



**WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT**



*Rebecca and her son Christopher  
Homeowner, Case Manager  
Graduated November 11, 2006*

## **From Homeless to Homeowner**

**Annual Report 2011**

An amazing transformation is taking place in our community. As the number of homeless women and children continues to rise, determined women are changing their lives.

Together, we are truly ending homelessness **one woman—one family—at a time.**

***Our mission** is to educate and empower women, who are homeless, with the skills and confidence necessary to get a job, create a healthy lifestyle, and regain a home for themselves and their children.*

## Rebecca's Story

Rebecca came to Women's Empowerment ready for a change. A struggle with addiction had caused the loss of her job, her home, and her son Christopher. At Women's Empowerment she found the confidence, the resources, and the support system to rebuild her life. She got into transitional housing, regained custody of Christopher, and applied to American River College (ARC), "which changed everything in my life."

Rebecca describes her graduation from Women's Empowerment in 2006 as "one of the most paramount moments in my life." When Rebecca stood to speak at her graduation, she looked at her mother in the front row and said, "Look Mom! I completed something!" And that's not all she completed—Rebecca graduated from ARC shortly after, with her A.A. double-major in Human Services and Chemical Dependency. Today, she works full-time with a wonderful social service agency, utilizing both her education and life experiences to help others.

Escrow closed on Rebecca's first home just one month ago! Their big smiles say it all—they are thrilled to have a place that is truly their own! **"Planting my own flowers in my front yard yesterday made it real for me, because they're my flowers, my yard and the decisions are all mine. Before Women's Empowerment, I never pictured myself as a homeowner, and now I am! I feel like I can have dreams and goals again."**

*In 2011, Women's Empowerment witnessed life-changing moments as 170 women enrolled in our program.*

## Rebuilding Her Life

When a woman like Rebecca attends our program, she will make several life changes. She gets back what she lost to homelessness: a home, a job, her health and her dignity.

## Getting Healthy

Poor health is both a cause and a consequence of homelessness. 55% of women enter the program without health insurance. Those students who receive Medi-Cal benefits are at constant risk of losing their benefits due to threatened budget cuts. By helping her overcome barriers and access healthcare, Women's Empowerment links her to a brighter, healthier future—for her, and her children. We believe access to employment does not just mean a paycheck, it means access to a healthier body and mind.

*In 2011, 170 women received crucial health education.*

## A Safe Home

Homelessness is traumatizing. Women and children who are homeless are more vulnerable to physical and sexual assault, witnessing violence and abrupt separations. They also experience the negative stigma of homelessness, which makes finding employment and making other positive changes more challenging. Getting these families into homes is imperative to their health, safety and path to self-reliance.

*In 2011, 94% of the women who completed Women's Empowerment moved into safer, more stable homes.*



**Jonell, Homeowner, Graduated October 11, 2004  
Office Manager, Camrock Company**

*Jonell's son Carlos asked his mother,  
"Can I be the first one to open the door to  
our new home?"*

## Back to Work

To tackle the cycle of poverty, a woman needs a job. This enables her to afford her own apartment, to receive healthcare benefits, and to be a role model to which her children will aspire.

*In 2011, 74% of the women who completed our program found jobs or enrolled in school to gain higher employment upon completion.*

## A Changing Population, A New Program

In 2011, 55% of the women who enrolled were homeless for the first time, compared to just 15% in 2007. This startling statistic demonstrates the reach of the economic recession. Confronted with this changing population, and a struggling job market, Women's Empowerment launched an advanced job-training program called *WE Works!*

In 2011, we were proud to announce new partnerships with Paratransit, Inc., Party City and Fresh Producers. Women's Empowerment was also instrumental in developing the "Wheels to Work program". "Wheels to Work" (which is receiving national recognition) provides mobile employment services and transportation for homeless and low-income job-seekers in Sacramento.

*In 2011, WE Works! provided paid and unpaid training opportunities, GED preparation, Microsoft and ServSafe certifications and financial literacy classes to 220 graduates.*

## Children's Needs

Children bear the brunt of homelessness. They get sick twice as often as other children, and are twice as likely to go hungry. By the time homeless children reach pre-school age, many display developmental delays and significant emotional trauma. Yet with the support of early intervention techniques, the effects of trauma on homeless children can be reversed. In our on-site childcare center, infants and toddlers receive developmental assessments and individualized attention to enhance their physical and emotional development.

*In 2011, 124 infants and toddlers received supportive services and developmental assessments.*

## Community Volunteers

In 2011, 600 community volunteers dedicated over 10,000 hours to help end homelessness among women and children.

## Focus on Efficiency

Women's Empowerment is a financially stable organization. We hold 8 months of operating funds in reserve, and our overhead is low: 18.9%. That means for every dollar you donate to Women's Empowerment, less than 19 cents covers administrative costs. (The national average is 25 cents.)



**Rosa and her daughter Jamie**  
**Homeowner, Graduated May 18, 2006**  
**Office Technician, Labor Commissioner's Office**

*"Each morning I wake up with my coffee, look outside my window and think, 'I can't believe this is my home.'"*

## Program Services



- Childcare
- Job Training
- Health
- Empowerment

Women’s Empowerment is a Certified United Way Partner Agency, and in 2009 was voted Nonprofit of the Year by the Nonprofit Resource Center. We neither solicit, nor receive, government funding. You won’t find any frills here: our computers, office furniture, and even a portion of our rent are donated. Our priority is the homeless women and children we serve and our spending reflects our commitment.

## Financial Transparency

Income (based on accrual)		Expense	
Grants	\$154,500.00	Program Personnel	\$352,611.45
Individual Gifts	\$88,594.18	Operating	\$56,536.32
Community & Foundations	\$21,465.07	Direct Services	\$82,756.87
United Way	\$14,699.14	Fundraising	\$28,512.66
Special Events	\$133,867.09	Office Expansion	\$3,298.32
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$90,000.12		
Earned Revenue & Investments	\$9,375.73		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$512,501.33</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$523,715.72</b>

For the first time in our ten-year history, Women’s Empowerment’s expenses exceeded revenues. This was due to an investment in our new program WE Works! Women’s Empowerment holds eight months of operating funds in reserve.

## One Donor, One Dollar at a Time

Since opening our doors in 2001, committed donors have made it possible for homeless women to change their lives. 2011 was no exception. You helped us reach more than 691 women and 126 children this year. Rebecca, Jonell and Rosa are shining examples of the long-term impact your gift has on their lives. They have become tax-paying, home-owning members of your community—and their children’s futures are now filled with hope and opportunity. Your generosity is changing lives.

## Where does my donation go?



\*Based on Women’s Empowerment’s 2010 990 Form

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