

# WE CAN

Strength. Assistance.

Opportunity.



Volume II, Issue 1

January 1, 2009

[www.wecancenter.org](http://www.wecancenter.org)

*To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.*  
~ Anatole France

## Inside this issue:

- Program Highlight 2
- Pledge-per-Month 2
- From the Board 2
- Thanks to our Donors 3
- W3—Women's Words, Wit and Wisdom 4

## Thanksgiving in January

In the recent holiday season, the short, dark days of winter and the ravages of the economy seemed to bring out the optimism and hope in our neighbors and friends who remembered their Cape mothers and sisters in need, and jumped in to support organizations such as WE CAN. People who may never have raised money before, found innovative ways to turn the holidays into a time of charitable gift-giving (see Sharon Ladley's article, this page). Two local book clubs created an emergency fund at WE CAN in place of gift-giving as a sign of recognition of the economy's effects on Cape women.

Meanwhile, our mentors and Pathmakers (mentees) worked together towards our Pathmakers' goals; a new group of women learned computer skills and restlessly awaited the end of the holidays for more classes; our amazing cadre of volunteer lawyers renewed their commitments to free legal clinics in 2009 at WE CAN; and we rang in the new year with a grant from the Bank of America that will enable us to start a new prevention mentoring program for young women, ages 18-23, that we're calling The Bridge.

WE CAN is bursting with energy to give local women a hand—not a hand-out—and help them

turn their lives around. We are supported by 35 committed volunteers, 18 pro bono lawyers, dedicated staff and Board members, and hundreds of generous donors (see page three).

What else is there to say but...Thank you all.

*Please join me in thanking Dorota Spagnuolo for her 13-month commitment to WE CAN. Her hard work and skills helped to make the legal clinics and computer classes successful. We hope that she and her new baby to come are healthy and thrive in this new year. And please help me welcome Chelsea Moore, our new Administration and Program Assistant. Chelsea's skills and dedication will be a great asset to us all.* ~ Arlene Kirsch

**In this economy, we are counting our pennies, so please save us money and some trees at the same time by giving us your email address!**

## One Volunteer's Holiday Gift

I work in an office where everyone gives each other Christmas and Hanukkah gifts. Usually the items are either fattening goodies, decorative but unnecessary items or things for the "regift" box. This year, I made a donation to WE CAN in honor of the people with whom I work. Each person was given an envelope with a personalized note from the Executive Direc-

tor of WE CAN, telling them, on one side, that the donation had been made. The other side of the note had information explaining WE CAN's mission and work.

I received wonderful thank you notes with comments such as, "the gift conveyed the true meaning of the holidays", "what a wonderful organization" and "this is the most worthwhile use of

the money we all spend on each other for things we either don't want or need." My gift was special because it was money going to WE CAN so that it can continue to provide services wanted and needed.

~Sharon Ladley,  
WE CAN Volunteer

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Visit us on the web at  
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**Program Highlight:**

**WE CAN's OPTIONS PROGRAM for WOMEN IN TRANSITION**

Our unique "Options" program provides Cape Cod women in transition with services that bring increased opportunity, self-sufficiency, and stability. Women may call or appear at our door because of a recent job loss, illness, divorce, retirement, widowhood or just at a loss as to what to do with their lives. Basic career counseling begins with helping each person to better understand herself, including

appreciating her own skills and aptitudes, and beginning to identify what type of careers she might most enjoy. This, in turn, opens up a range of possibilities and unexpected opportunities.

WE CAN's integrated, comprehensive services cover many needs. Assistance is provided in creating a resume, help with forms, and locating employment and/or educational or training programs. Women may be

referred to our basic computer classes, our free legal clinics, our divorce support group, workshops we are offering, or our Pathmakers program as appropriate.

WE CAN does not try to "reinvent the wheel"; rather, we refer women to established services in the community to meet any additional needs. Please call WE CAN at 508.430.8111 to set up an appointment.

**JOIN US on March 26th when Puritan's "Celebrating Cape Cod Women" benefits WE CAN. The event is 5:00 to 8:00 PM at the Hyannis Puritan Clothing store**

**From the Board Members: Susan Karchmer**

These days it is hard to find a place to put your resources where you feel confident that your investment will increase in value.

When I joined the Board of WE CAN, I knew I wanted to "give back." What I have discovered is that for everything I give, whether it is time, money or experience, my invest-

ment is warmly received and richly rewarded. I have seen new programs, such as The Bridge program, come to life and already successful programs, such as Pathmakers, increase in scope. I have met wonderful people, including the WE CAN staff and its many volunteers and supporters. I have found a new and more meaningful perspective with which to

view the communities of the Cape.

I invite you to join the WE CAN Team. You will find an invaluable return for your investment for you personally, for your community, and for the women who receive the services of WE CAN.

**WE CAN's Pledge-Per-Month Program**

Yes! Sign me up for a 12-month pledge for \$5 \$10 \$20 \$25 each month in 2009. (WE CAN will send 12 addressed envelopes for your convenience.)

Send me a reminder each month via email to \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you wish your gift to be anonymous.

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## WE CAN is grateful to these generous 2008 donors:

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***WE CAN is pleased to report 100% Board Participation in our 2008 campaign!***

**Many thanks to those who have helped us so far in 2009!**

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*Special Reception* with the authors: \$500 per ticket. Includes the whole event plus the private reception at 5 pm. Seating limited to 10. Call or email for more information.



## The 2009 Literary Event: A Day of Women's Words, Wit, and Wisdom

WE CAN Proudly Presents  
"Lifelines: The Things That Save Us"

9:00 am Hospitality, Registration, and Auction Bids  
9:30 am~2:15pm Presentations and Discussion  
2:15 pm~2:30pm Winning bids announced  
Lunch is included

Emcee: **Anne LeClaire**, Author,  
*Listening Below the Noise, The Lavender Hour*

Speakers: **Jane Hamilton**, Author, *The Book of Ruth, A Map of the World*  
**Nancy Nichols**, Author, *Lake Effect*  
**Luanne Rice**, Author, *The Geometry of Sisters, The Letters*

WE CAN  
Discovery: **Nancy Pearson**, Poet, *Two Minutes of Light*

**Woman of the Year: Anne Meara**,  
Actress, Screenwriter, Comedienne

Thursday, June 4, 2009, 9 am~2:30 pm

**Honorary Chair: Artist Bebe Kemper**

West Dennis Yacht Club, West Dennis, MA  
259 Loring Avenue

Please mail a check for \$125 per person, payable to:

WE CAN Corporation  
537 Main Street (Rt. 28) Suite 2H  
Harwich Port, MA 02646  
508-430-8111

Email: [akirsch@wecancenter.org](mailto:akirsch@wecancenter.org)

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