



OF
THE *PHILADELPHIA*
TRI-STATE AREA

This spring has been an exciting time for our Pro Bono Group as we now have two relationships with new community partners, also commonly referred to as community based organizations (CBOs). They are the VA (Veterans Administration) center in Coatesville and Women Against Abuse in Philadelphia.

On April 29th Erik Evans, Eric Daugherty and I presented a workshop on Debt Management to a group of 35 veterans who live at the Coatesville VA Center. Our two Erik(c)s did role playing exercises and I presented the workshop. The reception was good from many in attendance and future workshops at the Center are planned. This is our first attempt to serve our veterans who have sacrificed so much and we will look for other opportunities to do so. From contact with vets we are learning that many of them are struggling with physical, emotional and financial problems that make reentry into their communities and regular civilian life difficult. I will be seeking volunteers to present future workshops and for one-on-one counseling to this group as future events are planned.

On May 29th, David Anderson, Executive Director of W!SE (Working in Support of Education), Rachel Fieweger, Michelle Tate and I met at RTD Financial Advisor's Center City Office before David, Rachel and I met with Sarah Janicki, Client Services Director, and Julie Kselman, Case Management Supervisor, of Woman Against Abuse, also located nearby in Center City Philadelphia. The purpose of our meeting was to further discuss the 12 week W!SE Educational Program that Michelle and Rachel will team teach starting in September. This program has been successful in New York City and is run by the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the FPA. David's W!SE office is also located in NYC and this program exists in San Diego, Salt Lake City and Chicago, all run by Pro Bono volunteers from their local chapters.

As we learned, women and, to a lesser extent, men are abused by their spouses or their significant others physically, emotionally and financially as a way of exerting control over the abused. The W!SE program teaches women and men how to break out of financial dependence by first learning about personal finance and taking control of their money. David Anderson tells us that the new found confidence gained by these women after they graduate from this course is inspiring and is a big help as they break free from their abusers. This program will take place in a "safe house" in Philadelphia and kudos to Rachel and Michelle for volunteering to teach this very important class! This is a great new initiative about which I am extremely excited.

Other recent activities were:

On April 10th I presented an Investing Basics seminar at the Upper Dublin Library in Ft. Washington. Unfortunately, only two people attended. Maybe it was competition from beautiful

weather that night after a long hard winter or other events in that community. But, of course, the attendees received some great information! Not all Pro Bono events are successful in terms of big attendance and I'm finding that programs in libraries often are not well attended.

On May 28th, at the request of Maxine Katz, our contact at JEVS, (Jewish Employment & Vocational Services) I presented a workshop on Creating & Maintaining Better Financial Habits in times of difficult financial circumstances to 11 attendees.

This was followed by 7 one-on-one counseling sessions conducted by Don Scholz, Jonathan Zeminski, Marsha Rubin and me on June 3rd. Great thanks to Don, Jonathan and Marsha for doing this! I'm sure that those receiving your sound professional advice benefited greatly. There will be other opportunities to serve as a counselor to those in need or to present workshops through our community based partners. I will let you know when those opportunities become available.

If you would like to join our Pro Bono efforts as a new volunteer or would first like to discuss ways in which you might like to participate call me or send an email. My contact information is below. Those of us who do this work are great enriched by the experience of helping those in great need throughout our communities.

Dave Hoyer
Pro Bono Director
215-499-8772 (cell & office)
davehoyer@comcast.net