

'Hetty's Haven' in the future for WoW

Women of Worth founder Sandy Schmidt talks about the nonprofit that helps families escaping from domestic violence get back on their feet.

What is your mission?

Women of Worth helps families in crisis, especially those escaping domestic violence and sexual assault. We help people and families become self-reliant and rebuild their lives.

What is your yearly budget?

Our budget is \$98,000, with two paid staff. WOW is supported solely by the generosity of people, business owners, community groups and private foundations providing countless volunteer hours, in-kind donations and financial support to assist in healthy transitions for families in crisis.

However, WoW also is looking to expand its vision and services to include a supportive transitional home. The expansion will require additional paid staff, advisory and board members, volunteers, and funding.

What is your history?

I founded Women of Worth in 2001. My passion for helping abused women and children comes out of my own journey with abuse and starting over as a single mother with three young children.

That motivated me to help others with obstacles such as finding housing, work, food and resources to meet daily needs.

Who is your primary audience?

Domestic violence victims



The Union file photo

Volunteers help carry donated gifts for families working with Women of Worth during the HoHoHo Holiday Outreach at the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

and families in crisis — including educated families, leaders in the community and business leaders.

What are your biggest achievements?

- With a very frugal budget, WoW helps hundreds of people yearly with practical assistance, encouragement and mentoring.

- Programs including: "Way Cool Back to School" educational support (more than 500 students served in 2009); "HoHoHo" Christmas adopt-a-family program (630 people served in 2009); "Fresh Start" Community Warehouse (a new venture that serves families and collaborates with local organizations); and "WOW Safe Home Makeover" program.

- Assisting many local agencies through supplying clothing, diapers, home goods, etc.

What are your biggest challenges?

- Finances. The current



economy has closed or reduced services for many domestic violence agencies and shelters while increasing the number of domestic violence calls.

- Expanding our staff (paid and volunteers) to meet the growing need.

- Expand services and partnerships to address the growing number of calls we receive each day.

What is your No. 1 short-term goal?

Open Hetty's Haven, a supportive transitional home, dedicated to the memory of in dedication to the memory of Hetty Williams, who was killed by her husband in 2005.

What is your No. 1 long-term goal?

Expansion of Hetty's Haven and services that will help

families rebuild, with success lasting for generations.

What are your organization's major fundraisers?

WoW has several exciting events this year. Visit our web site or call for details.

What is the best way to help?

Contribute your time, talent or treasure. Both men and women are needed as volunteers. Remember WoW in your estate plans.

Contact information

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