

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

After 12 transformative years as Executive Director of Greater DuPage MYM, M. Janet Bornancin is moving on to pursue her career goals. When Janet first came aboard, MYM was a small agency with a vision of reaching out to teen parents who found themselves alone without support and provided them with the coping skills they would need to raise happy, healthy children. Turning that vision into reality, Greater DuPage MYM now provides comprehensive services throughout DuPage County which include doula services, child birth preparation classes, home visitation, parent support groups, as well as a school pregnancy prevention program. The staff asked Janet to take a moment to reflect on where the agency has been and where she sees it going.



MYM bids farewell to Executive Director M. Janet Bornancin

How did you first come to hear about MYM?

“In 1990 I met MYM Executive Director Charlotte Mushow. I was the (Volunteer) Executive Director of The Association for Children for Enforcement of Support Inc., (ACES) of DuPage County. Charlotte and other women executive directors of organizations which served women were meeting regularly to identify gaps in service to women in our community, partnering to respond to those gaps, and collaborating on programs and fundraising. The participating organizations included: Greater DuPage MYM, ACES, Family Shelter Service represented by Karen Webster, Care and Counseling Center represented by Sarah Washington, the DuPage Senior Citizens Council represented by Joan Taylor and the YWCA represented by Ellen Barcroft. The group called itself the Women's Connection. We were small but mighty and our services, programs, and each other were all better because of the support we gave each other.

In 1993 Charlotte called me and told me about the Executive Director position at Greater DuPage MYM. I did some research on the MELD for Young Moms program. I was so impressed by the program's structure, training, and outcomes that I decided to apply for the job.”

What was MYM like when you first joined?

“The mission of MYM at that time was the same as it is today: *To serve the community through education on the realities and responsibilities of teenage pregnancy and through*

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Editors: Tanya Landsman, Cindy Smith & Lora Vitek

Summer 2005



long term assistance to adolescent parents for their development of self-esteem, parenting skills and empowerment toward self-sufficiency. The organization was experiencing some growing pains. The board of directors was anxious to push through the challenges, the staff was committed to the program and dedicated to the young mothers being served, and I was the new kid who had to prove herself. With the direction of President Lea Ann Skogsberg and financial leadership from treasurer Shawn Heming, we worked to increase funding so that the staff and their volunteers, including Becky Beilfuss, could have the resources needed to continue and expand their meaningful work.

At that time Greater DuPage MYM was serving 20 young mothers through 4 peer support groups. The Prevention Program was called "The Speakers Bureau" and served 4 high schools during the 1993-1994 school year. There were 5 staff people, Betty Hamilton, Molly Jung, Kim Marshall, Elaine VanBerschoot and myself. Betty and I did the fundraising work while the others delivered program. We were all part time employees. I remember going to the MYM picnic that first summer of my employment. I remember being so impressed with the young mothers and how they interacted with their infants and toddlers. I also remember how supportive the moms were of each other and the watchful caring observance and helpfulness of the Parent Group Facilitators and the Program Staff.

With the mission as the "plumb line" together with Betty, Elaine, Becky and the Board of Directors we increased the numbers of young mothers in the groups, expanded the prevention program, now called the Peer Prevention Program, increased public awareness of teen pregnancy and adolescent parenting and charged forward."

How have you seen the agency change during your time with MYM?

"The changes that I have seen in the organization since I first started working here include the increased focus on outcomes of our programs. As in all high performing not for profits, we are not only concerned with how many people we serve annually, but how well do we serve them. We ask ourselves regularly, are we making a difference? How are we making a difference? Let's share the good news! Other changes include the expansion of our programs and services to include not only a growth in the number of groups we offer, but also our home visitation program, Healthy Families, our Parents' Pantry, an increase in our Scholarship Fund and number of young fathers we serve. We have formal partnerships with other service providers, and have some exciting collaborations such as our middle school prevention program Adolescents With Awareness, Resources, and Education (AWARE), Healthy Families DuPage a collaboration with the Health Department and Lifelink, and most recently Positive Parenting DuPage a multi-disciplinary collaboration sponsored by the generosity of our friends at The Topfer Family Foundation. With these changes came the growth of our staff, our volunteer core and our budget. When I started we had a \$50,000 budget. Our projected budget for next year is more than 1.3 million dollars!



A MYM participant and her daughter at the annual MYM picnic

At my first breakfast with our founder Jeanne Altendorf McLennan, she shared with me her vision of this organization. She wanted the program to be available to every teen parent in DuPage County. The organization is not there yet, but from a solid financial base and proven quality services, the infrastructure is in place for continued growth to meet that vision. I am confident that under the direction of Interim Executive Director, Becky Beilfuss and with your continued support of Greater DuPage MYM you will see the decline of teenage pregnancy in our community.

Prevention Program Expands!

On June 20, 2005, Greater DuPage MYM's Prevention Program was awarded a grant of \$50,000 from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) for fiscal year 2006. Grants were awarded based on a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, which began in February of 2005. A total of 35 community-based agencies in Illinois, including Greater DuPage MYM, received grant funding from IDHS.

This exciting new grant funding will be used to expand the delivery of Greater DuPage MYM's Peer Prevention and Adolescents with Awareness, Resources, and Education (AWARE) programs. Specifically, we will continue to focus on reducing teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and the incidence of HIV/AIDS. Our target population is adolescents who are between the ages of 10-19 who attend DuPage area middle, junior high, and high schools and community groups.

In addition, Greater DuPage MYM will kick off a community awareness campaign in an effort to promote, "The Power of Prevention!" All people in the community, from teens, to adults, have the power and the ability to prevent teen pregnancy, STDs, and HIV/AIDS. Community members are encouraged to use their voices and become involved in the Prevention Program. Community members can share their own passion for prevention by joining the Prevention Program Community Advisory Group (CAG).

If you are interested in becoming a member of the CAG or if you have questions about scheduling, please call Laura Carlin, Prevention Program Coordinator at (630) 790-8433 x 371.

MYM Parents Speak out Against Child Abuse

As part of Child Abuse Prevention month participants were asked what they do to stop child abuse. The following is an essay written by one of the young moms in our parent groups.



HOW I WILL Prevent child abuse By...
 Not being like my family. When I was little I used to get hit by my father, my mom used to give my dad beer and then he would get drunk so when he was drunk he used any thing to hit us like for example Belts, ~~Matt~~ Kitchen cooking spoon, Cable wires. But as time passed my family split up, my mom did my family still had problems. We did not know how to Communicate with each other. So the way I will prevent Child Abuse is by not spanking, hitting or harming my child. I will talk with him/her and let them know that I'm here for them and they should not have any fear between us. I will teach him that talking is the best solution and if he ever did any that will make me mad I will tell him not to worry because it can be replaced and he can calm and every thing will be ok. The other way to discipline is by taking time out or going to their rooms to think about what they did.
 Signed By Angelina, 18



The staff at MYM ask that you remember in your prayers the families of Rachel and Jerrod Goebel. On May 28th, the couple was in a fatal car accident. Rachel, one of our program participants, was pronounced dead at the site and Jerrod remained in a coma for several weeks afterwards. Jerrod is currently in a rehabilitation facility and their two small daughters Isabella (4) and Bethany (2) are being cared for by their grandparents. Donations for the Isabella and Bethany Goebel Fund are being accepted at the First National Bank of Naperville, 555 Fort Hill Dr.

Doulas - supporting new mothers prenatally through birth



Doula Lis Christian helps a new mom with baby

The following letter was written by the mother of one of our participants in the MYM doula program.:

"When I learned my daughter was pregnant and that she wanted me in the delivery room with her, I was thrilled! When we started taking the prenatal classes through MYM, I found I learned so much - even though I had had 3 children of my own. The girls who taught were very prepared, you could tell experienced, and such a big help. Though I was prepared to help my daughter through her pregnancy and labor in anyway I could, I was glad to learn my daughter wanted a doula in the labor room with us. That way, I could really concentrate on the baby being born. Not that I didn't want to help my daughter, but I've never experienced anything like this before! I was able to stand on the doctor's left side and watch my 2nd grandchild come into this world! It is something that I will most certainly NEVER forget! And that was in big thanks, due to her doula! Her doula was at her side whenever she was needed. When she wasn't 'so' needed, she backed off. She was wonderful!

I enjoyed the doula's visits to our house, especially the 1st few. That's when she asked my daughter lots of questions about herself and our family, and just sometimes sat back and let my daughter say what she wanted. I felt she was really interested in our family because she wanted to, not because she had to. She involved me as well, since I am a major part of my daughter's life. We were able to talk about our fears, concerns, wishes and loves. In other words, I felt the doula covered all bases with us. She was kind, understanding, informative, a good-listener and a good teacher. I don't feel she ever tried to push her own views on us. She asked questions, listened, then gave my daughter choices and let her make her own decisions.

DO IT!!! These girls know what they're doing! Our doula helped bring a peace of mind to my daughter and myself. She answered every question we asked, openly and honestly. She came to our house multiple times before the birth, which is where we really got to know each other. It was nice to go to the classes where the comfort zone started, but it grew with each home visit. She became a real part of our lives through this process, and it has continued since the birth with more home visits. She has been a helpful, understanding and caring help! I'm glad my daughter chose to have a doula, and she'd do it again in a heartbeat! Me too! They know things that we elders don't! Things have changed a lot over the years, so it was good to have someone who knew the ropes, and who really cared!

My message would be, keep doing what you're doing! I really don't think there is anything else that I can add! My daughter and I have been so pleased!

I'm proud to say that my daughter's doula was Lis Christian! Thank you, Lis, for who you are and for all you've done!"

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* denotes new board member

MYM celebrates 20 years with Roaring Twenties Live & Silent Auction Event



From flappers to gangsters to the martini luge, this year's annual event was fun for everyone and a success. Lead by Pamela McGeorge (pictured left), the event committee lit up The Ashton Place with great decor of boas and beads as well as hand-painted martini glasses by Gail Bell. This year's event net more than \$75,000 to support the programs and services of Greater DuPage MYM.

Our sponsors were very generous by contributing support of more than \$30,000! We thank you! Sponsors include: LaSalle Bank, Central DuPage Health, Global Fire Protection Company, Harris Bank Naperville, Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Hines, III, The Honorable & Mrs. Ronald Mehling, Barb Miklos, Dugan & Lopatka, Kuhn, Heap & Monson, MidAmerica Bank, Mutual of America and Wheeler Dental Care. Special thanks to: Gail Bell, DiDi Foley - 95.9 the River, Erin Frey, FASTSIGNS, Breck & Nancy Hanson, Marcy Night and the Night Express, Marylou Crane, Michael's, Minuteman Press - Naperville, Kim & Chad Rapper, Rental Max, Steven L. Good, Studio D, The Ashton Place, and The Exchange Club of Naperville.



Greater DuPage MYM Founder Jeanne Altendorf McLennan and her husband Joe McLennan attended this year's event. We are very lucky to have their continued support as MYM enters into its 20th year of providing programs and services to the community.



From left to right: Mike Sakach, Shawn Heming, and Mike VanEerkeren enjoy bidding on live auction items. Shawn Heming is a Past Board President and member. He and his family remain great supporters of MYM.



Doris Christopher, friend of MYM and founder of The Pampered Chef, enjoys the evening after becoming the winning bidder of the George W. Bush autographed cowboy hat. This year's live auction raised more than \$16,000!



From left to right: Past Board President and Member Valerie Bruggeman, Denny Bornancin, and Nancy Beck



From left to right: Maureen Borchert and John and Susanne Higgins



Greater DuPage
MYM.inc.

739 Roosevelt Road, Bldg. 8, Ste. 306
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137-9937

Services: 630-790-8433 x310

Prevention Program: 630-790-8433 x371

Development: 630-790-8433 x269

Interim Executive Director

Becky Beilfuss: 630-790-8433 x282

Visit our website!

www.greaterdupagemym.org

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Save the Date!

Join us for MYM's annual FriendRaiser Sunday, November 13th.



MYM's annual FriendRaiser is a great way to meet and mingle with MYM staff, donors, and friends. This event also offers you an opportunity to learn about the programs and services MYM provides in the community. On Sunday November 13th, the annual FriendRaiser will be held at the Glen Oak Country Club. We are excited to have Barry Keefe of the Eric & Kathy morning show on 101.9 FM THE MIX as this year's emcee! Tickets are \$35. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

What a great way to kick off the holiday season and the winter months! There will be a spectacular raffle of table-top holiday trees decorated by local businesses and individuals from all across DuPage County.

Interested in attending? Interested in decorating a table-top tree?

Email Lvitek@greaterdupagemym.org or call 630.790.8433 ext. 269.