



Global Women's Leadership Network
Whole Woman, Whole Leader, Whole World
NEWSLETTER

September 2009

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Volunteering - Fulfill YOUR passion



By Linda Alepin

There are headlines like "Gates' Charity Races to Spend Buffett Billions". The articles make it sound like philanthropy is solely about money. That is far from the truth. Millions (probably billions) of volunteer hours are the lifeblood of not for profit organizations from Habitat for Humanity to Global Women's Leadership Network. Volunteers are essential to the delivery of a myriad of services. Hospitals, hotlines, events, schoolyards - the list of places staffed by volunteers goes on and on. Organizations depend on the contributions of people who believe in the benefits of the services delivered.

AND, what about the people who volunteer?

In volunteering, people find self-expression and fulfillment in their daily lives. The word philanthropy means to love people and comes to us from the Ancient Greeks. Volunteers get a sense of making a difference in others' lives, of belonging, and of building connections. Today, faced with a series of unexpected events and economic challenges, volunteers can discover and contribute to what they care about in life.

According to Pamela Hawley, Founder and CEO of Universal Giving, "Instead of jumping right back into the job market, why not take some time to think more about your life? In many ways, it's actually a wonderful position to be in: to reassess what you value, AND HOW YOU CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION THAT FULFILLS WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT." There are numerous ways to get into action. It takes a willingness to take that first step.

You can [visit Pamela's organization's website](http://www.universalgiving.org) (www.universalgiving.org) where people can search for just the right volunteer position. Pamela has been involved in philanthropy since the age of 12 when she saw extreme poverty. She writes extensively on the subject in her blog - [read Pamela's blog](#).

Additionally, volunteering can be the first step toward a rewarding career. Brian Belcher, a 2009 graduate of Santa Clara University and one of the 31 Leavey School of Business Global Fellows, is helping Mercado Global to open a micro-bank in Guatemala. He shares his experience in his blog -- [read Brian's blog](#).

So, whether you have an hour, a day, a week, or even a month available, volunteering might be the most rewarding way to invest your valuable time.

NOTE: From December 6 - 11, we will be holding the 2009 Women Leaders for the World. We need volunteers to help with many aspects of this leadership development program -- before, during, and after. Contact Tanya Bunger tanya-b@comcast.net and become a part of our incredible program.

FEATURED WOMAN LEADER

One Woman's Quest to Improve Conditions for Her Tribe

By Nicola Walker

Anabela Carlon

Just over a month ago in July 2009, Maria Anabela Carlon Flores celebrated the opening of an educational center offering classes on empowerment, democracy, health, culture, and environmental issues for her tribe. Anabela is a member of the Yaqui tribe of Sonora In, northwestern Mexico. The creation of the center at Jamut Boo'o, Anabela's organization's headquarters (loosely translated as Women's Way) in Vacim, Sonora was the culmination of her vision, developed during the WLW program and accomplished with the help of friends, some community members, The Christensen Fund and NGOs. The educational center was formed to support the Yaqui tribe's fundamental rights and freedom. Environmental classes at the new center cover issues like climate change and the impact of water shortages on food, a major concern of for Anabela's.

Anabela has also initiated a program for the protection of the Yaqui's natural and cultural heritage for her tribe. She is particularly passionate about saving the jaguar, an endangered species in Mexico. Jaguars are threatened by cattle ranchers, who try to kill them to save their cows.

Anabela is a member of the advisory board of National Indigenous Women Coordination. She participated in the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change in Anchorage, Alaska and also the Taller Latinoamericano de la Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad in Panamá, which focused on women and biological diversity. Some of the results she is now witnessing include greater development of infrastructure for the Yaqui community, reforestation, monitoring jaguars, green stoves and building latrines. Anabela has devoted her life to helping indigenous women, in particular the women of the Yaqui Tribe. She knows first hand how the Yaqui women have struggled to receive the respect and attention support they deserve.

In addition to attending WLW, Anabela studied law at the University of Sonora in Hermosillo for five years. She also did an internship for the Mexican government, assisting and advising peasants, rural communities and indigenous peoples about land rights and the agrarian law. Later following her Internship, Anabela was hired to work in the legal department of a Mexican state institution as an interpreter of Yaqui language, and as an expert on Yaqui customary law.

Anabela served as the coordinator of women's issues of for the indigenous organization, Consejo Indígena Estatal de Sonora A. C. She also took part in a fellowship program on indigenous issues at the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Anabela also studied English at Pima Community College in Tucson, AZ, where she had the opportunity to study one semester of International Relations in political science.

Anabela now promotes social development with Mexico's federal agencies as well as cultivating respect for the rights of indigenous people, including indigenous natural and culture heritage, lands rights, self determination and non-discrimination.

"Indigenous people's knowledge and contribution to humanity has not been valued and indigenous women have faced inequity since colonialism", says Anabela. "The role of indigenous women and their contribution in preserving the language as well as their knowledge about food and medicine has been underestimated. Women have participated in politics, in decision-making, offering suggestions and ideas for the development of their communities and culture, and yet their participation has been invisible to men. Men notice the mistakes but women see mistakes as a learning experience."

Now both indigenous women and men have an opportunity to learn and improve life for their tribes. Women such as Anabela are starting to get the recognition they deserve from their tribal authorities, thanks to all Anabela's her hard work and perseverance. Anabela is a true implementer of evolutionary change.

GWLN Founder and Director: Linda Alepin
Newsletter Editor: Shelley Gordon and Barbara Key
Newsletter Layout and Distribution: Nicola Walker