



WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024



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PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

As the President of the Women's Employment Network, I have witnessed firsthand the significant impact that access to affordable and reliable childcare has on women's ability to join and thrive in the workforce. Childcare is not merely a service; it is a critical support system that empowers parents, especially women, to pursue employment opportunities, advance in their careers, and achieve financial independence. Yet, for many families across Kansas and Missouri, access to quality childcare remains a significant barrier.

Inadequate childcare options can force women to make difficult choices, such as reducing work hours or leaving the workforce altogether, limiting their economic mobility and professional potential. This challenge is not isolated to families alone but affects the broader economy by reducing the available workforce and straining employers who are eager to retain talented, committed individuals.

Recognizing the scope of this issue, the OneKC for Women Alliance has made it a priority to address the childcare crisis in our region. Through strategic initiatives, we are helping entrepreneurs create and grow childcare centers, which not only increases the number of available childcare slots but also provides opportunities for small business development. By expanding the childcare ecosystem, we are contributing to job creation and supporting working families, fostering a more inclusive and resilient economy. These initiatives not only serve to meet the urgent need for more childcare options but also empower women entrepreneurs to succeed in an industry that is



critical to our region's economic stability and growth.

We are proud of the impact we have made, and we remain committed to continuing this important work. The OneKC for Women Alliance believes that by investing in childcare, we are investing in our workforce, our families, and the future of our communities.

Your continued support of the Women's Employment Network and the OneKC for Women Alliance ensures we continue to create a thriving and inclusive workforce that benefits all.

sherry turner

WEN PRESIDENT AND
ONEKC FOR WOMEN FOUNDER

mission

To help women raise their self-esteem and achieve economic independence through sustained employment.

vision

To advance positive change in the lives of women, their families and the community, one woman at a time.



alliance

WEN is a proud partner of the OneKC for Women alliance with the Women’s Business Center, Women’s Capital Connection, and Women Lead Initiative. By working together as OneKC for Women, these partner organizations are able to better achieve a common goal: empowering women to achieve financial independence.



our history



WEN CO-FOUNDERS BETH K. SMITH AND MARJORIE POWELL ALLEN



DEBBIE SMITH WITH KAREN DANIEL
2024 BETH K. SMITH AWARD RECIPIENT

In 1986, two Kansas City philanthropists and visionaries, Beth K. Smith and Marjorie Powell Allen, had a profound idea of how to "help women help themselves" and they worked to form the Women's Employment Network. With the involvement and support of hundreds of volunteers, donors, and dedicated staff, WEN has grown from a single classroom at Pioneer College to where we are today.

WEN has continued to work toward the mission and vision of its founders and has played an important role in the professional growth of women in Kansas City for nearly four decades – at no cost to the women WEN serves.

the board

2023-2024 Directors:

Stacey Paine, *Chair*

Julie Pine, *Vice-Chair*

Nicole Miller, *Secretary*

Julie Bowen, *Treasurer*

Aviva Ajmera

Cathy Baier

Stacey Callands

Kelly Eschweiler

Amber Goering

Sharon Holmes

Shanee Kimber

Arlene Mockapetris

Jahna Riley

Rachel Smith

Sylvya Stevenson

Toni Walsh

Megan Whitman

Kim Jones, *Past Chair*



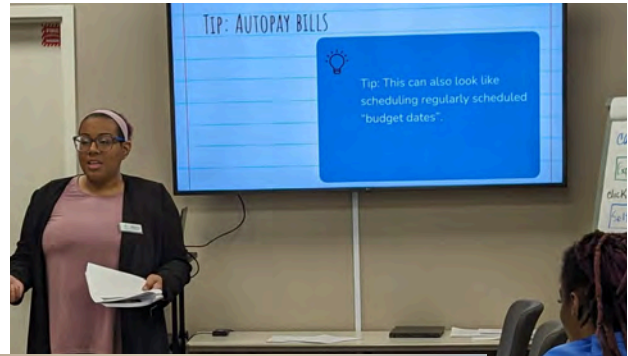
Stacey Paine, Chair



Julie Pine, Vice-Chair

about our program

For nearly four decades, WEN has provided high-quality, much-needed programming in Kansas City. WEN believes that when you give women the support to build a foundation for their futures, potential, and well-being, you also strengthen the foundation for the entire community. WEN's holistic approach helps women reach their full potential – beyond unemployment, and underemployment, not only by helping them find work but also by developing



their personal strengths, assisting them in understanding and realizing attainable goals, guiding them through the debt reduction process, and building personal finance skills and wealth over time.



1115

TOTAL UNDUPLICATED CLIENTS

878

NEW CLIENTS

112

FINANCIAL COACHING CLIENTS

204

EMPLOYMENT REFERRALS

program statistics

68% wen clients
below federal
poverty level

BASED ON HOUSEHOLDS OF FOUR

\$17.31

AVERAGE FULL-TIME WAGE

89% wen clients
making very low
income

BASED ON KC METRO MEDIAN INCOME

74% / 26%

MISSOURI / KANSAS CLIENTS

73% wen clients
single or
divorced

RELATIONSHIP STATUS

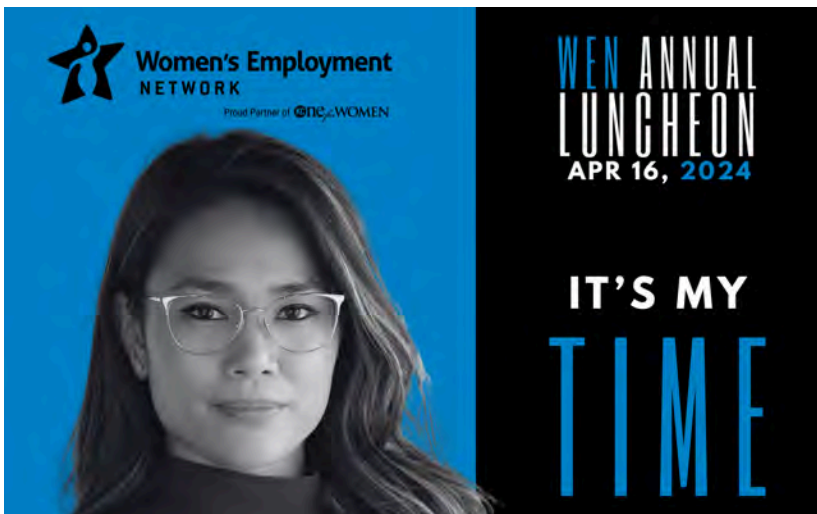
51% wen clients
identifying as a
person of color

RACE AND ETHNICITY

WEN Annual LUNCHEON



2024 Luncheon Co-Chairs Sharon Holmes and Megan Whitman are joined by WEN President Sherry Turner and Community Leader, Debbie Smith.



For 37 years, WEN has helped women in Kansas City on their journey to financial independence. In 2024, we gathered to celebrate our clients and listen to success stories of women who have discovered that it's finally time to make a change, declaring to all of us, "It's My Time."

KC JOB FAIRS



KC Job Fairs are held twice annually, once in the spring and then again in the fall. In October of 2023, there were 55 employers and over 170 job seekers. In May of 2024, we had 59 employers and over 200 job seekers.

Employer industries: Healthcare, Financial Services/Banking, Education, Transportation and Logistics, Catering and Food Service, Insurance, Energy/Utilities, Technology, Non-Profit, Accounting/Tax Preparation, Government, Hospitality, Human Resources and more.



STRENGTHENING OUR IMPACT

This year, WEN staff focused on deepening their engagement with clients. Our efforts paid off: 30% of clients had three or more interactions with staff – an increase of 8% over last year. Through this work, we encourage women to establish positive, long-term relationships with our staff and continue to use WEN as a resource to support goal setting, financial management, networking, and career success.



THREE PILLARS

WEN continues to offer the three-week Three Pillars to Success in-person course (est. 2022), empowering women to focus on themselves, recommit to their goals, and renew their passion as they take steps toward financial independence.

WENFLUENCERS

It's been one year since we launched the WENfluencer Ambassador Program, and we couldn't be more excited about its impact and growth. WENfluencers advocate for WEN and its mission online and in-person. Depending on your skillset and time there are many ways to advocate for WEN. Since the program's launch, we've grown to an impressive 30 members – each playing a critical role in furthering our mission to support women on their path to economic independence.



CLIENT STORY

JEANNY



Jeanny's story is a true example of perseverance and personal growth. A 2024 graduate of the Three Pillars to Success program, Jeanny first encountered the Women's Employment Network (WEN) at a resource fair, during a time when she was struggling to navigate the job market alone.

"I was getting rejected and rejected and couldn't figure out what was happening. Building my confidence after job loss was also a challenge," Jeanny recalls. Despite her skills and experience, she faced numerous rejections, which left her feeling disheartened.

Through the Three Pillars to Success program, Jeanny participated in mock interviews and resume reviews which helped her to realize her true potential and the value she brings to the table. This hands-on experience was transformative, enabling her to see herself through a new, more confident lens.

A significant part of Jeanny's journey was the sense of solidarity she found among her peers at WEN. "One thing for me, personally, was to sit down and speak with other women who felt the exact same way and it was just like, 'Oh, okay!' It just took a huge load off for me," she shares. This connection and mutual support with other women facing similar challenges were instrumental in her progress.

Thanks to the Lynnette Williams Scholarship, Jeanny is now completing her continued education classes. For her, success isn't just about landing a job — it's about approaching interviews with confidence and feeling good about her performance, regardless of the outcome. "Success means the ability to get through an interview confidently and leave knowing that I feel good about it regardless of what happens," she says.

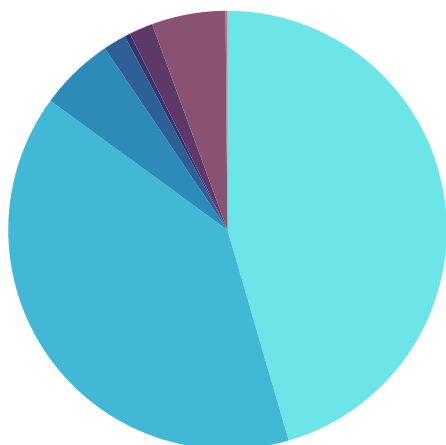
Jeanny's journey is a powerful reminder that with the right support and resources, anyone can overcome obstacles and achieve their goals. Her story inspires all those striving to find their place in the job market and highlights the transformative power of community and education.



2023 - 2024 FINANCIALS

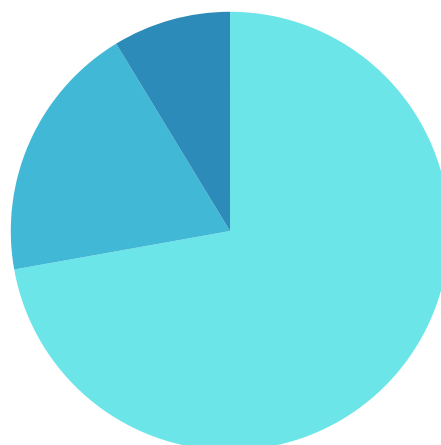
Since 2009, WEN has balanced its budget and increased cash reserves, resulting in strong financial sustainability for the organization. The Finance Committee remains diligent in monitoring our cash flow and sources of revenue in concert with our Board of Directors.

revenue



■ Foundations/Trusts	\$540,117
■ Luncheon/Special Events	\$469,424
■ Administration	\$65,525
■ Legacy Circle	\$20,032
■ In-kind	\$5,000
■ United Way	\$20,826
■ Investment gain (loss), net	\$64,674
■ Miscellaneous	\$1,638

expenses



■ Program	\$983,474
■ Development/Fundraising	\$260,423
■ Administration	\$118,444

TOTAL REVENUE - \$1,187,236

TOTAL EXPENSES - \$1,362,341

LEGACY CIRCLE



The Beth K. Smith & Marjorie Powell Allen

LEGACY CIRCLE

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

LEGEND

Cathy & Rick Baier
Ann Baum
Karen Daniel
Janice Blansit & Terrence Kolich
Amy Fauss
Elizabeth "Zibbie" Ferrell
Jenny Haile
Angela Hurt
Kim Jones & Shelly Freeman
Catherine J. Kelly
Michele Markham
Nicole Miller
Megan Noland
Marta Padula
Stacey Paine
Debbie Sinopoli
Debbie Smith

FOUNDER

Dana Abraham
Adrienne Byand Banks
Kate Ferrell Banks
Becky Blades
Rita Blitt
Pam Breuckmann
Tonia Bomar
Kay Callison
Carla Chavarria
Mindy Corporon
Chelsea Dickerson
Kathy Dodd
Chris Egan
Cheryl Flood
Lisa Gioia
Amber Goering
J. Brett Gordon
Shirley & Barnett Helzberg
Karen Herman
Sharon Holmes
Celia Huneycutt

FOUNDER (CONT)

Laura Lee Jones
Christine Kemper
Nancy Kenner
Diane Lytle
Sheila McCarrick
Madeleine McDonough
Lori McGroder
Lynn McIntosh
Mark Melchior
Arlene Mockapetris
Jacquelynn Neat
Mary O'Connor
Megan O'Rear
Christy Paoli
Amy Pieper
Maureen Purcell
& Dr. David Husted
Joan Redhair
Jen Regas
Cindy Richey
Sue and Cliff Rippe
Dr. Michelle Robin
Kimberly Robinett
Joshua Rowland
Kelly Scanlon
Amy Slattery
Rachel Smith
& Chris Vickers
Susan Stanton
Shannon Swift
Cynthia Weber Scherb
Diana Toman
Valerie Vaughn
Paul Weber
Cheryl Lockton Williams
Lynnette Williams
Megan Whitman
Shelley Wolff
Joe and Lori Yager

VISIONARY

Aviva Ajmera
Terry Anderson
& Michael Henry
Carol & Tom Barnett
Sarah Baum
Trisha Bean
Brian Beard
Monica Beeler
Karen Bisset
Dyanna Black
Tracy Bornman
Julie Bowen
Katie Briscoe
Julie Anderson Clark
& Vince Clark
Erin & Shannon Cole
Phyllis Collins
Kimberly Deveney
Darlene Dunn
Katie Dunn
Alice Ellison
Seth & Kelly Eschweiler
Julie Farrell
Hannah Fenley
Terry Garberg
Sonia Garapaty
Melissa Gray
Katie Grimes
Amy Grothaus
Jen Gulvik
Donald J. Hall
Deborah Hays
Chris Jackson
Gail James
Theresa Hursh
Jeanette Jayne
Shelby Jones
Victoria Kandt
Jasmine Kaplan
Melissa Kendrick
Katie & Andrew Killen
Shannon King
& Kate Nielsen
Courtney Kounkel

VISIONARY (CONT)

Sherri Lozano
Jennifer Malone
Melanie Mann
Rebecca Martin
Erika Moody
Tamra Moran
Barbara Koval Nelson
Gayle Packer
Lenora Payne
Julie Pine
Cheryl & Ryan Poage
Nicolle & Harley Ratliff
Leslie Reardon
Jahna Riley
Martha Salinas
Barbara & Larry Schulte
Audrie Seeley
Andrew Shepard
Margo Shepard
S. Sloane Simmons
& Harl A. Van Deursen
Charlie & Jeanne Sosland
Hillary Stamper
Sylvya Stevenson
Jessica Best Stewart
Kelly Summers
Cyndi Swall
Angela Tower
Sherry Turner
Nan Vail & Keith Bottorff
Nicole Van Denabeele
Anna Valdivia
Shanelle Varone
Kristy Vetter
Toni Walsh
Martha Warren
Tanya Rodecker Wendt
Colleen White
Ramona Williams
Ashley Williamson





WEN'S OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN THE HEART OF WESTPORT IN KANSAS CITY

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