



WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2022 TO JUNE 2023



table of contents

2 PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT

3 MISSION, VISION
AND THE ALLIANCE

4 OUR HISTORY
AND THE BOARD

5 ABOUT OUR
PROGRAM

6 PROGRAM
STATISTICS

7 WEN ANNUAL
LUNCHEON

8 KC JOB
FAIRS

9 THREE PILLARS
TO SUCCESS

10 CLIENT STORY -
KATRINA CLARK

11 NEW TO THE
WEN TEAM

12 2022-2023
FINANCIALS

13 LEGACY CIRCLE
MEMBERS



PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

As we reflect upon the past fiscal year and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, we are honored to share with you the financial impacts on women achieved by the Women's Employment Network (WEN) during the fiscal year 2022-2023 in this annual report.

At WEN, we are driven by our mission to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing the tools, resources, and support necessary to secure quality employment. Over the years, we have witnessed countless success stories, and this fiscal year was no exception.

Some of our key achievements this fiscal year was expansion of our digital services, social media presence and outreach to over 100 organizational partners. We recruited four additional staff members adding incredible talent to our team. In addition to traditional employment services, WEN continued to support aspiring women entrepreneurs access to training, mentoring, and resources to help them start or expand



their businesses through our OneKC for Women alliance partners.

As we move into the new fiscal year, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing the economic independence of women. We will continue to adapt to the changing landscape and find innovative ways to empower women on their journey to financial stability.

sherry turner

WEN PRESIDENT AND
ONEKC FOR WOMEN FOUNDER

mission

To help women raise their self-esteem and achieve economic independence through sustained employment.

vision

To advance positive change in the lives of women, their families and the community, one woman at a time.



alliance

WEN is a proud partner of the OneKC for Women alliance with the Women’s Business Center, Women’s Capital Connection, and Women Lead Initiative. By working together as OneKC for Women, these partner organizations are able to better achieve a common goal: empowering women to achieve financial independence.



our history



WEN CO-FOUNDERS BETH K. SMITH
AND MARJORIE POWELL ALLEN



TONIA BOMAR
2023 BETH K. SMITH AWARD

In 1986, two Kansas City philanthropists and visionaries, Beth K. Smith and Marjorie Powell Allen, had a profound idea of how to "help women help themselves" and they worked to form the Women's Employment Network. With the involvement and support of hundreds of volunteers, donors, and dedicated staff, WEN has grown from a single classroom at Pioneer College to where we are today.

WEN has continued to work toward the mission and vision of its founders and has played an important role in the professional growth of women in Kansas City for over three decades – at no cost to the women WEN serves.

the board

2022-2023 Directors:

Stacey Paine, *Chair*

Julie Pine, *Vice-Chair*

Nicole Miller, *Secretary*

Jen Regas, *Treasurer*

Aviva Ajmera

Cathy Baier

Julie Bowen

Stacey Callands

Kelly Eschweiler

Amber Goering

Sharon Holmes

Shanee Kimber

Arlene Mockapetris

Jahna Riley

Rachel Smith

Sylvya Stevenson

Toni Walsh

Megan Whitman

Kim Jones, *Past Chair*



Stacey Paine



Julie Pine

about our program

For over three decades, WEN has provided high-quality, much-needed programming in Kansas City. WEN believes that when you give women the support to build a foundation for their futures, potential, and well-being, you also strengthen the foundation for the entire community. WEN's holistic approach helps women reach their full potential – beyond unemployment, and underemployment, not only by helping them find work but also by developing



their personal strengths, assisting them in understanding and realizing attainable goals, guiding them through the debt reduction process, and building personal finance skills and wealth over time.



1376

TOTAL UNDUPLICATED CLIENTS

908

NEW CLIENTS

191

FINANCIAL COACHING CLIENTS

150

EMPLOYMENT REFERRALS

program statistics

74% wen clients
below federal
poverty level

BASED ON HOUSEHOLDS OF FOUR

\$19.10

AVERAGE FULL-TIME WAGE

74% wen clients
making very low
income

BASED ON KC METRO MEDIAN INCOME

66% / 34%

MISSOURI / KANSAS CLIENTS

73% wen clients
single or
divorced

RELATIONSHIP STATUS

51% wen clients
identifying as a
person of color

RACE AND ETHNICITY

\$322.65

AVERAGE MONTHLY NET INCOME REPORTED AT INTAKE

*Increased by \$259.82 since 2020-2021, likely due to increased governmental supports

WEN Annual LUNCHEON



2023 Luncheon Co-Chairs Renee Gartelos and Kim Jones are joined by WEN President Sherry Turner (middle).



For over three decades, WEN has helped women in Kansas City on their journey to financial independence. In 2023, we gathered to celebrate our clients and heard how these women are emerging from a 'she-cession' that's had alarming financial impacts on the women in our community and beyond.

KC JOB FAIRS



KC Job Fairs are held twice annually, once in the spring and then again in the fall. The KC Job Fairs were both held in person for the first time since 2019. In fall of 2022 , there were 33 employers and over 40 job seekers. In spring of 2023, we had 49 employers and over 100 job seekers.

Employer industries: Healthcare, Financial Services/Banking, Education, Transportation and Logistics, Catering and Food Service, Insurance, Energy/Utilities, Technology, Non-Profit, Accounting/Tax Preparation, Government, Hospitality, Human Resources and more.



282

A background image of a job fair with people at tables. The image is overlaid with a green tint. The number '282' is prominently displayed in the center.

**IN-PERSON
KC JOB FAIRS**

**EMPLOYERS
HIRING**

THREE PILLARS TO SUCCESS



"Take a deep breath and try all over again."



"It takes that first step to start a journey."



"Dream big and hold on tight."

Our three pillars to success takes a holistic approach to personal and professional well being. We offer this course free of charge to women – living in and around the KC metro area – thanks to the support of the Kansas City community. Give us three short weeks to discover your true worth. Work with WEN staff and connect with other women, like you, who want to refocus on themselves, recommit to their goals and renew their passion, as they take the necessary steps to financial independence.

- WEEK ONE: Use this time to refocus on you, by reflecting on how you arrived to today and what you'd like to change moving forward.
- WEEK TWO: Turn the lessons learned from your past into fuel, as you recommit to setting goals that will help you define your own success.
- WEEK THREE: Take the next step towards your future, now that you are equipped with your new toolkit and a renewed passion for professional growth.

CLIENT STORY

KATRINA CLARK



Katrina Clark's journey is a testament to the transformative power of determination, courage, and unwavering support. In 2012, Katrina embarked on her path with WEN, seeking refuge from a life of domestic violence. Introduced to WEN by her mother, Katrina's story is a beacon of hope, resilience, and the remarkable potential for personal growth.

From the moment she stepped into the realm of WEN, Katrina felt embraced by a community that not only recognized her potential but also nurtured it. The journey has been one of continuous self-discovery, empowerment, and growth. With the guidance of WEN's dedicated mentors and the consistent support woven into her life, Katrina found her footing and learned to hold her head high.

"The continuous support is awesome, and I still utilize the tools I've learned. Different things linger in the back of my mind. I want people to know that you're not just signing up for a class, you're signing up for a lifelong support system," Katrina shares, reflecting on her incredible life.

Katrina's path led her to become a Placement Coordinator at HCA Healthcare, a role that mirrors her journey from vulnerability to strength. Through her partnership with WEN, Katrina cultivated the confidence and skills necessary to pursue not just a job, but a flourishing career. Over the course of eight years, her perseverance and the unwavering support of WEN empowered Katrina to increase her salary by \$10 per hour, underlining her remarkable professional growth.

WEN's network became a launchpad for Katrina's aspirations, offering her not only skills but also a profound sense of self-assuredness. "The resources and networking knowledge I have gained through WEN has been amazing. It has helped me be confident in getting what I want and having the courage to get it," Katrina proudly asserts.

As she stands at the intersection of her past and a promising future, Katrina's story continues to evolve. With the guidance of Financial Coach Kristina Holloman, and her steadfast companion, emotional support dog Gabriel, Katrina is charting her financial course. Her determination to grow her personal savings to new heights echoes her spirit of resilience and her unwavering commitment to shaping her destiny.

Katrina Clark's journey is a tribute to the triumph of the human spirit. As she forges ahead, Katrina serves as an inspiration to us all, proving that with strength, determination, and a supportive community, we can rise above adversity and script our own success stories.

NEW TO THE WEN TEAM



MERVE BUEHLER, MSW

Merve is our Community Engagement Coordinator. Merve excels at fostering community and continues to help our clients work toward a brighter future.



KRISTINA HOLLOMAN

Kristina is our Financial Coach / Employment Specialist. Her meticulous attention to detail and thoughtful nature will no doubt take WEN to new heights.



RESHIDA RONÉ, LMSW

Reshida has a passion for helping individuals achieve their fullest potential. As WEN's Client Services Specialist, her ability to engage diverse personalities makes her perfect for our team.



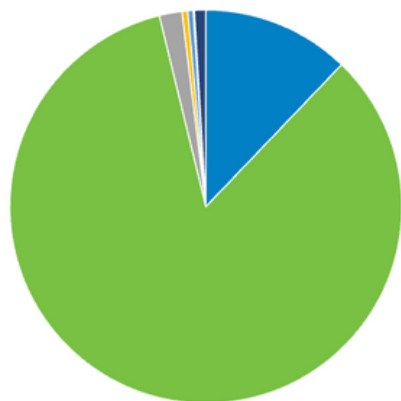
AMY COLEMAN-MILLER

Amy is our Digital Workshop Coordinator. Her enthusiasm for thinking outside the box and dedication to women's success brings a new glow to WEN and we are incredibly grateful that she chose us.

2022 - 2023 FINANCIALS

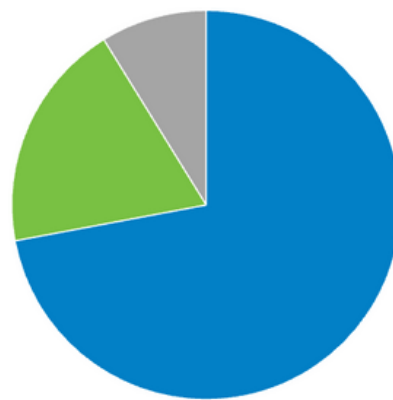
Since 2009, WEN has balanced its budget and increased cash reserves, resulting in strong financial sustainability for the organization. The Finance Committee remains diligent in monitoring our cash flow and sources of revenue in concert with our Board of Directors.

revenue



■ Foundations/Trusts	\$654,768
■ Annual Luncheon/Special Events	\$452,214
■ Legacy Circle	\$100,612
■ Individuals	\$24,731
■ In-kind	\$25,000
■ United Way	\$4,614
■ Investment gain (loss), net	\$50,722

expenses



■ Program	\$859,657
■ Development/Fundraising	\$228,216
■ Administration	\$105,308

TOTAL REVENUE - \$1,073,410

TOTAL EXPENSES - \$1,178,625

LEGACY CIRCLE



The Beth K. Smith & Marjorie Powell Allen

LEGACY CIRCLE

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

LEGEND

Cathy & Rick Baier
Ann & Kenneth Baum
Karen Daniel
Janice Blansit
& Terrence Kolich
Amy Fauss
Elizabeth "Zibbie" Ferrell
Angela Hurt
Kim Jones & Shelly Freeman
Catherine J. Kelly
Michele Markham
Nicole Miller
Megan Noland
Marta Padula
Stacey Paine
Debbie Sinopoli
Debbie Smith
Jeannine Strandjord

FOUNDER

Dana Abraham
Teri Ackerson
Adrienne Byand Banks
Kate Ferrell Banks
Becky Blades
Rita Blitt
Pam Breuckmann
Tonia Bomar
Kay Callison
Mindy Corporon
Chelsea Dickerson
Kathy Dodd
Chris Egan
Cheryl Flood
Aaron Fulk
Lisa Gioia
Amber Goering
J. Brett Gordon
Debra Grunst
Jenny Haile
Shirley & Barnett Helzberg
Karen M. Herman
Celia Huneycutt
Christine Kemper
Nancy Kenner
Lily Hayes Maxwell

FOUNDER (CONT)

Sheila McCarrick
Madeleine McDonough
Lori McGroder
Lynn McIntosh
Melissa Meadows
Julie Nelson Meers
Mark Melchior
Arlene Mockapetris
Jacquelynn Neat
Mary O'Connor
Megan O'Rear
Christy Paoli
Maureen Purcell
& Dr. David Husted
Joan Redhair
Jen Regas
Cindy Richey
Sue and Cliff Rippe
Dr. Michelle Robin
Kimberly Robinett
Joshua Rowland
Kelly Scanlon
Amy Slattery
Rachel Smith & Chris Vickers
Deborah Starke
Susan Stanton
Shannon Swift
Cynthia Weber Scherb
Diana Toman
Kristin Tyson
Valerie Vaughn
Paul Weber
Cheryl Lockton Williams
Lynnette Williams
Megan Whitman
Shelley Wolff
Joe and Lori Yager

VISIONARY

Anab Abdulahi
Aviva Ajmera
Terry Anderson
& Michael Henry

VISIONARY (CONT)

Carol & Tom Barnett
Sarah Baum
Trisha Bean
Brian Beard
Monica Beeler
Karen Bisset
Dyanna Black
Tracy Bornman
Julie Bowen
Katie Briscoe
Charlene Buenger
Carla Chavarria
Julie Anderson Clark
& Vince Clark
Erin & Shannon Cole
Phyllis Collins
Mindy Corporon
Darlene Dunn
Jeanetta Ellis
Alice Ellison
Seth & Kelly Eschweiler
Julie Farrell
Hannah Fenley
Katie Dunn Fitzgerald
Terry Garberg
Sonia Garapaty
Courtney Goddard
Melissa Gray
Katie Grimes
Amy Grothaus
Jen Gulvik
Donald J. Hall
Deborah Hays
Chris Jackson
Gail James
Jeanette Jayne
Shelby Jones
Victoria Kandt
Jasmine Kaplan
Melissa Kendrick
Katie & Andrew Killen
Shannon King
& Kate Nielsen
Courtney Kounkel
Sherri Lozano
Jennifer Malone
Melanie Mann
Ellen Martin
Rebecca Martin
Marian McClellan

VISIONARY (CONT)

Megan McCurdy
& Meredith Moser
Michelle McSpadden
Kate Migneron
Denise Mills
Amanda Mohr
Tamra Moran
Barbara Koval Nelson
Gayle Packer
Lenora Payne
Julie Pine
Cheryl & Ryan Poage
Wendy Powell
Nicole & Harley Ratliff
Leslie Reardon
Jahna Riley
Kimberly Robinett
Martha Salinas
Angie Salmon
Barbara & Larry Schulte
Audrie Seeley
Laura Snow
Andrew Shepard
Margo Shepard
Renee Sheppard
S. Sloane Simmons
& Harl A. Van Deursen
Charlie & Jeanne Sosland
Hillary Stamper
Jessica Best Stewart
Kelly Summers
Cyndi Swall
Lisa Terry
Polly Thomas
Deborah Throckmorton
Angela Tower
Sherry Turner
Nan Vail & Keith Bottorff
Nicole Van Denabeele
Anna Valdivia
Shanelle Varone
Kristy Vetter
Toni Walsh
Martha Warren
Tanya Rodecker Wendt
Colleen White
Nancy Whitworth
Ramona Williams
Ashley Williamson





WEN'S OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN THE HEART OF WESTPORT IN KANSAS CITY

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@ONEKCFORWOMEN | [YOUTUBE.COM/WOMENSEMPLOYMENTNETWORK](https://www.youtube.com/womensemploymentnetwork)

