

New Choices News

Summer 2013

Vol. 1 Issue 1

Biannual Update from New Choices Career Development Program of Lancaster

Direct from the Director's Desk

OUR MISSION:

To assist single mothers, displaced homemakers, and women in transition in achieving economic self-sufficiency

OUR VISION:

To empower individuals in transition to participate fully in planning and achieving their career, educational, and personal goals. This program provides an environment that preserves dignity, respects diversity, and supports personal choice

As the Director of New Choices Career Development Program, I make it my mission to empower and work with women in transition on a daily basis, but now I find myself and our organization in a similar state of transition. I am personally entering into my third year as the Director of the Lancaster branch of New Choices, and after ten years total with the organization you would think I've seen it all, but life always continues to surprise me in the most delightful ways.

For instance, after a very successful 2013 Taste of Success (TOS) event, we are already in the works with an even bigger committee of devoted members looking to plan for the 2014 TOS. After months of worrying and advocating, we will continue to be supported with legislative funding by the Department of Labor and Industry! August also marks the beginning of our next New Choices class cycle and I'm very excited to get to know and work with this new group of women coming through our doors!

While reflecting upon these changes, I have realized that none of them would be possible without the continued support of you, our community partners, and the women who find New Choices as a catalyst in their movement for change. Please know we are immensely grateful! This year marks an exciting period of change and growth for our organization, and you can read all about these happenings in our newsletter.

Tricia Nabors
Program Director

A Perspective from the President

The Lancaster County Career & Technology Foundation has been a strong supporter of the New Choices program for many years. As Foundation President, it has been an honor to be deeply involved in such a long-running, valuable and productive program. I am continually amazed at the success stories that New Choices has produced for the past 27+ years. The success of our graduates not only improves their lives, but enriches all of Lancaster County as they become successful, reliable employees and contributors to our local economy—benefits that run into the millions of dollars annually. Just think of the difference between a part-time minimum wage job and a full-time career at \$18-\$20 an hour or more, plus benefits. It's compelling!

Our Foundation has helped New Choices begin the successful transition from a fully government-funded enterprise to one in which funding is shared by both public and private dollars. But there are challenges. We are continually looking for individual and corporate strategic partners who are committed to the long-term success of New Choices. Please consider joining our growing list of supporters. As a community we must continue to make New Choices available to the women of Lancaster County. It is our responsibility as leaders and caring citizens because, *if we don't, who will?*

King T. Knox, President
Lancaster County Career & Technology Foundation

Inside This Issue

Director's Note	1
Looking backwards and forwards	2
Success Stories	3
News you can use	3
Ways to Get Involved	3
Insider Tip	4



Contact Us:

New Choices
110 North Lime Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

717-393-1735 Ext 235
Fax: 717-396-0513
Tnabors@lcctc.org

www.NewChoicesLancaster.org

Or, find us on Facebook! 

Who We Are and Who We Serve

New Choices is a non-profit organization founded in 1985 through a collaboration between the YWCA, the Junior League of Lancaster and the Lancaster Career & Technology Center, and is funded through a combination of public and private sources. We serve women in transition including first time pregnant, single mothers, displaced homemakers and dislocated workers. We hold 5 two-week classes each year in which we focus on career guidance, identification of resources and personal social development. At the successful completion of the course, students are eligible to receive scholarship funds to pursue short-term education. Students also receive the continued support and guidance from the dedicated New Choices staff long after graduation.

Looking Forward, Looking Backwards

Last Year's Services

'12-'13 Classes

In the 2012-2013 school year we held 5 two-week class sessions in August, October, January, March, and May. We served a total of 80 women, including new and former students. We were also honored by the presence of PA Senator Lloyd Smucker at our most recent graduation ceremony in May 2013!

Taste of Success

The 2013 Taste of Success, hosted with the Junior League of Lancaster, the Lancaster County Career and Technology Foundation, Franklin & Marshall College, the YWCA, and others, was indeed a great success! We were honored to have County Commissioner Scott Martin join us in hosting 170 members of our community on March 22nd for a wonderful evening of culinary delights, friendly competition, and community support of our program. We managed to raise over \$30,000!

Leadership Day

On April 23rd, New Choices staff, students, graduates and supporters gathered in our state capitol for a day to celebrate the success of our program statewide and to advocate for our future. We were honored by the presence and positive words of New Choices graduate Vanessa Lowery Brown, Representative of Pennsylvania's 190th district, and those of Representative Jerry Stern of Pennsylvania's 80th district, a long-term supporter of our organization. The day also featured speeches from our very own Christine Sabin and Wendy Wingenroth!

Fabulous Shoe Night

New Choices' other fundraising event this year was Fabulous Shoe Night held on June 18th at the Belvedere Inn. The event proved to be a great opportunity for women in the community to come together for friends, fun, and fabulous shoes all in support of New Choices! The event boasted 30 attendees and a total of \$800 raised for our program! We sincerely thank our sponsor Body Awakening Massage & Wellness Center, and all those who donated.

Legislative Funding Results

On June 30th we finally learned the results of the legislative funding votes which would continue our organization. We were ecstatic to find that we were included in the budget! The PA legislature granted New Choices \$500,000 to be divided among our 13 programs statewide!



Senator Smucker distributing graduation certificates at our May ceremony!

Planned Services & Functions

'13-'14 Classes

- We are happy to announce that we will be holding five two week class sessions in the 2013-2014 school year:
 - September 30th- October 11th
 - January 6th- January 17th
 - March 3rd- March 14th
 - May 5th- May 16th
- We are also about to begin our August class with a wonderful new group of women! Graduation will be held Friday, August 23rd at Noon at the YWCA—please call if interested in attending.

Taste of Success (TOS)

- Planning is in the works for this year's TOS culinary competition and fundraising event to be held **Friday, March 28th, 2014**. We're hoping to make it bigger and better than ever, so please call to be a part of the planning committee or a donor—all contributions are valuable! Our first meeting will be held Thursday, August 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the YWCA Library Room

If you'd like to enroll in the New Choices Career Development Program please call our office at 717-393-1735 ext. 235

News You Can Use

Success Stories

Before Marjorie Shirk came to New Choices in 2011 she was a single mom on unemployment, planning to go back to school for nursing. Marjorie made her way through nursing school at LCCTC and found a job only to realize that she hated it. She quit her job, and left in transition once again, Marjorie made the move she had always dreamed of: opening her own business. She is now the proud owner and operator of Style Consignment Boutique, a high-end consignment shop for women and children. She says New Choices taught her that if you want something badly enough you can always make it happen.

The best part of her new gig? Feeling fulfilled and doing something she loves for a living. The biggest challenge? No guarantee. There's never any guarantee of a paycheck at the end of the day. But for Marjorie, the risk is worth it. She's also currently in school full-time studying psychology. Her future goals are to continue the operation of her shop and graduate with a new ability to help those in need.

Her biggest takeaway from New Choices? "New Choices gives you a backbone," she says. "It gives you the tools to succeed and the courage to make your dream a reality. You never know where a 2 week class will really take you."



Visit Marjorie at
Style Consignment
Boutique at
60 W. Church Street
Suite C, Denver,
Pennsylvania 17517

Online Resources

Make the Most of Your Money

- www.gasbuddy.com
- www.bizrate.com
- www.retailmenot.com
- www.couponbug.com
- www.freecycle.com
- www.paperbackswap.com
- www.fatwallet.com
- www.shop4freebies.com
- www.freesamplesite.com

Career Search

- www.cwds.state.pa.us- PA Careerlink
- www.scsc.state.pa.us- PA Civil Service
- www.indeed.com
- www.monster.com
- www.careerpath.com
- www.careerbuilder.com
- www.jobtrak.com

Scholarship Information

- Stephanie Beaver Davis Memorial Fund
 - Preference to those who've completed New Choices
 - www.pawomenwork.org/SBDS.doc
- The Barkto Foundation
 - Funds self-sufficiency projects of minority single mothers
 - www.barktofoundation.com
- Modest Needs
 - promotes the self-sufficiency of low-income workers by helping them to afford short-term, emergency expenses.
 - www.modestneeds.org

Ways to Get Involved with New Choices

Taste of Success 2014 -Join the planning committee for a bigger and better Taste of Success event OR donate raffle items for the evening. Restaurant or travel vouchers work great!

Christmas Clearinghouse -Though it seems ages away, the holiday season will be here before we know it. Many of our clients struggle with giving their children everything they would like for Christmas. New Choices accepts charitable contributions for families in need in the holiday season. Please contact our office no later than November, 20th, if interested in being a contributor.

Grant-Writing -We are also looking for a knowledgeable volunteer to donate several hours of work helping us to search and apply for grants and funding opportunities.

Charitable Donations are accepted on behalf of New Choices at the Lancaster County Career and Technology Foundation. Checks may be made payable to the LCCTF and sent to 1730 Hans Herr Drive, P.O. Box 527, Willow Street, PA 17584 with "New Choices" specified in the memo line.

Insider Tip of the Issue

The Key to Finding Impactful, Enduring Success

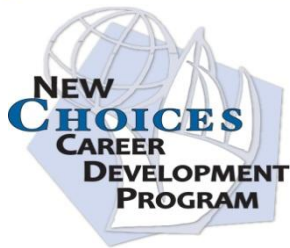
At New Choices we work to help women in transition find economic self-sufficiency and personal empowerment, but the key ingredient to remember is that internal changes are just as important as external. Anyone can go through the motions, go to school, find a new job, and make these purely cosmetic changes, but if you don't take care of yourself inside, it's only a superficial success.

For, deep, lasting success you need to embrace the two key elements of Accountability and Self-Efficacy.

Accountability -the state of being responsible or answerable for one's own thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. When you're accountable, you're no longer a victim of circumstance.

Self-Efficacy -Believing in your own ability to succeed. This equates to no longer needing others' validation of you as a person, what you want, or where you are going.

Embracing these two key beliefs results in placing yourself in a position of power in your own life, a position from which you can ensure impactful, sustainable success from the inside out.



110 N. Lime St.
Lancaster, PA 17602
717-393-1735 Ext. 235

Addressee

Street Address, Suite 555
City, State 55555

**“Only I can change my life.
No one else can do it for me.”**

-Carol Burnett