



Women Reaching Women

A Faith-Based Ministry Right to the Heart

Women Reaching Women...in Brevard

WRW is a faith-based organization that endeavors to come along side of single moms, military moms and women in general in order to honor, support and encourage one another through life's trials.

Please visit our website! www.womenreachingwomenFL.org

Spotlight on Margie Kinslow—Literacy Alliance of Brevard

Imagine picking up this newsletter and not being able to read it or needing a job and not being able to read the application. There is a great need in Brevard County to address the issue of literacy.

Almost one out of every four adults in Brevard County is illiterate by today's standards, and this number has increased six percent in the last two years.

Margie Kinslow saw the need first hand as she taught six reading classes at Astronaut High School. Some students were reading at only a third grade level. She taught for 25 years and knew that she wanted to work in the area of adult literacy when she retired. That desire coupled with a specific prayer to the Lord led her to her present position as Executive Director of the Literacy Alliance of Brevard County. She asked the Lord for a rent-free building on Garden Street in Titusville. Her prayer was answered within two days as she drove past a building she had not noticed before with the sign reading "Literacy Alliance of Brevard". She contacted the building's owner who had also been praying for someone to take over the 502(c)(3) organization housed in his building. He and his wife had worked as tutors and officers in the

organization before her death in 1998. With no one to run the organization, their ability to help the community dwindled to doing book drives, handing out books in low-income areas and working with the Writer's Guild to hold writing contests in the public schools. With the building offered to her, Margie set out to pull the organization back together in January of 2007. The timing was perfect because in July of last year the libraries asked her to take over the administration of their Adult Literacy and English as Second Language (ESL) programs.

The Literacy Alliance is totally nonprofit and totally volunteer. Margie shared, "The libraries are our partners because they provide shelf space for our materials, study rooms for tutoring, and they refer students and potential tutors to us. We advertise with posters in laundromats and on public bulletin boards, and we have some spots on radio and public television." Each new student is matched with a tutor who lives in their area. Tutors meet one on one with students for sixty to ninety minute sessions once or twice a week, depending on their schedules.

The Literacy Alliance offers free training for tutors comprised of six

to eight hours of online instruction and an eight-hour Saturday session. Training for ESL tutors involves a few more hours of instruction. The Alliance is also looking for other volunteers. Opportunities include program directors, data-input clerks, inventory coordinator, publicity, public speaking and fund raising.

Mrs. Kinslow has a few more outreaches in the planning stage. She would like to get teens involved in after-school tutoring to help fellow classmates and log volunteer hours for community service at the same time. She also has plans to start a tutoring program at the Brevard Correctional Facility for inmates 18-25 years of age. The Literacy Alliance will also provide training for any churches that would like to participate in a literacy outreach in their neighborhood.

To volunteer with the Literacy Alliance of Brevard, please call (321) 917-8952, or complete the "Tutor Data Form" on the Information page of their website at: www.brevardliteracy.org, and mail it to 609 Garden Street, Titusville, FL 32796.

Women Reaching Women, Opening Meeting

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those serving our country, we are helping their families as well.

“We are all in a battle,” Donna said, “but we can fight the good fight of faith with the sword of the spirit, the Word of God.” God is calling Deborah’s and Esther’s to take their

place in the spiritual battles.

Patty Wilson gave some practical examples of how to fight the good fight of faith. She shared that the presence alone of our troops in Iraq would not make a difference. They have to take action. Sometimes they may be afraid, but they do their jobs anyway.

God may ask us to do something that to us seems scary. Do it afraid! We may be the answer to our own prayers. Patty exhorted the women to arise, take their position, and “possess the land”.

Mark your calendar for the next Women Reaching Women meeting on Monday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Flat Daddy Posters

Flat Daddy posters (Flat Mommies too) are a wonderful way to help children and families stay connected to a deployed parent or loved one. When soldiers go to war, Flat Daddies hold their place at home.

Flat Daddies have been used by military families since at least 2003, when Cindy Sorenson of Bismarck, N.D., ordered a life-size photo of her husband, Capt. Dave Bruschwein, on a piece of foam board when he was stationed in Iraq with the North Dakota National Guard.

Ms. Sorenson heard that the children of local guard members made small cutouts of themselves modeled on the children’s book “Flat Stanley,” where the character is flattened and can travel by envelope, and then mailed the images to Iraq.

She wanted to make a similar, life-size version of Captain Bruschwein for their daughter, Sarah, who was 13 months old when her father was

deployed. Ms. Sorenson said it helped Sarah, now 4, recognize her father when he came home on leave. “She saw him on the jetway and said, ‘Daddy, Daddy,’ ” Ms. Sorenson said. “There was no anxiety.”



The idea is that if you have a birthday party or a wedding, you take the ‘Flat Daddy’ and sit it in a chair and take a photo,” explained Sergeant First Class

Barbara Claudel, the state family-support director who began the program. “Then you send a photo to your Soldier and say ‘Sorry you weren’t here but you were really.’”

But the two-dimensional substitutes must not be limited to appearances at family festivities. And it’s not only Flat Daddies. Claudel says that there are Flat Mommies, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, boyfriends and girlfriends.

Do you have a family member or a friend who could benefit from a Flat Daddy around the house? Women Reaching Women will have a drawing once a month to receive a ‘FREE’ Flat Daddy. Simply attend a monthly meeting and fill out the yellow drawing form. We will draw the winner the night of the event. You can also purchase a Flat Daddy by going to the Women Reaching Women website and click on Flat Daddy tab.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

FREEDOM! It is our desire to see freedom experienced not only in our country and around the world; but freedom in the **minds and lives of the individuals who suffer from the affects of war and separation**

from loved ones. Many have fought and paid a price for our freedom; now we have the opportunity to contribute to the well-being of those who have come home and need us to fight for them!

If you would like to make a donation to help in the aid of the families with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) or TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) please visit our website www.womenreachingwomenFl.org.