



Legacy

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION® FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2007

Now What?

If someone had told me a few years ago that goats would bring in over \$250,000 to the WMU Foundation, I would have laughed. But after seeing the amazing success of Project MOST, I know better. I know about the power of

tangible giving. The impact of missions education. The faith and determination of children involved in God's work. Project MOST brought a new level of excitement and urgency toward giving as children faithfully raised money to provide goats for struggling farmers in war-torn Croatia.

Now, how can we continue this momentum for WMU®? One way is the WMU Vision Fund, which supports all ministries of WMU. The Vision Fund is more than a pool of money sitting in a bank. The Vision Fund helps the community that will receive the ministry of MissionsFEST volunteers. The Vision Fund helps the women who will receive Christ through involvement in Christian Women's Job Corps®. It is for the women in Moldova who will be saved from human trafficking through an International InitiativesSM partnership. The Vision Fund is for the ministries of WMU that reach out to our world 365 days a year. **A gift of \$34 provides one hour of these vital WMU ministries.**

So you see, giving to WMU *is* giving to missions. Please make a gift to provide an hour, a day, or even a week of WMU ministries. Teach your children's groups the value of ministry and how they can change lives with their support. Have your Sunday School class collect a gift for the Vision Fund and "adopt" a ministry to pray for. Catch the passion for God's work. The children who raised thousands of dollars for Project MOST did so with passion, enthusiasm, and faith. Imagine if that were now applied to all of the ministries of WMU!

David George

LEGACY / WMU FOUNDATION

11



To support WMU ministries through the Vision Fund, send your check, payable to the WMU Foundation, to 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242.

\$34=one hour
\$821=one day
\$5,769=one week
\$25,000=one month

Leaving a Legacy

The WMU Foundation exists to support the worldwide missions and ministry work of WMU®. Your gift to the Foundation is a lasting legacy of your faith and your commitment to fulfilling the mission of God.

All gifts should be made payable to the WMU Foundation. You may designate a specific program or endowment. The WMU Foundation is a not-for-profit organization and your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Golfing for Missions

This past spring, several Touch Tomorrow Today endowments scored big with the WMU Foundation's first ever National Virtual Golf Tournament. The event challenged state WMUs to raise money for their Touch Tomorrow Today endowments by collecting sponsorships and playing golf any-time, anywhere, and any WAY before May 15. The winner of the tournament was Illinois WMU, which raised \$10,045. South Carolina WMU was a close second with \$9,510.55, and Hawaii WMU placed third by raising \$5,511.50. Arkansas WMU also participated and raised \$4,700 for its endowment.

This wasn't your everyday golf tournament—some players were “virtual golfers” who simply collected contributions, while some played putt-putt, and others played a true round of golf. Their methods were different, but they all raised sponsorships to support their state's Touch Tomorrow Today.

Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive-director of Illinois WMU, said, “The Touch Tomorrow Today endowment will allow Illinois



WINNERS OF THE 2007 NATIONAL VIRTUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT— ILLINOIS WMU EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR SANDY WISDOM-MARTIN AND ILLINOIS PRESIDENT KAYE SHIPLEY WITH WMU FOUNDATION PRESIDENT DAVID GEORGE.

WMU to leave a missions legacy for the future. No matter what happens, there will be a steady stream of income dedicated solely to missions education and involvement . . .

The virtual golf tournament was a fun way to inspire people to give. It gave us yet another platform to speak about Touch Tomorrow Today and the WMU Foundation.”

WMU Foundation president David George said, “A *virtual* golf tournament turned out to be the perfect fundraising event. We didn't have to handle greens fees, cart rental, or even worry if it rained. Best of all, *everyone*, from the serious

golfer to the serious missions advocate, could participate.” The WMU Foundation is very pleased with the outcome of this event and has plans to offer it again next year.

Touch Tomorrow TODAY

Touch Tomorrow Today supports the missions efforts of the states, as well as national WMU. If you are interested in giving to your state's Touch Tomorrow Today, mail your gift, marked for your state, to 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242.

Mississippi Church Makes a Joyful Gift

At the Legacy Dessert Party, held during the 2007 WMU Missions Celebration in San Antonio, Texas, Charlotte Scott and Tammy Pearson from FBC Jackson presented Wanda Lee and David George with a check for \$10,000 for the Joy Fund. Scott is the WMU director and Pearson is the Women on Mission president at First

Baptist Church, Jackson.

The gift came from an endowment at FBC Jackson left by Mrs. Margaret Bryan Allen, an active and faithful member of WMU. The endowment supported the completion of a building program and then was entrusted to the WMU at FBC Jackson. Charlotte Scott stated, “Mrs. Allen had the desire for children to see their



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: WANDA LEE, TAMMY PEARSON, DAVID GEORGE, AND CHARLOTTE SCOTT.

potential for service in God's kingdom through missions education. Prior to her death in 1990, Mrs.

Allen had desired for a legacy that would continue to make a difference beyond her years.”

South Carolina's Akerman Receives 2007 O'Brien Award *by Amy W. Richardson*

WMU and the WMU Foundation honored Debby Akerman of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, with a top award for service and leadership during the WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, June 10–11, in San Antonio.

Akerman received The Dellanna West O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development, which recognizes Baptist women who demonstrate an ability to foster Christian leadership in other women, display the potential to be a leader in their community and the world, and excel in missions education. The award also carries a \$2,000 grant from an endowment held by the WMU Foundation.

"I am truly honored and humbled," Akerman said as she accepted the award. Dellanna O'Brien, for whom the award is named, was also present for the presentation and said, "I have had the privilege of knowing Debby for several years, and it's been exciting to see her grow and mature as a leader while remaining so humble. She is an extremely worthy recipient of this award."

A retired nurse, Akerman was chosen for her untiring devotion and exemplary leadership in women's and community programs for more than 20 years in New England.

Akerman's passion for missions education through WMU is evident in the many leadership and volunteer roles in which she has trained and mentored new leaders, developed strong organizations, and offered her nursing skills and other creative talents throughout the years.

Akerman is a past president of New England WMU and has served more than two decades as a Girls in



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: AWARD RECIPIENT DEBBY AKERMAN WITH FORMER WMU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DELLANNA O'BRIEN, WMU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WANDA LEE, AND FORMER NATIONAL WMU PRESIDENT JANET HOFFMAN

Action® (GA®) leader. She is an associational GA consultant and has been a national conference leader as well.

Akerman continues to be a leader in South Carolina, where she and her husband, Brad, retired in 2000. Since moving to Myrtle Beach, Akerman has begun a Bible study at a local shelter for homeless women with substance abuse problems. Akerman currently serves on the South Carolina WMU Executive Board and is chairman of the personnel committee, and she is also the WMU director at Ocean View Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach.

"The bottom line is that Debby lives, eats, and breathes missions," wrote Steven Cromer, senior pastor of Ocean View Baptist Church, recommending Akerman for this award. "She sees all of life through that filter."

After praying and evaluating opportunities for gifts in accordance to the desires of Mrs. Allen, the Trust Fund Committee agreed that the gift should be made to the Joy Fund through the WMU Foundation. "Mrs. Allen knew that WMU ensured Southern Baptist women

and children would have the opportunity to learn about missions, pray for missions, give and participate in missions around the world as well as lead the church to be missional. The Joy Fund perfectly represents the legacy Mrs. Allen desired," Scott commented.

THE JOY FUND supports the operations of WMU and provides a solid financial foundation for the future. If you would like to make a gift to the Joy Fund, you may send it to: WMU Foundation, 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242, or make a gift online at www.wmufoundation.com.

 **2008**
is the
20th anniversary
of the
Second Century Fund.

Be sure to read the January 2008 issue of Legacy to learn more about the Second Century Fund and the impact it has made and continues to make around our country and world.



WMU Foundation

David George
President

Dana Garcia
Development Coordinator

Allan Grimsley
Donor Information
Coordinator

Candice Lee
Marketing Strategy
Coordinator

Linda Lucas
Administrative Support

Emily Ray
Intern

Trustees:

Howard Cobble,
Chair,
Carrollton, GA

Joy Fenner,
Vice Chair,
Garland, TX

Janet Craynon,
Investment Committee
Chair,
Springfield, IL

James Westbrooks,
Development Committee
Chair,
Dallas, TX

Betty Ann Whitson,
Awards and Nominations
Chair,
Scurry, TX

Sylvia DeLoach,
Garland, TX

Lil Drawdy,
Hampton, SC

David Hayes,
Mount Juliet, TN

Bunker Medbery,
Tallahassee, FL

Sterling Moore,
Richmond, VA

Sandra Nash,
Clinton, MS

Carol Richardson,
Memphis, TN

Ellen Tabor,
Winston-Salem, NC

Crawford Taylor,
Birmingham, AL

Martha Wennerberg,
DeFuniak Springs, FL

Ex Officio:

Wanda Lee,
Birmingham, AL

Kaye Miller,
Little Rock, AR

Non-Board Committee Members:

June Whitlow,
Birmingham, AL

Giving to WMU Is Giving to Missions



I knew I needed to make some changes in my life.

Patrice Oats needed job skills. She needed academic development. And, she needed a Savior. When Patrice walked through the doors at Christian Women's Job Corps® (CWJC®), she found all that and more.

That's what CWJC does—enables women like Patrice to get back on the path. It awakens women to the opportunities around them by helping them discover the value *within* them. All this takes place within a Christian context. Missions doesn't have to take place across the world. Your next mission may just be next door. Your next mission may be through WMU.

I knew I needed to make some changes in my life.

Your gift to the Vision Fund in any amount supports all WMU ministries, including Christian Women's Job Corps. You can make a gift to support an hour of WMU ministry (\$34), a day (\$821), a week (\$5,769), or a month (\$25,000). *Giving to WMU IS giving to missions*—souls won to Christ, communities transformed, lives changed. *That's* what it means to give to missions, and that's what WMU does best.

Please send your gift to:



WMU Foundation
Vision Fund
100 Missionary Ridge
Birmingham, AL 35242

www.wmufoundation.com

1888 Circle

Where would WMU be without the strong missions leaders and supporters of the past? WMU's rich legacy is full of women and men who believed in the mission of WMU and the call of God in their lives. Because of these Christ followers, WMU has continued and grown for 119 years, always remaining committed to its purpose—missions. The WMU Foundation is here to make sure that legacy continues for another 119 years, and beyond. The 1888 Circle is one way you can partner with us.

The 1888 Circle is composed of missions-minded individuals who have made WMU a part of their estate plans and notified the WMU Foundation of these plans. As a member of the 1888 Circle, you not only demonstrate your commitment to the mission of WMU, but you also join a long-standing legacy of others who share the vision of WMU and want to help change lives through Christ.

Would you like to make a commitment to support WMU for the next generation of Christ followers? Contact the WMU Foundation today to learn about the various planned giving options. We are here to help you make a world of difference.

I have been a member of a WMU organization since age three, when my mother was my Sunbeam (Mission Friends®) leader. My experiences in WMU helped prepare me for when I surrendered for missions at age 13 at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly. I thought my call was to serve as a career missionary in Africa, and though I've been involved in hands-on missions and made several mission trips, I've lived my call by letting others see missions through my eyes by teaching and writing missions materials. I have included WMU in my will so my God-given material possessions can help WMU provide future generations the same wonderful privilege I have had of learning about and living out their missions calls.

—Jarene Robison
1888 Circle member,
Tulsa, Oklahoma



BECOME A MEMBER

The 1888 Circle is composed of individuals who make WMU a part of their estate plans and notify WMU Foundation of these plans.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WMU Foundation, 100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242
Phone: Toll Free 1-877-482-4483 or (205) 408-5525 **FAX:** (205) 408-5508
Internet Access: www.wmufoundation.com
Email: wmufoundation@wmu.org