



WeCAN Connect

Communication for donors, volunteers and friends of Western Communities Action Network - Spring 2010

"April Showers Bring May Flowers"

You are invited!

**A WECAN & ART OF LIVING GALA TO HELP
SUPPORT THE ONGOING NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.**

**LAFAYETTE CLUB
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010
6:00 TO 9:00 P.M.**



*On behalf of the Event Committee, we welcome your participation in being a sponsor,
donating an auction item and attending the Gala.*

*Live Music • Silent and Live Auction • Complimentary Glass of Wine
Heavy Hors'doeuvres • Wine Tasting • Cash Bar*

*With Special Guest Bette Hammel, Author of "Legendary Homes of Lake Minnetonka"
Admission \$25 per person - Call WeCAN 952.472.0742*

From the President

Carol Olson



Thank you for the generous support of our Holiday Adopt-a-Family program. We only had room for a stand-up Board of Directors meeting in December because you filled the board room with toys and gift cards. We were able to match 142 families with 298 children and added extra "shopping" for an additional 34 families with 73 children.

Please continue to support WeCAN by attending our fundraising events this spring.

WeCAN's Community Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, April 22, 2010

7:00 - 8:30 AM (check-in at 6:45)

*Get your tickets NOW!
This event sells out.*

**"What Makes Strong Communities"
Robert Stevens, President and CEO of
Ridgeview Medical Center**

The public is invited to the Community Prayer Breakfast at Our Lady of the Lake PACE Center in Mound. You will enjoy a delicious breakfast donated and prepared by Scotty B's Restaurant.

Proceeds from the event go to WeCAN services for low-income individuals and families.

The suggested donation is \$15 and a portion of the funds will be matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Call WeCAN to purchase your ticket!

2009 Program Outcomes

As the government safety nets are being cut, the need for WeCAN services increases.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Households served	887	1391	57%
Individuals served	1637	1983	21%
Emergency Asst. Units	410	618	51%
Family Support Units	810	865	7%
New Clients to WeCAN		207	
“Very low income”		289	

www.WeCAN-help.org
donate on-line!

Emergency Assistance

How Does it Work?

WeCAN has several different Emergency Assistance funding sources, each with different restrictions on its use and who is qualified to use it.

A person-in-need will meet with our Family Advocate to discuss their situation. If they may qualify for services from Hennepin County, they will first be asked to make an appointment and can meet with the County at our office or downtown.

After communication with the County, we may help qualified clients with financial assistance needs caused by an emergency. After verifying that they live in our service area, have documentation of income and their need is confirmed, WeCAN may supply a check to the landlord or mortgage company, car repair business or utility vendor depending on their need.

If financial help is offered, it needs to solve the problem and they must be able to make it on their own or at least offer an additional 30 days of housing.

Changes in funding for emergency assistance (EA) has left single adults without the support they had in the past. Adults without dependent children no longer qualify for financial emergency assistance through Hennepin County and the funds for families is also limited. This leaves WeCAN and our sister agencies as one of the few resources for these people.

From the Executive Director

Leah Weycker

Hennepin County data shows a 52% increase in people from the third ring suburbs accessing food support from 2008 to 2009. We served 57% more households in 2009, confirming that poverty is increasing in the outer suburbs.

To meet the increasing demand for services, we are working on ways to build our capacity to serve more individuals and families.

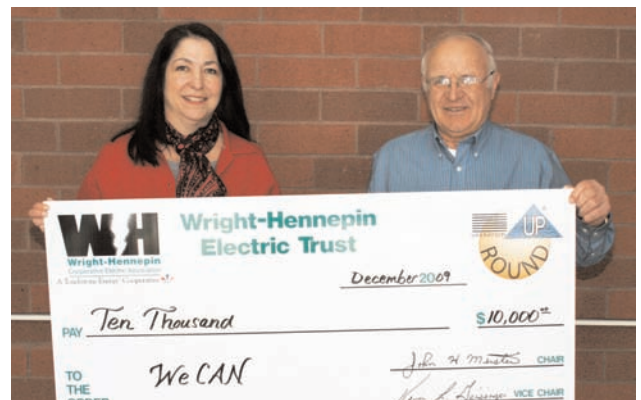
Our Board of Directors helps to set policy for WeCAN. As our fiscal year starts on June 1st we need dedicated people to serve on the Board. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors please contact me at 952-472-0742.

Please join me at the Prayer Breakfast, April Showers Bring May Flowers Gala, and the July Art of Living Home Tour - watch for your invitation soon.

Our fundraisers are an important part of WeCAN's ability to offer human services, and fun too!

WeCAN Wish List

small safe for office
\$10 gas cards
\$15 grocery cards
personal hygiene items
beds and bed frames



John Meister, ORU Board Chair presents WeCAN Director Leah Weycker a check for \$10,000 from Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association - Operation Round Up grant.

photo by Zak Schneider