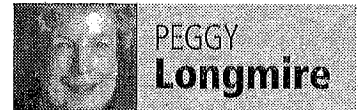


Female volunteers live life of service



PEGGY
Longmire

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"Shining like stars in a world sometimes made dark" might describe the women who make up the Greensboro Guild of Family Service Foundation. They are committed to providing services to promote healthy lives and relationships in times of crisis or transitions.

The guild supports Family Service of the Piedmont through public awareness, hands-on volunteering and interesting fundraising events.

The more than 100 guild members come from various backgrounds, such as women with full-time jobs, young mothers and grandmothers.

The guild has raised more than \$1 million to assist the agency's work in the past 15 years, said Lori Aycock, immediate past president of the guild.

In 2009, the guild received the Outstanding Fundraising Volunteer Group award from the Triad Association of Fundraising Professionals.

"It was such an honor," Aycock said. "The award was a testament to all of the hard work and accomplishments of many women over the past 15 years."

After being invited to a membership meeting seven years ago, Judy Roy joined the guild. She will serve as the new president.

"One of the exciting things about my upcoming year as president is that we will once again host 'Love Serving Love' in conjunction with Gate City Tennis and the Greensboro Country Club," Roy said.

There will be a special luncheon in early March 2011, and about 600 tennis enthusiasts are expected to attend in support of the work of FSP.

Plans for the upcoming year also include a kick-off membership party in September, a holiday game-day luncheon in December, holiday tea with the Junior Guild and their mothers, a Healthy Start baby shower, and a year-end celebration in May.



COURTESY OF GREENSBORO GUILD OF FAMILY SERVICE FOUNDATION

Members of the Greensboro Guild of Family Service Foundation Board, from left to right, bottom row, Davida Hamilton, Dianne Nickles, Judy Roy; middle row, Lynne Gladstone, Carla Robinson, Cyndy Hayworth; top row, Magz King, Carlyn Myers and Lori Aycock. Not pictured: Clay Smith and Jen Cross Green.

A week or so after Roy was elected president, the guild was asked to help provide a luncheon for the moms in Healthy Start.

Healthy Start case workers make at-home visits to new moms and help educate them on health and safety issues, developmental expectations and other valuable parenting information.

The guild supports this program by hosting a baby shower to collect baby items that case workers can give to their clients.

At times, they provide babysitting.

Roy sent out a request for food or cash to purchase salads and sandwiches for the women attending the Healthy Start educational workshop.

Roy was overwhelmed with the response she received.

"Any concern I had about becoming president of the group was alleviated," she said. "This is a dedicated and giving group of women, and I am honored that they have put their faith in my leadership."

Many women join the guild because of a "passionate enthusiasm to help families in need, specifically to help those who have

fallen on hard times and show a strong desire and determination to improve themselves and the life of their families," said Carla Robinson, a member since 2004.

"We are inspired by the success stories we hear from individuals every year and to know that recipients of assistance have a strong desire to give back."

A woman who had sought assistance for herself and her daughter heard about an event supporting young mothers in need, Robinson said.

The woman donated infant formula, diapers and other children's items, stating that she could not have made it without Family & Children's Service and wanted to help.

This year, the guild presented checks totaling more than \$42,000 to Tom Campbell, president of FSP, making the total contribution for the year more than \$60,000.

The money will be used to provide staff to serve clients in many programs as well as helping to build an endowment fund to provide ongoing support.

"Due to many funding cuts from the state," Roy said, "these monies are even more important

to continue to provide services for clients."

In 2008, the Junior Guild was formed, consisting of more than 60 local high school girls who support the organization through hands-on volunteering and fundraising. The group hosted a "beach blast" at Starmount Country Club last March to raise funds. Magz King of the guild

has been instrumental in the success of the Junior Guild.

This year the President's Award was given to Clay Smith and the Spirit of the Guild Award was given to Carla Robinson.

The executive board for 2010-11 will be Judy Roy, president; Clay Smith, vice president; Dixie Culver, secretary; Lorraine

Bacon, treasurer; Magz King, Junior Guild Liaison; and Margaux Ketner and Lucy Smith, Junior Guild co-presidents.

During the past year, the guild added 24 new members and the Junior Guild added 30 new members.

Asked what binds the group together to accomplish so much, Robinson replied, "I think the element that binds us is the spirit that exists within the guild. This spirit is exhibited in the belief and confidence that what we do makes a difference in peoples' lives and this makes us determined to achieve our goals every year."

"'Spirit Never Dies' is perhaps a fitting motto for our guild," Robinson said.

For guild meeting and membership information, call Cindy Hayworth, at 544-0343.

To suggest a person or organization who is "Making a Difference" in Guilford County, contact Peggy Longmire at rlongmire@triad.rr.com or 288-9040.