HALF-YEAR REPORT

January-June 2022

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WOMEN ON THE MOVE NETWORK

In 2021 the Board of Directors decided to change our administrative year from January 1 -- December 31 to July 1-- June 30. This report covers the period from January through June 2022, to accommodate that change.

We began the year 2022 with the support of two new members on our Board, Monica Rodriguez and Kathleen Brown who joined us in fall of 2021. Our two main programs were operating, although still with pandemic-related restrictions in place.

Programs

WHO'S YOUR HERO?

Our flagship after-school group mentoring program for girls was operating at three schools, Los **Amigos** Elementary in Rancho Cucamonga, Bemis Elementary and Kolb Middle school in Rialto. We were only able to implement an online version of our customary program at Bemis and Los Amigos because of the restrictions which prohibited the presence of non-district persons on campus, as a health measure. We had a number of new mentors we had to train on our curriculum and practices; in addition all program volunteers had to determine the best ways to form positive relationships with the participants in an online format. Fortunately, at Kolb Middle School we were able to carry out a modified version of our program on-site under the supervision of Board Member Veronica Diaz-Saucedo, a teacher at Kolb. Even so, the increased demands on staff and student time to overcome lingering effects of the previous year's closures allowed program sessions at Kolb only twice per month.

Despite the constraints at Kolb Middle School the girls in the project developed an outstanding Day of the Dead project and display which not only delighted the entire student body but garnered a second-place win and a \$2,000 prize at a city-wide contest. One additional school, Solorio Elementary, joined the project in January, bringing an enthusiastic group of participants and parents into our WHO'S YOUR HERO? family. The principals of the project schools worked with us to accommodate the online format and encourage parents to attend online information meetings before sessions started, to build support, stimulate registrations and foster regular attendance by the participants each week. One unique feature of the program this spring was the Book Project, in which participant did special projects based on three of our curriculum topics that were consonant with three priority themes of the City of Rancho Cucamonga, supported by books on those themes purchased with a mini-grant from the City. The themes were Protection of the Environment, Role Model Women and Health and Nutrition.







Additional books were purchased with funds from a grant from the Arcadia Realtors Assn. The books were given to the participants after the projects were completed, to become part of their personal libraries. Examples of data collected after each of the projects is shown in the Appendix of this report. Our Director of Youth Development, Krista Furutan, guided the program through a difficult year and made the most of the available possibilities and opportunities.

Current Who's Your Hero? Programs-End of Year

1. Bemis Elementary School (Rialto)

- -Final meeting was May 4
- -The meeting was held in the MPR
- -11 girls attended
- -Awards/Books were presented
- -Played a game
- -Refreshments provided
- -Principal is planning for in-person meeting next year.

2. Los Amigos Elementary School (Rancho Cucamonga)

- -Final meeting was May 5
- -The meeting was held at Los Amigos Park
- -1 girl attended with her parents
- -Awards/Books were presented
- -Refreshments provided
- -Principal is planning for in-person meeting next year.

3. Kolb Middle School

- -Final meeting was May 17
- -6 Girls attended
- -Meeting was held in the classroom and outdoors.
- -Awards/Books were presented

4. Solorio Elementary (Fontana)

- -Final meeting was May 3
- -The meeting was held in the MPR
- -14 girls attended
- -Awards/Books were presented
- -Played games
- -Refreshments provided
- -Principal is planning for in-person meeting next year.











WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

Topics ranging from: dealing with disabilities, the many dimensions of love, and true gender equity to a three-session series on overcoming challenges, characterize the themes of our monthly workshops for adult women. We make special effort to bring in outstanding, dynamic presenters to offer insightful and helpful events. The lively question/answer periods that follow each presentation let us know that we are providing programs that reach the hearts of the attendees. We have moved the time of the workshops a little later to make it easier for working women to attend. Currently the workshops are at 5:00PM on the 2nd Friday of each month, online. We also record each session and post it on our YouTube channel, so that it may be accessed by anyone at any time.

We are looking forward to the time when we can hold the workshops in person, perhaps in a hybrid structure as well.







Funding

City of Rancho Cucamonga Mini-Grant

We received the \$1,000.00 mini-grant in 2020, but were not able to use the funds for their intended purpose because of the Covid shut-down. When it became clear that we could not implement the project as written in 2021 either, we developed the Book Project as an alternative. Thanks to the flexibility of the City staff involved, we were able to use the funds in a meaningful way in Spring,2022.

Arcadia Realtors Assn. Grant

With the support of a member of our Advisory Council, May Rahmanian, we were invited to apply for a grant from the Association. Our proposal was to use the funds to buy books to use in the WHO'S YOUR HERO? Program, then gift the participants with the books. That project dovetailed perfectly with the Mini-Grant project. We were invited to a meeting of the Realtors Assn. to receive the check for the funds. We were one of fourteen non-profit organizations that received funding. Diane Gunther and Barbara Marino attended the meeting and spoke about the project to the assembled members.

Howmet Foundation Grant

We were invited to apply for a grant from the Howmet Foundation. We had previously been funded by Arconic Foundation which merged with Howmet in 2001. We went through the 3-step process, first a Concept Paper outlining our intended use for the money if funded, then a complete draft, finally the full proposal. We were delighted to receive word, on June 17, that we are approved for a \$20,000.00 grant for the WHO'S YOUR HERO? Program. We expect to receive the funds by August 1.

Additional Funding

Our original request to the Howmet Foundation was for \$30,000.00. We anticipate the cost of the WHO'S YOUR HERO? Program to be \$40,000.00 for one year, serving 100+ participants at a per/participant cost of \$400.00. We will receive \$20,000.00 from Howmet. We will seek an additional \$20,000.00 from other sources. We normally hold a gala fund-raiser event each year. During the pandemic we could not do so. We will have a fundraiser in Fall 2022. We will also request funding from at least one more foundation. Several fund-raising strategies have been under consideration during this spring. No decisions have been made yet. We are aware that we need to adopt one or more ongoing income-stream strategies as a permanent practice.

Partnerships and Promotion

Partnerships

We have solid continuing relationships with the City of Rancho Cucamonga Healthy RC program, with the University of LaVerne, People for Peace and Prosperity and other local banks and organizations. Through the University of LaVerne we recruit volunteer mentors. In addition we have made good contact with the staff in charge of the work-study program, to be able to get work-study students as mentors for WHO'S YOUR HERO? We have reached out to Chaffey College for the same purpose, and hope to connect with California State University at San Bernardino.

Promotion

Our new WOTMN YouTube channel is a step forward in making our work more visible and more accessible to the public. Our Women's Empowerment Workshops and other public events are posted there, readily available. Our media specialist, Andrea Morua of CME Digital Marketing, maintains our Instagram, and Facebook profiles, a website and a blog for us, to publicize our events and accomplishments. Public efforts such as Giving Tuesday, are promoted through our media organs to build ongoing relationships with our supporters and make new friends for our organization. Significant grants and gifts will be publicized, to stimulate other possible donors and give recognition. In addition we are featured in combined ads in the popular Inland Empire Magazine.

Advisory Council

The primary functions of our Advisory Council are to assisting us in our work by giving ideas on issues that affect our work, seeking support from their contacts and the public and aiding our efforts by working with us in fundraising and publicity activities. We are in the process of rebuilding our Advisory Council, which has been somewhat dormant during the pandemic with notable exceptions such as the Arcadia Realtors grant. We are actively seeking members for our Advisory Council.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we approach the 2022-2023 administrative year for our organization we are encouraged by the likely opening of school sites in Fall 2022 which will enable in-person operation of our flagship program, WHO'S YOUR HERO? We are planning for at least hybrid Women's Empowerment Workshops, if not completely in-person sessions. Although unfortunately Kathleen Brown Smith had to resign from our Board because she was leaving the country, we are delighted to announce that two excellent candidates, Ms. Mahvash (May) Rahmanian and Dr. Jaye Houston have accepted our invitation and will join our Board in July 2022. A significant amount of funding is assured, from Howmet Foundation. We are invigorated by the prospect of a gala fundraiser in the very near future. Our 22nd year holds promise for being an effective instrument for the promotion of opportunities for girls and women in the Inland Empire and beyond.

APPENDIX

DATA THAT SHOW RESULTS OF POLLS AND QUESTIONNAIRES IN OUR WHO'S YOUR HERO? PROGRAM, USING THEMES FROM THE BOOK PROJECT: WATER CONSERVATION, ROLE MODEL WOMEN AND MINDFULNESS.

WATER CONSERVATION

Questions	<u>Pre</u> Lesson (12 responses)		Post Lesson (10 responses)		
	Yes No		Yes	No	
1.Do you know what a drought is?	75%	25%	100%	0%	
2. Is California in a drought?	83%	17%	90%	10%	
Does the rainwater in our area run off to the Huntington Beach area?	33%	67%	60%	40%	
Can our <u>wastewater</u> be treated and reused?	83%	17%	90%	10%	
5. One source of pollution in the water is pet waste.	50%	50%	50%	50%	
6. Can you think of at least 3 things you can do in your home to conserve water?	75%	25%	90%	10%	

MINDFULNESS

Questions	Pre Topic (24			Post Topic (25 responses)		
	responses)					
	Yes	No	I don't Know	Yes	No	I don't know
1.Have you ever heard of the word "Mindfulness"?	75%	8%	16%	96%	4%	0%
2.Have you ever practiced being "Mindful" before?	58%	21%	21%	88%	4%	8%
3. Can practicing mindfulness help you feel less worried?	67%	4%	21%	92%	4%	4%
4. Can practicing mindfulness help you be more focused?	75%	0%	25%	88%	8%	4%
5. When you practice mindfulness, you are focusing on your breathing.	42%	8%	50%	76%	4%	16%
6. Practicing mindfulness is helpful for both adults and children.	100%	0%	0%	96%	0%	4%

ROLE MODEL WOMEN

Questions	Pre Lesson (25 responses)		Post Lesson (23 responses)		
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
1. Is the most important work in the world done by men?	0%	100%	4%	96%	
2. Are women able to make big differences in the world in various fields?	96%	4%	100%	0%	
3. Can a young girl do something that makes an important difference?	100%	0%	100%	0%	
4. Can you name a woman who changed people's thinking about women's rights?	80%	20%	74%	26%	
5. Can you name a woman who has represented her race in a special way?	76%	24%	83%	17%	
6. Can you tell the story of the early life of a woman who rocked the world?	72%	28%	74%	26%	