

# Wisconsin Women's Network

Bi-Weekly E-Bulletin | October 7, 2009



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WOMEN'S  
network

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Please consider giving to the Wisconsin Women's Network through Community Shares of Wisconsin's Workplace Giving Campaign. For more information, visit [Community Shares](#) or contact the [WWN office](#).

Be sure to visit our new and improved website:

[www.wiwomensnetwork.org](http://www.wiwomensnetwork.org)

## → Events from Our Members

### October 18

#### Stateswoman of the Year Celebration, Madison

11:00 AM-1:00 PM, Monona Terrace, 1 John Nolen Drive. Members of the Wisconsin Women's Network and everyone interested in celebrating women and supporting women's issues are invited to meet previous SWOTY awardees and learn about the contributions these dedicated and determined women, past and present, have made to advance the status of women in Wisconsin.

Representative Kelda Helen Roys, 81st Assembly District, will introduce keynote speaker, Genevieve G. McBride, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Cost: \$55. To purchase tickets online, [click here](#). For more info or to receive and invitation: [Johanna Hatch](#), 608-255-9809.

### October 10

#### Rejoice in the Wisdom of Women

1:00 PM-3:00 PM. Presented by the North/Eastside Senior Coalition (NESCO). A unique and innovative event for the purpose of crossing boundaries, building connections and discovering our commonalities. The event begins with "Wearing Our Crowns," a soul-stirring musical that tells the story of six African American women through the hats they wear. The play is based on the hit Broadway show "Crowns" and is directed and performed by Letrice Stanley and the six-woman performance group, Crowned with Grace. After the play, refreshments will be served and attendees are encouraged to exchange their own stories about the women who have inspired their own lives. Don't forget to wear your hats! Proceeds fund NESCO's cultural diversity programs. For more info: visit [www.nescoinc.org](http://www.nescoinc.org) or call 243-5252.

### November 4

#### American Association of University Women Legislative Day, Madison

8:30 AM-3:30 PM, Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, 3841 E. Washington Ave. Morning speakers on legislative issues coming before our WI Senate and Assembly on education, health care reform and campaign finance reform. Afternoon spent lobbying for these issues. All are welcome, but registration necessary by emailing Barbara Peterson, Public Policy Chair, AAUW-WI at [lbpeters@dishup.us](mailto:lbpeters@dishup.us). Cost \$25 includes lunch if registered by Oct

## WWN is on Facebook!

Got Facebook? Become a fan of WWN, and join our Cause!

26th.

[For a complete events calendar, click here.](#)

## [News](#)

### [WI Elder Economic Security Initiative](#)

[Video: Elder Economic Standard](#)

One in five Wisconsin seniors rely solely on Social Security benefits. And While the average benefits from Social Security are above the federal poverty level, they are not enough to cover the basic needs of Wisconsin's seniors. The average elderly person living in Wisconsin needs between an estimated 18,000 and 25,000 dollars a year just to meet their basic needs such as housing, transportation, and food. But the average benefit from social security in Wisconsin is only 15,000 dollars a year. For more on WWN's WI Elder Economic Security Initiative, [click here](#).

### [Women's Health and Reproductive Rights](#)

[Assembly Education Committee Holds Hearing on Healthy Youth Act on Oct. 6](#)

With teen birth rates rising for the first time in 14 years and sexually transmitted infections (STI) skyrocketing across the state, it is time to start taking Wisconsin youth and their health seriously. High rates of teen pregnancy and STI are crucial public health problems that result in poor health outcomes for young adults and children alike. To address this public health crisis in Wisconsin, the Healthy Youth Act would ensure that schools who choose to teach sex ed are using curriculum proven to reduce risky behaviors that result in unintended teenage pregnancy and STDs. For more about the Healthy Youth Act, visit the [WI Alliance for Women's Health](#) and [Planned Parenthood Advocates of WI](#). WWN is proud to be a member of the Healthy Youth Alliance, which supports comprehensive sexuality education. To join the alliance, please contact [Tanya Atkinson](#), (414) 289-3749.

### [Senate Finance Committee Votes to Fund Comprehensive Sex Education](#)

On September 29, the Senate Finance Committee approved an amendment offered by Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) to fund a comprehensive sex education funding stream, The Personal Responsibility Education for Adulthood Training. The amendment provides \$75 million for states; \$50 million of which would be geared to evidence-based, medically accurate, age-appropriate programs to educate adolescents about both abstinence and contraception in order to prevent unintended teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

### [Support for Abortion Slips](#)

Polls conducted in 2009 have found fewer Americans expressing support for abortion than in previous years. In Pew Research Center polls in 2007 and 2008, supporters of legal abortion clearly

outnumbered opponents; now Americans are evenly divided on the question, and there have been modest increases in the numbers who favor reducing abortions or making them harder to obtain. Opposition to abortion has grown more firm among conservatives, who have become less supportive of finding a middle ground on the issue and more certain of the correctness of their own views on abortion.

### Violence Against Women

#### [Economy contributing to more cases of domestic abuse](#)

The economy is creating more incidents of domestic violence because couples with problems are choosing to stay together longer due to the cost associated with separating and moving. According to statistics from the National Survey on Children and Families, couples with low financial strain see a 2.7 percent rate of abuse. With high financial strain, it jumps to 9.5 percent. Counselors also say victims of abuse often stick it out longer with their abuser during tough economic times because it's that much harder to pick up and leave.

### Women in the Military

#### [Wartime Soldier, Conflicted Mom](#)

The military has in large part adapted to women living, working and fighting successfully alongside men in Iraq and Afghanistan, and bringing home their own medals for bravery. Motherhood, though, poses a formidable challenge for the armed forces. Hanging on to today's war-savvy, battle-tested cadre of mothers - and would-be mothers - is both crucial and difficult for the Army, say officers, enlistees and experts. So is attracting recruits. More than 100,000 female soldiers who have served in the wars are mothers, nearly half the number of women who have been deployed. The vast majority are primary caregivers, and a third are single mothers. Many love their work and feel a sense of pride and patriotism in defending the country. Yet mothers, whether married or single, say that long periods of time away from their children and then the transition back to domestic life - where they are expected to immediately resume household responsibilities - can be excruciatingly difficult.

### LGBT Equality

#### [Action: Pass ENDA in 2009](#)

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. ENDA creates express protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people similar to those available under existing federal discrimination laws for other protected classes of workers.

### International Women

#### [Security Council demands end to conflict-related sexual violence](#)

The Security Council demanded on September 30 that all parties to armed conflict take immediate action to protect civilians, including women and children, from all forms of sexual violence,

and urged greater measures by States and the United Nations to combat this scourge.

#### [Ban urges investment in women and girls, particularly during economic crisis](#)

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has urged countries not to waver in their commitments to women and girls in the midst of the ongoing economic crisis, particularly in ensuring their basic human rights.

#### [Thirteen Commitments to Empower Women and Girls Announced During Clinton Global Initiative](#)

During the second day of the Clinton Global Initiative, foundations, nongovernmental organizations, and corporations announced thirteen new commitments designed to improve health care, education, and economic opportunity for women and girls worldwide.

## Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities

### Job Openings

Posted: 9/16/09

Org: Wisconsin Women's Council

Position: Legislative Intern

**Description:** The Wisconsin Women's Council, a state agency, is seeking a legislative intern to track state legislation and legislative priorities of women's advocacy organizations, and attend public hearings and meetings. This is an unpaid internship. College (undergraduate or graduate) student based in Madison is preferred. Familiarity with state legislative processes helpful. Hours/schedule is flexible and to be arranged with the successful candidate.

**To Apply:** Please send a letter of interest and resume to the WI Women's Council at [womenscouncil@wisconsin.gov](mailto:womenscouncil@wisconsin.gov)

### Volunteer Opportunities

Posted: 7/1/09

Org: Independent Living

**Activity:** Independent Living, Inc. is looking for volunteers to help keep seniors and people with disabilities independent and in the home of their choice. We offer a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. Opportunities include:

Chore Corps: Help an older or disabled adult with running errands, grocery shopping, meal preparation or light housekeeping. Flexible schedule 1-2 hours per week.

Evening Meals on Wheels: Deliver hot, nutritious meals to the home of frail or homebound older adults or people with disabilities. Routes start between 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and generally take about an hour to complete. Delivering meals make a great group or family activity.

Friendly Visiting: Help prevent social isolation by offering weekly

companionship to an older adult in their home or on an outing.  
Flexible schedule 1-2 hours per week.

Kitchen Volunteers: Assist our professional chef in preparing and packaging meals for our Evening Meals on Wheels clients.

Reception Volunteer: Assist with answering the telephone, greeting visitors and general office projects. 3-4 hours per week. Shifts are available at the Independent Living Headquarters, 815 Forward Drive, or The Gardens, 602 N. Segoe Road, both in Madison.

Telephone Reassurance: Make daily calls to provide a safety check, medication reminder or companionship for an older adult in our community.

For more info: [Teri Barr](#), Volunteer Services Program Manager at 608-274-7900

Posted: 6/17/09

Org: Madison SOS (Speak Out, Sister!)

Activity: research and survey design, writing and editing, community outreach, event-planning, mentoring, policy advocacy, and more

Location: various (in Madison)

When: opportunities available weekdays (daytime and evening) and weekend afternoons; very flexible scheduling

Description: Assist this grassroots, teen-led organization with several exciting summer initiatives: the creation of a Platform for Action and related policy advocacy on several key social justice issues affecting Madison high school young women, including community-based research on issues like sexual violence and sexual harassment, reproductive health, education, mental health, and more; the creation of a resource guide for young women interested in taking action locally to affect change; the development of an interactive website connecting girls interested in discussing and taking action on local issues; and the development of a workshop series to empower girls as social change agents.

More info/sign up: Email [madisonsos@yahoo.com](mailto:madisonsos@yahoo.com)

### For Equality,

Johanna Hatch, Administrator  
Wisconsin Women's Network

#### MISSION

The Wisconsin Women's Network is a coalition of organizations and individuals advancing the status of women in Wisconsin through communications, education, and advocacy.

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