

## Vision

Our vision is that underserved girls will enter young adulthood with the social, emotional, and academic skills needed to be successful in a diverse world.

## Mission

Women support underserved girls in the Rochester City School District in leading productive and successful lives by recognizing and respecting each girl's assets, and by providing emotional support, guidance, mentoring, and broadening experiences.

## Core Values

- A caring & nurturing community
- Mentoring young women & girls
- Value of education
- Respect for diversity
- Respect for each individual
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Trust
- Honesty
- Flexibility & openness to change

## On the Web

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

[www.facebook.com/womenhelpinggirls](http://www.facebook.com/womenhelpinggirls)

## Program Committee

- Monique Adams
- Chloe Anderson
- Skye Bird
- Laura Brooks
- Susannah Buhram-Deever
- Cassie Carbone
- Susan Donovan
- Cathy Foster
- Judy Graham
- Michele Groden
- Laurene Jennings
- Lynn Johnston
- Amy Kauffman
- Cindy Lapoff
- Shirley Miller
- Patricia Shurn-Thompson
- Jeanne Sloan
- Kari Smoker
- Carol Strieter
- Sandra Swanson



# Connections



Summer 2011

A newsletter of Women Helping Girls, a program of the Greater Rochester Area Branch of the American Association of University Women

## Congratulations Seniors

The vision of Women Helping Girls (WHG) is for our girls to “enter young adulthood with the social, emotional, and academic skills needed to be successful in a diverse world.” We want them to remain in school, gain confidence, and see a future where success and self-reliance are attainable. The young women, who are graduating from high school this year exemplify these goals with personal stories of hard work, persistence, and dreams for the future. We know that they will become the mentors and role models of the next generation. We are very proud of them, and we join their families and friends in applauding this milestone.

Congratulations to our seniors: **Kendra A.** (not pictured), **Shaniqua E.**, **Laxmi D.**, **Niasia Q.**, **Maryam S.** (not pictured), and **Erica T.**

Shaniqua



Niasia



Erica



Laxmi



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Continued on page 3



Susan Donovan

## From the Chair

Dear Friends,

This spring has been a whirlwind of activity! A highlight for me was attending *The Lion King* with more than 40 WHG girls, mentors, and volunteers. Surrounded by the stunning costumes and powerful music, we were swept into the story of the young lion cub that finds his direction with the support of his friends, elders, and community, emerging as a strong and confident leader. *The Lion King* is a perfect metaphor for WHG's mission and a perfect evening for us to share with each other.

On May 11, 17 girls and mentors attended The Women's Foundation of Genesee Valley's presentation of "Voices of Experience," the annual panel of accomplished local women sharing real-life stories about overcoming obstacles and achieving goals. Girls were invited to ask questions and enjoyed a reception where they could chat with the panelists. Everyone received a copy of "Ghost Bread," written by panelist and Rochester native, **Sonja Livingston**.

Our coordinators have been busy. **Chloe Anderson** planned a Beau-Tea Party, a mentor appreciation event on March 20, to honor current and potential mentors. **Skye Bird** and **Amy Kauffman** represented WHG among the more than 200 men and women who attended the Rochester Mentor Expo on May 10. County Executive **Maggie Brooks** was the keynote speaker and encouraged all mentors to stay involved because of the impact they are having on their mentees in the Rochester City School District.

Special thanks to special people:

- To Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and The Western New York Flash (Rochester's professional women's soccer team) for showcasing WHG during their first home game on May 1. One dollar of every ticket sold came to us, and **Sade W.**, **Jordanae S.**, **Skye**, and **Amy** watched the game from a luxury suite. Special thanks to mentor **Yesenia Garcia** for suggesting WHG to her employer!
- To volunteer **Sandy Swanson**, who offered her garage for a fundraiser during the Browncroft Neighborhood Bi-ennial Garage Sale on April 30 and to the volunteers, mentors and coordinators who donated, marked, and sold items
- To everyone who made the Friends of WHG event possible: to **Chloe** for nominating WHG for her class's project, to **Julianna Frisch** (Director, Campus Events, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Hospitality), to the students in the Monroe Community College (MCC) Advanced Event Planning class, and to **Lisa Sucky** for her support
- To the College Bound Committee for hosting dinner and discussion at the Perkins Mansion for WHG alumni and current juniors and seniors. Watch for more alumni events in the future

Have a great summer, everyone! Read a good book and share it with a friend (see Sisterhood book list on p. 4), and recharge your energies for next year's adventures.

As ever,  
Susan

## Thanks to Our Many Donors

### Grantors and Foundations

Rochester Women's Giving Circle  
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McGowan Charitable Fund, Inc.  
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Rochester's Women's Council of Realtors  
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield  
Western New York Flash Soccer Team  
People's Pottery  
The Highlands at Pittsford  
Paychex  
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Spiritus Christi  
Stan's Quality Flowers  
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Mountain Rise Church  
Monroe Community College Dept. of Hospitality, Professor Julianna Frisch and the MCC Advanced Event Planning Class

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### Quilt Donors (continued)

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### Quilt Auction Desserts, etc.

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# Friends of WHG

On May 11, 30 guests and WHG representatives gathered for a get-acquainted evening at Monroe Community College (MCC). The goal was to create a circle of people, who could tell their personal and professional networks about our organization, alert us to opportunities for programming and funding, and offer their own skills and talents to WHG. Mentor-mentee pairs **Julie M.** and **Angelina K.**, and **Susan D.** and **Alicia O.** spoke about their experiences. **Chloe Anderson**, WHG Mentor Coordinator explained the selection, recruitment, and training process. Guests responded with offers to speak at WHG events, give tours of their workplaces, take mentor/mentee pairs to lunch, participate on career panels, and give workshops on special interest topics.

The bonus-factor of this event was the connection with the Advanced Event Planning class at MCC. Our very own **Chloe Anderson** is a student in this class, which was required to plan an event for a worthy organization. Chloe nominated WHG and we are grateful to her, **Julianna Frisch**, Director, Campus Events, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Hospitality, and to the students in the Advanced Event Planning class for a lovely evening of good food, conversation, and friends. Special thanks, too, to **Lisa Sucky** for all of her behind-the-scenes contributions to a successful evening.

## Photo Project



My name is **Prisca Edwards**. I am a photojournalism major at RIT. I grew up in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania - a small town north of Pittsburgh. I was assigned to do a photo project with Women Helping Girls during the winter quarter and was introduced to **Tracy Winters** (mentor) and **Sade W.** (mentee). I was able to shadow them and learn more about their history and relationship. Having benefited from a mentoring relationship myself, I felt so privileged to have the opportunity to photograph the mentees and mentors at WHG. As a result, I continued to work with WHG even though my project is completed.

*Everyone at Women Helping Girls is extremely thankful to Prisca for her generosity of time and spirit. She took photos for us at numerous events and is now a member of the WHG family.*

## New Mentor/Mentee Pairs

(Mentee/Mentor)

Destiny C.-Loretha McCullough

Ayllsa L.\*

Ta'kara J.-Laurene Jennings

Torrielle W.-Mary Singleton

Mirage M. -Tonia Wheeler

\*Currently not matched with a mentor

Aysia D.-Tamika Johnson

Aprili M.-Jannita Kegler

Chabriane W.\*

Katie N.-Komieka Patterson

Jeziyah M.-Michele Groden

# Congratulations Seniors (continued)

- **Laxmi's** mentor is **Amy Kauffman**. Laxmi will attend *Sheer Ego* to learn about cosmetology, hair, and nails. She is a refugee from Nepal, and has been in the states for 21 months. She has many home responsibilities: cooking traditional Nepalese food, cleaning, and laundry. During this school year she has worked at a nursing home and at a spa. Laxmi is grateful to her parents for their sacrifices and love in bringing her (and her siblings) to America. In her words, "we can live our dreams here."
- **Shaniqua E.** plans to attend *Monroe Community College (MCC)* next fall. After two years at MCC, Shaniqua intends to transfer to a four-year college or university to pursue a BA or BS in Psychology or Social Work. Shaniqua was paired with **Alyce Sanders** for two years before Alyce was transferred out of state for work
- **Niasia's** mentor is **Judy Neuderfer**. Niasia will be attending *St. John Fisher College* to study nursing. She loves taking care of children and often helps her mom in their home day care center. She loves art and is a member of the WHG Book Club. She is currently learning to drive and hopes to pass her driver's test soon
- **Erica's** mentor is **Tamara Sheppard**. Erica is actively researching and applying to New York State community colleges, including *Broome Community College, Finger Lakes Community College* and *Niagara County Community College*
- **Maryam's** mentor is **Joyce McDonough**. She will attend *Monroe Community College (MCC)* for nursing in the fall
- **Kendra A.** will attend East Michigan State University in the fall, where she hopes to study nursing. Kendra will continue to be active in sports and looks forward to the challenges college in a new state will bring

## Susan B. Anthony Day

Twenty-one members of WGH visited the **Susan B. Anthony** House on March 19. The day included a tour of the house and a walk to the statute of **Anthony and Frederick Douglas** created by a local neighborhood immigrant from Laos. The girls learned about abolitionists and slavery by creating posters for up-coming rallies, writing their own speeches to champion the cause, and cheers as if they were present for a speech. Susan B. Anthony (played by **Barbara Blaisdell**) visited the girls during their activity, answering their questions and engaging in conversation about her experiences.



Pictured left to right: Khadijah D., Barbara Blaisdell (aka Susan B. Anthony), Susan Donovan, Aysia D., Amy Kauffman, Destiny C., and Alyssa L.

# Sisterhood Book Club

The Sisterhood Book Club under the leadership of **Melanie Lewis**, met monthly during homeroom at Wilson Commencement Academy.

## Members of the Sisterhood Book Club, 2010-2011

Kendra A.	Sierra B.	Ivy B.
Shaniqua E.	Lanaie J.	Amoni L.
Crystal P.	Niasia Q.	Jordanae S.
Erica T.	Rickierah W.	Sade W.



## Book List, 2010-2011

*Little Bee* by Chris Cleave  
*Put on Your Crown* by Queen Latifah  
*For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf* by Ntozake Shange  
*Tears for Water: Songbook of Poems & Lyrics* by Alicia Keys  
*The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls  
*Upstate* by Kalisha Buchanon  
*Teenie* by Christopher Grand  
*Letters to a Young Sister: DeFINE Your Destiny* by Hill Harper  
*The World Is Mine (Come Up)* by Lyah B. LeFlore and DL Warfield.  
**Summer Book:** *Song Yet Sung* by James McBride

# Mother's Day Luncheon

Our annual Mother's Day Luncheon took place on Saturday, May 7 at Good Luck Restaurant. More than 50 girls, moms, grandmothers, and mentors attended the event. Kuumba Consultant, **Delores Radney**, offered supplies and expertise for jewelry-making. After a lovely buffet-style lunch, Delores led a story telling time. Mothers and daughters shared memories, laughter, and tears as they shared favorite stories of one another.



Pictured at left: Mirage M. (right) with her grandmother Enola.



Ta'kara J. with her mom, Tanya.

# Annual Picnic

The Women Helping Girls Annual Picnic took place on June 4 at the Wegman's Lodge in Seneca Park. The picnic celebrates the end of the academic year and brings together the girls, their families, mentors, and volunteers in a casual and warm environment. Everyone devoured the burgers, hot dogs, and sausages, and the salads and desserts brought by attendees were a big hit! Judging by the chatter and laughter, a good time was had by all.



Veronica and Caitlyn K. with their mom Liz .



(Photo at right): Destiny C. (right) and her sister Shadia

# Pats on the Back

- **Ta'kara J.** an 8th grader at Wilson Foundation Academy was inducted into the Junior Honor Roll Society this year
- **Crystal P.** made the high honor roll and is on the varsity softball team. She works at Wegmans on Ridge Road as a cashier and food demonstrator. Crystal is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to shadow a nurse in a hospital to be sure nursing is what she'd like to do as a career. This summer Crystal is looking forward to working on a research project at the University of Rochester and spending time with her mentor, **Sue Haefner**
- **Jordanae S.** received an award for her academic achievement in chemistry. This summer, she will be a foreign exchange student in Peru
- **Anetaijia P.** is on the high honor roll and the varsity softball team. This summer she will be writing her extended essay, working at the Irondequoit Tops, and working with Professor **Laurel Carnie** at the University of Rochester researching the sense of hearing. Her college search so far includes Gannon University, New Haven University, and the U of R
- **Destiny C.** has earned a 4.0 GPA for the past marking period (!) and took part in the City's 'Clean Sweep' program