a student in the class. This mentor would help plan parties and celebrate birth

days, as well as offer support to the teacher as needed. The second area of service is providing a simple snack in the faculty lounge once a month to show appreciation for the teachers. The third area will allow partners to have a reading or lunch buddy to provide an opportunity for one-on-one mentoring. The students are looking for attention and guidance. The time commitment could range from two times a month to once a week. We also hope to have annual events, such as book drives or grounds beautification days, to allow the families of partners an opportunity to serve as well!

This will be an exciting year for WOV Charlotte as we embark on this incredible journey together! We will talk more about Druid Hills at our September 13<sup>th</sup> Partnership Retreat. You will also have the opportunity to meet Beverly Newsome and Joseph Allen. We hope you will join us, in partnership with Druid Hills, to serve in our very own Charlotte ADP.

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Christ. We are called to be Jesus' hands and feet on Earth, which requires us to go out and do work. It's time for us to fill the hole in our spiritual lives and embrace the **whole** gospel of loving God and loving our neighbors.

Rich also talked about the profound impact that World Vision had while working in Haiti. Because of the existing relationship in the country, World Vision was equipped with people on-site to lend a hand after the devastating earthquake.

The evening was a success in more ways than one. All the proceeds raised from the event went towards our Women of Vision Charlotte programs including: Boset (Ethiopia), Afghanistan, Guatemala, Philippi (West Virginia), Harvest Center Ministries, and World Vision's work to rebuild Haiti.

It is important to remember our call to serve throughout the year. How will you respond to what is going on in our world? How can the world see Jesus in you?

**“Every Woman Has a Story”**  
**Women of Vision National Conference and Lobby Day**  
**March 7-10, 2010**

Hosted by: World Vision and Women of Vision

Thank you to those of you who participated in our recent conference **“Every Woman has a Story”**. We learned alongside like-minded women who care about making this world a better place for women and children. We were inspired by the stories of courageous women, then put our knowledge into action on Capitol Hill as part of a World Vision/Women of Vision Lobby Day. We left the conference with information and skills equipping us to educate and advocate in our own communities. And we joined a growing movement of women passionate about supporting and empowering women and girls worldwide.

On March 9th, we advocated for two pieces of legislation at our Women of Vision Lobby Day in DC. You can track the progress of these bills at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

**Child and Mother Survival Legislation:**

**H.R.1410 : “The Newborn, Child and Mother Survival Act”**

**S.1966: “The Global Child Survival Act”**

**Child Trafficking Legislation:**

**H.R.2737: “The Child Protection Compact Act”**

**S.3184: “The Child Protection Compact Act”**



**CONGRATULATIONS!!!** Thank you for your successful efforts during the WOV Lobby Day. Not only did you greatly encourage the World Vision Government Relations team, but you were tremendously effective during the direct advocacy day on March 9 in Washington, DC. ***After 9 months of the World Vision Government Relations team pushing Senate to introduce this legislation, the Child Protection Compact Act was finally introduced on Friday, March 26 - nine days after the Senate encountered Women of Vision.***

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class of twelve in 2007. Their goal is to matriculate sixty women annually. Charlotte Women of Vision has made a financial commitment to train five midwives next year.

Our trip started off on a high note of the Fistula hospital, and the positive emotions continued as we toured Northern Ethiopia, the Boset ADP, the Sifa School, and visited with our sponsored children. We have a team photo journal on Shutterfly. Please email [jennlamarre@mac.com](mailto:jennlamarre@mac.com) for more information.

# Appalachia Spring Trip

April 27-29

West Virginia has more poverty than any other state in the United States. Barbour County, where World Vision is located, is West Virginia's poorest county. Industries that produced quality jobs in the area are gone.

World Vision is strategically located to lend a "hand up" and not a "handout" to those in great need, and bring the message that our Lord means for all of us to lead a full and abundant life.

WOV Charlotte is thankful to be a part of this work. We seek to develop relationships with the people of the area through our visits and summer camp. We want to show that we care by meeting the area's needs and offering friendship and encouragement.



On April 27-29, a team of nine of our partners took a mission trip to Philippi, WV. Three women from WOV Pittsburgh joined us. Five carloads of clothes leftover from the Myers Park Presbyterian Church Rummage Sale were delivered to World Vision's Storehouse. We threw a party for the children in KidREACH, World Vision's free after-school academic mentoring program for at-risk children. Each child in KidREACH was allowed to select a book, donated by our partners to the program, to take home.

In West Virginia's low-income neighborhoods, there is one age-appropriate book for every 300 children. No, that number is not a typo. Thank you for donating books to put in the hands of these dear children.

Our partners also hosted a pizza party for twenty-two girls who attend the summer camp and nineteen of their moms. We were delighted with such a good turn out. All of the guests were entertained with crafts and games. The participation was a direct result of the trust and relationships we have built with the people. We feel blessed to witness the growth of these relationships.



Summer camp will take place in July. Our fall trip to Philippi, to deliver new coats to KidREACH children, will be October 25-27. WOV Pittsburgh will host a Christmas party for KidREACH and present each child with a gift-filled Christmas stocking. We are so happy to share the work in Appalachia with the women from Pittsburgh.

## **“I wanna see, wanna see, wanna see... Jesus!”**

A team of twenty six Women of Vision Charlotte Camp Counselors, accompanied by six daughters that acted as Junior Counselors, swayed and clapped to the upbeat tune as the young Camp girls presented a rousing performance of “I want to See Jesus” to an appreciative gathering of family and friends on the last night of Camp Appalachia 2010.

2010 marked the 5th year that WOV Charlotte, in partnership with World Vision Appalachia, has taken the good news of Jesus Christ, in the format of a fun filled Christian day camp, to the young girls of Philippi, West Virginia. Fun comes in the form of crafts, skits, music and singing, cooking, Zumba exercise, and games that stress teamwork.

As one first-time WOV counselor said, “I wanted to feel what the long time counselors felt. I longed and prayed to connect with the girls in a deeper and more profound way. Our time at camp brought me to my knees and broke my heart. I was overwhelmed.” This time at camp is a reminder that we have the opportunity to plant seeds of hope and love in the lives of these young girls.



This year’s theme, “Running the Good Race for the Everlasting Crown”, encouraged the girls to get in the race, to run with perseverance and to praise the Lord for His everlasting love. A highlight was to discover the special gift that God has given each of us and to use it to His glory. The Thursday morning session ended in a “crowning ceremony.” Campers, along with their WOV buddy counselor, placed a star at the foot of the cross. On each star was the spiritual gift that the child felt was uniquely hers. We closed with a moving and significant testimony by Cydne Watterson.



As we sat together, my mind could not help but turn to a prayer of St. Theresa: “May today there be peace within... May you trust your highest power that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing that you are a child of God. Let His presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to sing and dance. It is there for each and every one of us.”

Come to Camp Appalachia and live out this prayer. Every sentence is reflected in the eyes of one of God’s most cherished gifts to us, the beautiful young girls of Appalachia.

# CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Child Sponsorship is the “heartbeat” on which World Vision was built, and we have had a busy year! Colleen Ludington and Betsy Liles visited the Cross Cultural class twice to speak about Child Sponsorship. Approximately 15 children were sponsored as a result of those visits.

Over the Christmas holiday, we hosted a Child Sponsorship Social at Colleen’s beautiful home. It was a wonderful way for our partners to get together in a warm setting with a small group. The social was well received and we hope to sponsor two events this year, one over Christmas and hopefully one in February near Valentine’s Day. We are looking for a centrally located spot to have our socials. If you are interested in hosting at your home, please let Betsy Liles or Missy Roper know.

We finished our year at the Friendraiser. After hearing Angela Mason and Colleen Ludington speak, many were moved to sponsor a child, either for the first time or to sponsor an additional child. We sponsored approximately 40 that day, a new record!

The Child Sponsorship Committee would like to sponsor 100 children by the end of this year. We are over halfway there but need your help to meet our goal. If you are involved in other organizations, please consider having a member of our committee come to speak. The majority of our members already sponsor a child. Sharing our own stories and experiences is a great way to spread the word.

Some possibilities for outside organization involvement are:

- ❖ Book Club
- ❖ Bible Study
- ❖ Garden Club
- ❖ Neighborhood Association
- ❖ Dinner Club
- ❖ Sunday School Class

Please contact Betsy Liles or Missy Roper if you would like us to visit an upcoming meeting for your group.

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## **Kids Against Hunger Food Packaging Event Immokalee, FL.**

Over 300 children, teens, and adults donned hairnets over spring break to care for families struggling in Immokalee, Florida. Last December, freezing temperatures left 14,000 Haitian, Mexican, and Guatemalan migrant workers stranded, and out of work, for four months. Most of these families had few resources to support them during this time.

Women of Vision Charlotte, One By One Leadership, and Bethel Assembly of God sponsored the community food-packaging event. The purpose of the event was to benefit families in Haiti and Immokalee who were still out of work. Working in conjunction with IHOPE (Immokalee Helping Our People in

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Emergencies), 67,000 meals were packaged for families in need, and 46,000 meals were a direct result of the \$7,000 contributed by Women of Vision.

Immokalee Middle School Gymnasium buzzed for hours as beans, rice, dried vegetables, protein, and vitamins were assembled in bags, sealed, and boxed. Among those assisting in this “Kids Against Hunger” effort were youth teams from World Vision’s 30 Hour Famine, teens participating in mission projects, local youth, and women from World Vision’s Women of Vision. Some participants traveled all the way from Helena, Montana, to be involved in the event.



Dodie Meister was among those volunteering to pack the food. “To see everyone come together whether they were black, white, Hispanic or Haitian was amazing,” says Dodie, who attends Marco Lutheran Church in Naples, Florida. “To see the little kids carrying those buckets [of food supplies], so proud of what they were doing, and working so hard was awesome.”

Ruston Seaman, World Vision’s National Director of Rural Ministries, said, “This was a powerful tool for engaging young people in a hard-hit community to respond and help their neighbors.”



## WOMEN OF VISION CHARLOTTE 2010-2011 Officers and Board

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