

CHOICE Chatter

The Very First Edition of an Occasional Newsletter for Board and Staff
April 28, 2006

Last Chance to Join the CHOICE Table of Honor at Womens Way Annual Dinner!

We are delighted to have **15** agency representatives, including 4 Board/Medical Committee members representing CHOICE at the dinner where our very own **Laura Lawrence** will be on stage to receive her award. You can still join us for a **FRONT ROW SEAT!** The dinner is **THURSDAY, May 4, 5:30-8:30** at the Wyndham Plaza; if you let us know **FIRST thing Monday, May 1**, we can probably still get you in. The cost is \$85.

Blueprint Presentation in Harrisburg

On Tuesday, May 2, Lynn will join representatives from Public/Private Ventures and MEE Productions to present a public update on the Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia project to the House Appropriations Committee. We are excited about the growth of the Blueprint Hotline and the data analysis we are able to provide.

Enhancing Advocacy Efforts: Training in Lobbying and Electoral Participation

On April 18, Lynn attended a half-day seminar offered by attorneys from Alliance for Justice, a DC-based non-profit organization whose mission is to educate 501-c-3's on rights and limitations for participation in legislative affairs. Lynn looks forward to sharing what she learned with staff and Board members in the near future!

Attendance at Lord and Taylor's "Benefit Bash" - April 18

Thanks to **Linda Jacobs**, **Susan Stockl**, and **Ashley Stockl** for so generously representing CHOICE at this benefit, staffing tables in order that we may receive a portion of the total proceeds! We have already cleared \$300 in ticket sales (Board members: if you haven't yet paid for yours, please contact Susan!) plus our to-be-announced share of the remaining profits.

Money, Money, Money.

We have been awarded another \$5,000 grant from the Fourjay Foundation for our Youth Education Program! A check for \$15,000 arrived today confirming our approval for year two of a three-year Kind Family Foundation grant. We await several more as of this writing...

Ladies, Start Your Networking Engines and Get out Those Address Books...

We are in the midst of carefully crafting a spring solicitation letter for the "Campaign for Changes." Thanks for forwarding any additional names and addresses of friends, family, AND business associates to Susan at: stockls@choice-phila.org. We hope to organize the mailing for the end of May or early June. More on that shortly!

CHOICE on the Road: PCCY Event, April 27

Jackie Witkin, **Laura Lawrence**, and **Lynn** represented CHOICE at the Philadelphia Coalition for Children and Youth's 25th Anniversary event honoring Dorothy Johnson-Speight, Founder of Mothers in Charge (who recently presented a training to our Hotline staff on helping parents cope with the loss of a child) and R. Duane Perry of The Food Trust, for their child advocacy efforts. It was a wonderful opportunity for meeting old and making new friends for CHOICE!

The "Wow! What a Staff" Category...

"Changes:" Now in Circulation!

For the past two weeks, the staff has been working furiously to disburse back orders of *Changes: You and Your Body!* Just moments ago, an assistant from one school picked up her order and as she walked out the door she said, "This is the absolute best book I have ever seen for my teenagers! Thank you. We've missed them!" We are proud and excited to be back in gear with our signature youth publication. **Thanks to everyone** for pitching in to get those precious packages out ASAP!

Community Education: Performing Everyday Miracles

Today, **Kate Murray** and **Alanna Butler** were able to respond to an emergency request from a school to help them with pregnancy prevention efforts. In just ONE morning, teaching in two different rooms, Kate and Alanna connected with OVER 200 teenagers, educating them on how to prevent unwanted pregnancies and STIs.

Hot Stuff from the Hotline

With just 75% of the fiscal year completed: we have completed 78% of contracted calls with the Family Planning Council, over 100% of AACO contracted HIV-related calls - and have responded to the needs of 206 Blueprint Hotline callers!

Summer Receptionist Found

We are excited to announce that **Tiara Buie**, a bright, energetic, and personable nursing student from Howard University, will join us this summer as our temporary receptionist. Tiara will be on board as of MAY 15, giving Colleen several days to assist with her orientation and training. Welcome to CHOICE Tiara!

Fels Summer Intern to begin May 15

Alyssa Richman, a Temple University sociology doctoral student, will begin her research activities in mid-May. Alyssa will be conducting focus groups with teens to better understand their preferences for obtaining health information. Welcome Alyssa - and good luck with the research!

Information Technology Gets a Lift

Susan attended "N-Power Volunteer Day" on March 16 where non-profits were matched with IT volunteers from Sunoco and Reed Technology to assess and initiate disaster recovery plans. Susan, Mark, and Lynn have already met to begin the process of putting their recommended procedures into place.

Accessing Better Regional Health Data

On April 6, **Susan and Lynn** attended a seminar at Philadelphia Health Management Corporation (PHMC) to learn more about their recent health survey and how to access the breadth and depth of the data. We look forward to utilizing this information to enhance our grant writing initiatives.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 6:00 PM

NEXT Medical Advisory Committee Meeting: MONDAY, JUNE 5, 6:00 PM