



Charlotte's vision

World Vision

w o m e n o f v i s i o n

Women of Vision Charlotte Chapter www.womenofvision.org

Spring/Summer 2005

Reflections

"The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord." —Psalm 33:5

Dear Partners,

We thank you for the goodness we have felt and received this year through your love, prayers, commitment and presence. We are humbled by the hands-on work that has been done, and for our gifts from the Fundraiser for the Fistula Hospital and the Boset ADP in Ethiopia, for Appalachia and for the Harvest Center. We believe we have made a difference! Each one of you is special and necessary to this ministry, and we are grateful for the opportunity we have had to serve with you.

Godspeed,
Ginny and Velva



WOV Co-Chairs Velva Woollen and Ginny Show congratulate Susan Rankin on the incredible success of the April Fundraiser. (Not pictured: Fundraiser Co-Chair Posey Mealy.)

Child Sponsorship Highlighted At April WOV Fundraiser

Steve Stirling was the keynote speaker at the annual Charlotte WOV fundraiser held at Myers Park Country Club on April 12. Steve referred to World Vision as the "colossus of care" in its work around the world and referred to the child sponsorship program as "the engine that drives World Vision." Steve's story as a sponsored child who has now become World Vision's Children in Crisis Advocate was truly inspirational.



Steve Stirling

Struck with polio as a young child, Steve was raised in a Christian orphanage in South Korea, which was founded because of the work of World Vision. His family believed that Steve's best chance for a good life would be through adoption by an American family. Steve's sister joined him at the orphanage, and they were both adopted by an American couple when Steve was six years old. After crawling around on his hands and feet for years, Steve received his first leg braces and crutches from his new American parents. He continued to struggle with his disability, but always turned to God to be accepted by others and prayed that God's glory could be shown through his life.

Very determined to succeed, Steve attended Cornell University on a scholarship and "carried a ten year plan in his wallet." He said that he "prayed for a wonderful wife and got one – Sook Hee," who was also in attendance. Though successful, Steve realized something was still missing in his life. Sook Hee's prayers – "God, I can't change him, you change him," led to Steve's finding a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He was baptized as an adult and has dedicated his life to living for God's glory.

Today, Steve's focus at World Vision is on finding disabled children who need help around the world. In many areas, disabled children are hidden from view and are not brought forth for sponsorship. The special needs of these children can be addressed as they become sponsored children through World Vision.

Several years ago, Steve met his sponsor who had sustained him as a child during those years in the orphan-

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Message of Compassion and Understanding Shared at Annual Friendraiser Luncheon

WOV National Director of Corporate Responsibility Kimberly Tegarden shared the story of her own changed life to encourage guests to become partners in Charlotte Women of Vision at the annual Friendraiser Luncheon February 16 at Quail Hollow Club.

As an accomplished, single professional woman Kimberly thought she “had it all” until illness forced her to resign a high profile corporate job several years ago. It was while on safari in Kenya that she first encountered desperate poverty like she had never before seen in her life. She saw poor women who seemed to have nothing and felt sorry for them. It was when the women reached out to her with empathy and love that Kimberly realized that we are all the same. The only difference in their lives and hers was that Kimberly had resources in her life that gave her choices.

She returned home to California and soon joined Women of Vision – and her life was then set on a new course. According to Kimberly, a Woman of Vision is someone who is “willing to step out of her comfort zone and reach out her hand to others. One woman at a time, we can change the world.” “I am an ordinary woman whose life has completely changed through Women of Vision,” she said.

Kimberly started the Women’s International Loan Fund (WIL), which promotes micro-enterprise around the world. The Fund has given \$100,000 each to Cambodia, Rwanda and Uganda to enable impoverished women to become more powerful. “Helping women is the key to changing families’ futures,” she said.

“Giving is the greatest gift,” Kimberly added. “God has taken me on an incredible ride!”



Kimberly Tegarden shared her personal faith journey at the February Friendraiser held at Quail Hollow Club.

Charlotte partner Abbie Boggs shared how her WOV experience has affected her own life in a profound way. “What began as a way to maximize my time commitment soon became a maximum *heart* commitment with Women of Vision,” Abbie said. Abbie now serves as Co-Chair of the Cross Cultural Study and invited the guests to consider being part of the Study next fall.

Child Sponsorship

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age. She was a poor woman who cleaned houses to send the \$10 per month, which supported him. Her daily prayer for Steve had been that he would one day come to know the Lord. Her prayers have been answered and Steve’s life truly demonstrates how through child sponsorship “you change lives of children and communities around the world.”

Through the generosity of Charlotte Women of Vision partners and their guests, \$198,444 was raised at this wonderful and inspiring event! These funds will enable our continued support of projects here and abroad. Special thanks go to Susan Rankin and Posey Mealy and their Fundraising committee for all their hard work in bringing us this special evening.

The following is an excerpt from an email sent by Fundraiser speaker Steve Stirling following his April visit to Charlotte:

“Sook Hee and I thank you with grateful hearts that we were able to participate in the WOV Fundraising event. We were blessed to be a part of the evening and to have spent two wonderful days in Charlotte in the loving care of WOV friends. We felt and experienced the kindness, graciousness and the love and we now know what they mean by Christian Southern hospitality.”

Sharing the Good News:

2005 PROJECT/TEAM UPDATES

Ethiopian Trip Team:

Team members Toler Edwards, Terri Hart, Virginia Davis, Sue Makepeace, Bitsy Martin, Peggy McBryde, Leah Semones and Ginny Shaw traveled to Ethiopia January 15-26. As Ginny said, "they truly felt like partners in hope."

The team presented an inspiring, educational and emotional overview of their trip at the March partnership meeting:

***Fistula Hospital - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:** They met Dr. Catherine Hamlin, hospital founder, and her key assistant. There are currently 120 patients, and the hospital has an 83% cure rate. Oprah visited the hospital in December, and gave each patient \$100 and a new dress. For those girls who cannot be cured, there is now the village of Desta Mender, which was established two years ago. The ten houses currently have 36 girls, with capacity for 100. The girls keep busy with English and craft classes.

Following the Charlotte group's visit, Ruth Kennedy (Dr. Hamlin's assistant) sent the following email thanking our chapter for the money donated for 20 walkmans for the girls at the hospital: "...The money arrived safe and sound and we have already bought the walkmans and will start using them soon. What fun it will be! I will try and write to you about that too! God bless you dear ladies for the wonderful role you play in the lives of our wee darlings. Thank you again for caring to share what you have with us for these needy women." Love in the beloved, Ruth Kennedy.

***Boset Sponsored Children:** What an incredibly moving sight: the children greeted our team with flowers on their arrival in Boset. Team members had brought special gifts for their children, and enjoyed playing and talking with them during the day in Boset. The dollars we contribute to each child go to the child and his/her family, for food and education, and to their community development projects. "It is a miracle that so little can go so far," team member Peggy McBryde said.

***Water Harvesting Project:** As the area of the Boset ADP is mostly rural and extremely dry with erratic rainfall, adequate water is crucial to transformational development. The main objective of the ADP is to achieve food security for each household. By harvesting rainwater through cisterns and several other methods, they are then able to harvest crops three times a year.

***Book Bag Project:** The team visited a school of 38 children built with World Vision financial support. They brought 40 book bags that had been decorated by Charlotte students. The bags represented what was important about the Charlotte students' lives, and a photo and



International Team Members presented an inspiring and comprehensive report on their Ethiopian trip at the March meeting. Team members (l. to r.): Peggy McBryde, Toler Edwards, Sue Makepeace, Ginny Shaw, Virginia Davis, Leah Semones, Bitsy Martin and Terri Hart.

several small gifts were enclosed in each bag. The African children also decorated bags in a similar fashion, and they were brought back by the team to give to the Charlotte students.

On April 25 the International Trip Team visited Charlotte Christian School and the 40 students who participated in the book bag exchange. The students were so excited and could not wait to find the book bag that had been made for them by the Ethiopian children! The Team shared Ethiopian snacks with the children, talked to them about the children's lives in Ethiopia, and answered questions. Hopefully a seed was planted with the Charlotte children that will begin to grow!

***HIV/AIDS:** Ethiopia currently has 9% of worldwide AIDS cases, though it only has 1% of the world's population. Efforts there are focusing on prevention through education and advocacy, and village and mobile clinics. Virginia Davis shared a moving quote she saw on the side of a clinic, "We are the body of Christ. If one member suffers, we all suffer. The body of Christ has AIDS."

***Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting Women:** Three major areas were named: female genital mutilation, early marriage, and abduction. The Women's Affairs Office in Boset is working to educate women about their rights and stop these harmful practices.

***Christian Impact:** Currently there are many "witchdoctors" in Ethiopia. Our international team met with several Americans and native Ethiopians working in the area for Christ. The common thread among these workers is that they are always selfless and grateful, and that they continually focus on others. They are living their lives to glorify God, even though they may have nothing to give but their abiding faith.

The team concluded their presentation by urging all partners to pray for the many needs of the people in Ethiopia.

Sharing the Good News:

2005 PROJECT/TEAM UPDATES

Harvest Center, Charlotte

Chairs Linde Mullis and Theresa Hall thank all the Harvest Center volunteers who have helped make this year so successful and meaningful for all by serving lunch on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, decorating the tables, and participating in the church services. The knitting classes have also been a huge hit – many of the beautiful items will be sold in a silent auction at the Harvest Center Gala on June 25.

Through the summer months lunches on Tuesdays and Wednesdays will be held outside in the park across the street from the church. Help is always appreciated, so come if you can – no need to call ahead. Knitting classes will also continue through the summer on Tuesdays at

10:30, and volunteers are needed! No skills required. Call June Allen (704/552-0581) if you have questions or if you can help.

Vision Appalachia, West Virginia

Charlotte WOV is continuing to deepen relationships through the Kid Reach program in Appalachia. This year special “goodie bags” were sent to the children on both Valentine’s Day and for Easter. The committee plans a 3-day trip to West Virginia from Tuesday morning, July 19 through July 21. There is no limit on the number of people who may go! If you would like to go or would like more information call Anne Dowd (704/843-5968) or Donna Lewis (704/365-4668).

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Thursday, September 8:

Board Meeting and Luncheon

Monday, September 12:

Partnership Retreat

Mark you calendars now – details to follow!



Congratulations to the new Charlotte WOV leaders: Vice Chairmen Linde Mullis and Suzanne Sloan, Chairmen Frannie Martin and Betsy Brand.

Women of Vision

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.

GOALS

- Deepen our commitment to Christ
- Promote and increase awareness of World Vision and its international mission of relief and development.
- Educate ourselves and others about the condition of women and children in poverty.
- Strengthen the commitment of our partnership and work to increase its diversity.

National WOV Conference Inspires Charlotte's Leaders

by Betsy Brand

In early March, Frannie Martin and I were privileged to attend the Women of Vision Advisory Board Meeting hosted by Penny Wood and Jeanie Ralphs in Laguna Beach, CA. All fifteen WOV chapters were represented by one or more women. Over four days we formed new friendships. All were eager to learn what other chapters were doing in growth, fundraising, education, networking and spiritual nourishment.

We had informational sessions on purposeful planning for successful fundraising, computer technology (most of which was over my head), the AIDS pandemic, child sponsorship, speakers, and new ideas such as a walk-a-thon on the designated AIDS day in December, and Christmas gift cards. Dale Hanson Bourke spoke on her new book, The Skeptics Guide to the Global AIDS Crisis. Her statistics were staggering, but we learned that WOV and WV can and are making a difference. We were reminded that child sponsorship is the backbone of all that we do.

Frannie and I were proud of our partnership: our growth, education, newsletter, trip teams and spiritual growth. After a fine beginning under Deborah Harris' leadership, we have remained grounded in our continuous education and vision. We turned to fundraising only after we were sure who we were and understood our purpose as a branch under World Vision.

Our trip was not all work and no play. We had dinner as a group in Suzanne Paulson's beautiful home in Emerald Bay and toured another's gorgeous art collection.

The practical information was exciting and useful, but the most inspiring facet of our four days was our association with a group of bright and dedicated Christian women. We are all followers of Christ who are passionate about furthering God's kingdom on earth by helping and coming along side of those who seem without hope: with our prayers, money, resources, trip team friendships and the message of the Gospel. We are aware of how a little (loan, water, sponsorship, knowledge, empathy,

compassion) can mean so much and bring hope to the marginalized women and children of the world. We are committed to helping these people understand that we care about them, but more importantly, that God cares.

OFFICERS AND BOARD CHOSEN FOR 2005-2006

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMEN

Betsy Brand
Frannie Martin

VICE CHAIRMEN

Linde Mullis
Suzanne Sloan

SECRETARY

Esten Mason

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Martha Jean Marshall

TREASURER

Jean Wilkinson

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Liz McDowell

BOARD

APPALACHIA MINISTRY

Anne Dowd
Donna Lewis

ARRANGEMENTS

Mary Clifford Boyd
Cherie Higgins

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Terri Hart
Leah Semones

CROSS CULTURAL STUDY

Abbie Boggs
Kitty Bauknight

EDUCATION

DeeDee Dalrymple
Debbie Gourley

FUNDRAISING EVENT

Susan Rankin
Barrett Ranson

HARVEST CENTER

Gloria Vaughan
Sophie Wood

INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

Peggy McBryde
Sue Makepeace

NEWSLETTER

Allison Callicott Ortlip
Kathleen Quincy

NOMINATING

Ginny Shaw
Velve Woollen

PARTNERSHIP

Candace Flanagan
Jan Stedman

SPIRITUAL NURTURE & PRAYER

Gaye Law
Peggy Morgan

WV REPRESENTATIVE

Deborah Harris

CHARLOTTE WOV

CONSULTANT
Joan Wright

AS WOMEN OF VISION WE:

- Pray specifically for the women and families in our "adopted" World Vision projects.
- Educate concerned women on global issues through educational meetings, cross-cultural studies, and national conferences.
- Travel to World Vision projects throughout the world.
- Advocate for governmental issues pertaining to the poor and oppressed.
- Support designated World Vision projects financially through personal donations and fundraising events.
- Partner with women around the world to create mutual life-changing opportunities.
- Volunteer in hands-on local community service projects.

Special thanks go to Esten Mason for graciously hosting the partnership at a lovely luncheon in her home before the March meeting. These partners are seen enjoying fellowship and the delicious food!



DID YOU KNOW?

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. As women who believe that God works through human hands and hearts, Women of Vision seek 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. The Women of Vision newsletter, *Our Vision*, is published three times each year.

A few women in Orange County, CA started WOV in 1990. There are currently 16 active chapters: Atlanta, GA; Bermuda; Charlotte, NC; Evergreen/Denver, CO; Columbia/Willamette, Oregon; Dallas, TX; Fairfield County, CT; Houston, TX; Long Island, NY; New York City; Miami Valley, OH; Mt. Baldy View, CA; Orange County, CA; Puget Sound, WA; Pasadena, CA; Monterey Bay, CA; San Gabriel Valley, CA.

Women of Vision programs over the past 13+ years were directly responsible for raising over \$5 million in support of their projects!

World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty.