



WE CAN Board of Directors president Janet Weatherbe, left, confers with Jacquie and Lee Scarbrough at the WE CAN 10th Anniversary Celebration last week. Jacquie Scarbrough, founder of the organization, which helps women in transition, received a special award. Courtesy photo

## WE CAN marks 10th anniversary

Women shared compelling stories of struggle, supporters and founders were recognized and a beautiful quilt unveiled as part of WE CAN's 10th Anniversary Celebration and annual meeting held Dec. 1 at Cultural Center of Cape Cod in South Yarmouth.

"The event reflected the strong, broad-based community support that WE CAN enjoys," said board president Janet Weatherbe. "It's a testament to the importance of our work, providing services that empower Cape women to achieve lasting, positive change for themselves and their families."

The event was sponsored by Back Office Associates and Orleans Wine and Spirits.

Resolutions recognizing WE CAN's milestone were received (and read aloud) from Congress and the state Legislature.

Ten WE CAN Champion Awards were announced, awarded to WE CAN founder and women's activist Jacquie Scarbrough; Richard "Dick" Sullivan, former dean of CCCC, WE CAN Board member, and a great contributor on many fronts to the Cape community; award-winning authors Joan Anderson and Anne LeClaire, who started WE CAN's major fund-raiser, "A Day of Words, Wit and Wisdom" eight years ago; and Dave Willard of Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, an early and continuing board member and major WE CAN supporter; Ro Morrissey, former board chairman and now special advisor, who led the transition of WE CAN to the next level of growth; Anna Merrill, an attorney who created the Divorce Boot Camp and who continues to meet one on one with WE CAN clients; Karen Moore

and Susan Daly, mentors who serve in key leadership roles in the PathMakers program; Judy Cornwell, an early board member, now a special advisor; and Jane Secci, who volunteered as interim executive director at a time of critical growth for WE CAN.

A special Star award from the WE CAN staff was presented to board member and super-volunteer Debbie Todd, for her hours of dedication to building WE CAN's administrative infrastructure and capabilities.

Inspired by NPR's popular "Six Word Stories," WE CAN ran a 10-word story contest. Anne LeClaire read the winning stories, with top prize going to Melinda Lancaster, for her story: "Stitch by stitch, piece by piece – Life sewn back together." Seventy entries were received.

A handmade quilt that carried signed messages of love and support was on display. It will hang in WE CAN's office in Harwich Port.

A highlight of the evening was "The Women of WE CAN," spotlighting six women who each described how their lives had been changed by WE CAN.

In its first year, WE CAN served 15 women. This year, more than 1,000 women have been served by WE CAN – twice the number supported by WE CAN in 2010.

"We are profoundly grateful for the support of individuals, local businesses, foundations, community organizations and the more than 100 volunteers – as well as for the dozens of other Cape nonprofits with whom we collaborate to provide services – that enable us to meet this increasing demand," said executive director Andi Genser.

### Learn to juggle and more

Learn how to juggle with Trevor the Juggler as Nauset Youth Alliance gears up for another round of its popular after-school enrichment classes starting in January.

Juggling is a fun way for students to build coordination while getting mental and physical exercise. The four-week juggling class begins Jan. 10 and will be held at both Stony Brook and Eddy elementary schools in Brewster. The \$50 registration fee includes a take

home practice kit.

Other classes starting in January include Science ...

Hands-on, Clay Creations pottery enrichment including hand building and wheel throwing, and a 4-H Animal Cracker program. Space is limited in all classes.

For more information or to sign up, visit [www.nausetyouthalliance.com](http://www.nausetyouthalliance.com); telephone Nauset Youth Alliance at 508-896-7900; or e-mail [nya.programs@gmail.com](mailto:nya.programs@gmail.com).