

U.S. Programs Report to Women of Vision FY2010

Work in Appalachia

World Vision's work in Appalachia is focused on alleviating rural poverty in West Virginia and in Morgan County, Ohio.

Women's Retreat: The Women's Retreat is scheduled to happen in the fall of 2010. We are requesting that these funds be carried forward to FY11 for this retreat to happen. The retreat follow-up is part of this carry-forward request. (Carry forward request of \$18,000)

Beth Moore Bible Studies: One of the mothers at the Main Street parenting class asked if our family specialist would consider leading a Beth Moore Bible study. At a supervisory meeting, the idea was approved. While funding was requested from WoV for this project, it was found that we could borrow the Believing God DVD's from another church and the women were able to purchase their workbooks. The class was held at the Storehouse conference room on Mondays at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at noon, accommodating women on their lunch hours. The family specialist was asked to take the study to Buckhannon on Wed. noon and to a home group in Philippi on Sundays at 4 p.m. Eighteen women participated in four groups for a total of 60 sessions. Because of the success of this program, it is the hope of Appalachia to be able to continue this program into the next fiscal year. They will be purchasing a library of the DVD's and materials to be able to continue to offer this program in the future. (Total FY10 cost \$500)

Comments from women who participated in the study:

- *"The Beth Moore Bible Study (Believing God) provided encouragement and motivation to claim God's Word for my family's struggles. I was reminded of His goodness and good will toward His children and the hope that is ours as we trust Him to lead us in His wisdom."*
- *"This was my first Beth Moore Bible study. God has gifted her with such a unique way of bringing out His truths. The Believing God study was such a blessing and encouragement in my life. I would love to be involved in another of [Beth Moore's] Bible studies in the future."*
- *"As I look back and reflect over the past weeks with the Believing God Bible study by Beth Moore, I realize the progress I have made. I can look back through my entries and see where I was and that I am making decisions about work and family as well as evaluating where I am in my spiritual life. I am amazed at how much can happen in such a short amount of time. How quickly prayers can be answered as well as the realization that God's plan is still at work and is that much more impressive when it*

comes into fruition in ways that are totally unexpected. I look back through my notes and see the cycles of behaviors and themes in my life that I am continuing to work on. This is an excellent study for growing in faith. Beth talks about finding our Promise Land and identifying the things in our life that keep us from reaching our goal. She talks about being in the middle of the Jordan at our point of doubt and indecision and how the Israelites carry out a stone to make a memorial. This study has definitely been a memorial stone on the way to finding my promise land. This study challenges believers to grow in faith pointing out that no one goes to their place of promise accidentally and encourages us to participate in active faith with steps of obedience to fulfill our calling and purpose.”

First Place 4 Health: Since the Beth Moore Bible Study had less financial needs than anticipated, the Charlotte Chapter approved a request from the Appalachia Field Site Director to fund training for starting a First Place 4 Health Program. First Place 4 Health is a reliable, proven method of weight loss and healthy living. It continues to grow as a strong church program. First Place 4 Health has had groups in over 12,000 churches across the country—with over a half million members!

The tremendous success of First Place 4 Health is due to its biblical approach to weight loss and overall health management, which puts Christ first and improves every area of a person’s life. This Christ-centered, balanced weight-loss and healthy living program has guided hundreds of thousands of people to a healthy lifestyle and a closer walk with the Lord.

What’s unique about First Place 4 Health?

- Christ-centered priorities: Bible study, prayer and Scripture memory
- Choices for health: Addressing the whole person—emotions, mind, body and spirit
- Community: Support and accountability through small groups

First Place 4 Health offers a series of Bible studies. These studies address many issues of everyday life and provide opportunities for growth in Christ. Members complete a weekly Bible study which—combined with prayer and Scripture reading—helps to impart God’s strength, empowering members to overcome temptation and make long-lasting lifestyle changes.

This program is especially important in West Virginia which ranks 4th in the country as having the most obese residents. According to US News and World Report, 34% of West Virginia residents have a body mass index greater than 30%.

The first step in setting up a First Place 4 Health Program is to have a leader go through training. Donna Seaman recently attended training for First Place 4 Health in Houston, TX. (The program was started at Houston’s First Baptist Church.) Receipts for the trip are coming in but the site anticipates that the total cost will be approximately \$3,500. The balance will be used for purchasing materials for the classes (approximately \$80 per kit.) She will begin classes this fall. (Total FY10 cost \$4,500)

Family Specialist's Partial Compensation Package: The family specialist continues her work in West Virginia to support families in a variety of ways. Below are highlights of the work that she did this year. (Total FY10 cost \$20,000)

Community Partnerships to Reach Parents: In September 2009, one of our education partners, Head Start, requested two stress management workshops for their parents—one during the day and the other in the evening to accommodate working parents. They also asked for a parenting class that started September 15 at the Main Street office. The class was open to the public. Twelve parents participated in the class based on the book by Gary Chapman *Five Love Languages of Children*. Eleven parents completed six of the eight sessions. The class dealt with:

- Children have a need for healthy self-esteem, security and safety, and relational skills in addition to love. But learning to give love is basic to all the other needs. Children speak and understand emotional love in five basic ways: physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, gifts, and acts of service.
- Discipline is the training, guiding and nurturing of a child to reach maturity and responsibility. But disciplining without love is like trying to run a machine without oil. Choose a method of discipline that respects your child's feelings and opinions without losing your authority or becoming permissive.

Comments from parents who participated in the class:

- *"The setting and experience was very helpful. Mrs. Shearer is a very professional and compassionate person."*
- *"I got a lot of good advice from different parents. I met new people."*
- *"The love languages were really helpful, especially with my daughter. I like the interactive format."*
- *"What I found most helpful was that all children are different. I need to find more time to have one-on-one time with each of them."*

In February, another parenting class started with five parents and an intern from Head Start. The class, based on John Trent's book *Parenting from Your Strengths*, dealt with:

- Building harmony in the home
- Improving understanding in the family
- Challenging and motivating children and helping them make decisions
- Helping parents gain confidence in their role as a parent

Comments from one parent:

- *"I have found the parenting classes to be tremendously helpful. I have attended several different sessions over the last few years. As my children continue to grow and change, I find that I have new questions and challenges constantly. The group setting allows for discussion with other parents, which helped me feel that I was not alone in my challenges. The materials used in each class were extremely helpful. Marilyn Shearer is a wonderful coordinator/teacher for these classes. She was good at helping us see the positive aspects of our parenting journey while offering advice and comfort as someone who has already*

been through the parenting journey herself and raised children into adulthood. I will continue to attend these sessions, as I know some other parents have. This program has been a real blessing.”

Additional Programs: The KIDREACH sites held parenting events and asked our family specialist to facilitate them. The parenting events dealt with: How to Deal with Anger, Parenting with Love & Logic, Parenting from your Strengths, Five Love Languages. Twenty parents participated in four events. Additionally, the family specialist met with two brothers at KIDREACH whose mother died in January. She met with them privately to talk about how they felt and to pray with them. She also worked with the site coordinators on ways to encourage the boys and how to follow up.

At one of the World Vision All-Staff meetings the family specialist led a presentation on Anger Management from a Christian perspective. We used material adapted from Gary Chapman’s *The Other Side of Love: Handling Anger In a Godly Way*.

The family specialist conducted a Managing Stress Workshop for 10 foster parents at the Grafton DHHR. Several of these foster parents were actually grandparents to the children they cared for. In an interactive discussion parents shared the major stresses in their day and offered each other suggestions for lessening their impact. Several who were Christians emphasized how the peace of God helped them.

Recently the family specialist was asked to conduct parenting classes at Bannum Place, a half-way house in Clarksburg, providing assistance to inmates transitioning back to the community. The topic of the April class was “Reconnecting with Children.” One parent cried because he’d received a letter from his 19-year-old daughter that day and he didn’t want to break her trust again. The class discussed rebuilding trust and the importance of forgiveness. At the class in May, the family specialist discussed four parenting styles: negligent, authoritarian, permissive and effective. Several participants admitted their parents had been permissive, which resulted in getting into trouble and having their parents bail them out. Several parents of young children thanked me after class for insights that will help them become more effective parents.

On June 30, the family specialist participated in a Community Partners Meeting at Bannum Place. The mayor of Clarksburg, the police chief, probation officer, regional corrections supervisor, community partners and volunteers from Job Corps, Fairmont State College, Celebrate Recovery heard three former residents share how they were helped to find jobs, go back to college, and successfully transition into the community. Although people in the community have complained about the proximity of a half way house, they have kept Bannum House viable since 1993.

Coaching Individuals and Marriages: Most of the people who come to the family specialist for coaching or marriage counseling have no insurance or medical card. The Barbour County Health Department, doctor’s offices, pastors or former clients refer those needing help who seem to fall through the cracks.

- A young couple with one child found tools for restoring the love in their marriage.

- A young high school student found help to deal with past sexual abuse.
- A dad found hope for reconnecting with his teen-age daughters.
- A young wife whose husband left for Iraq needed hope to know God's purposes and plans for her life. We prayed through her feelings of abandonment.
- A mother thanked me: *"I have a new kid. I'm doing less parenting. I was giving too many warnings. Now I am able to be consistent."*
- A mother whose son recently died came for help to work through her grief. In her anger she had cut herself off from God. She said, *"I need to reconnect with God again in His Word and prayer."* She is beginning to have hope again for a restored relationship with God and to an end to her crushing grief.

Advisory Group: Friends of the Family formed in July 2008 as an advisory group for Family Initiative composed of community and church partners. Members of the group represent Head Start, Right From the Start, Together in Recovery, Feed My Sheep School, Women of Promise Ministry, and several churches.

The purpose of the Advisory Group is to promote healthy families and to share a God-honoring vision for our community. Some of the shared ideas implemented through Family Initiative were: promotion of the movie Fire Proof, a Marriage Mentoring program by Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott, and a presentation for MOPS. This advisory group also helped promote parenting classes and the Beth Moore DVD series. They also recommended implementing a Christian weight loss program—First Place 4 Health. (This is the program discussed above which Donna Seaman will be leading.)

Medical Institute: The Building Family Connections training took place March 12-13, 2010 at the World Vision Storehouse. There were four parents and two teenagers that attended the two day training. There were several topics covered such as Healthy Communication between parents and teenagers, Sexual Abstinence, Statistics and education on Adolescent Development, how to participate in great parenting, and differentiating between healthy and unhealthy relationships. It was a great time and the parents felt very good about the training. In fact, one parent enjoyed it so much she requested the training occur again so she can motivate other parents in the community to attend.

KidREACH – Elementary: Because the funding for the new Belington Site didn't happen until the second half of the year, Appalachia did not have time to launch the new site or the program. Therefore, we are requesting carrying this funding forward to FY11 so that we can launch this new site in the fall. The site is currently working to set up this program. They anticipate that there will be a few expenses in FY10 (less than \$500) and that the balance of the funds will be spent in FY11 to run the program. (Carry forward request of \$27,000.)

Youth Empowerment Program Summit Scholarships: Appalachia had 10 students participate in the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP). These students spent 20 weeks working with Bobby Benavides and Jennifer Morrell in an intensive leadership curriculum. The training focuses on leadership development, team building, community engagement, and

advocacy training. They also learn how to develop policy, law making, and engage the federal government through advocacy.

In July, these students traveled to Washington DC to join with the YEP delegations from across the country. They were able to visit their legislative leaders on Capital Hill and advocate for the Youth Promise Act. The timing of the trip was incredible as they happened to be meeting with Senator Rockefeller the same day that West Virginia's new senator, Carte Goodwin, who replaced the late Senator Robert Byrd, was sworn in. They were able to be in the chambers to see this sweating in. Additionally, and even more importantly, they convinced Senator Rockefeller to become a sponsor of the Youth PROMISE Act. (Total cost \$2,000)

Community Service Projects: As part of the preparation process for going to Washington DC, the YEP delegation from Appalachia participated in community service projects. They reached out to other children in the community and led games and activities such as the Messy Olympics. (Total FY10 cost \$2,000)

The remaining YEP activities including the State Government Learning Trip and the YEP retreat were not able to be completed this year. Therefore we are requesting that funds be carried forward to FY11 to complete these activities. (Carry forward request of \$6,000)

Work in Los Angeles

World Vision's work in Los Angeles is focused on urban poverty in Southern California. Our community of focus is the MacArthur Park neighborhood. But, we continue to work throughout Southern California to help alleviate poverty.

Second Start

On any given night, an estimated 84,000 homeless men, women, and children sleep in Los Angeles shelters, cars, under freeway overpasses, on sidewalks, and in tent encampments throughout the county. Homeless women and children are especially vulnerable, and the mothers often do not have the resources or job skills to build a better future. World Vision serving Southern California is helping to change this as we walk alongside homeless women working to gain the skills and confidence they need to transform their lives and families. World Vision currently partner with the shelters that provide a home for these women and their children, supplying the essentials that help them walk into a new future.

The Second Start Program supports women working to emerge from homelessness into jobs and hope filled futures for themselves and their children. World Vision supports their efforts to build job and interview skills as they regain their self esteem. This program was started ten years ago in partnership with Women of Vision Orange County.

The Second Start program culminated this last weekend with an annual luncheon. Held at the Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills, the celebration featured a fashion show, with the women modeling new, donated, professional clothing supplied by World Vision. The show was

emceeded by KTLA news anchor Lu Parker. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa attended and spoke about the importance of this work. Jemeker Thompson-Hairston, author of Queen Pin, shared her story of transformation. The Miss Asia USA team provided encouragement to the women modeling as well as equipping them through job-related self-presentation and etiquette training. The event was an amazing celebration of the transformation that these formerly homeless women had experienced.

(Total FY10 Cost \$7,000)

Work in New York

World Vision's work in New York is focused on urban poverty in greater New York. Our communities of focus include the South Bronx and Washington Heights. But, we continue to work throughout New York to help alleviate poverty.

Greater New York: The Fairfield chapter of Women of Vision provided funding to the Greater New York warehouse to support their work with urban poverty in and around New York City. As the need continues to grow in New York, so does the number of clients that are being supported. From October 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010, 113,801 children and 145,378 adults have benefitted from the gifts-in-kind distributed through 168 local partners. This includes the following GIK projects:

- Essential Supplies for Families - 82,571 children and 142,209 adults
- Teacher Resource Center - 4,062 teachers serving 41,555 students
- Building Materials - 15,615 families
- Health Products for Health Clinics and Nonprofit Organizations - 3,355 children and adults

(Total FY10 Cost: \$2,500)

Work in Pacific Northwest

World Vision's work in the Pacific Northwest is focused on urban poverty in Western Washington. Our communities of focus include the east side of Tacoma and Rainier Valley of Seattle. But, we continue to work throughout Western Washington to help alleviate poverty.

Pacific Northwest Backpacks: For the sixth year, the Pacific Northwest has partnered with the Greater Seattle Women of Vision to support backpacks for children. The chapter was at the Fife facility for four hours in July and assembled 2,100 backpacks filled with back to school supplies for children in need. In addition, they sponsored 500 backpacks which will be distributed on September 10th at Concord Elementary School in Seattle.

(Total FY10 Cost \$5,000)

FY 10 Expenditures and Carry Forward Request

Projects	FY10 Expenditures	FY11 Carry Forward Request ¹
Appalachia		
• Women's Retreat & Follow-up		\$ 18,000
• Beth Moore Bible Study	\$ 500	
• First Place 4 Health	\$ 4,500	
• Family Specialist Partial Compensation Package	\$ 20,000	
• Medical Institute	\$ 6,000	
• KidREACH		\$ 27,500
• YEP Scholarships for Summit	\$ 2,000	
• State Government Learning Retreat		\$ 4,000
• YEP Retreat		\$ 2,000
• Community Service Projects	\$ 2,000	
Los Angeles		
• Second Start	\$ 7,000	
Greater New York		
• Warehouse support	\$ 2,500	
Pacific Northwest		
• Backpacks	\$ 5,000	
TOTAL	\$ 49,500	\$ 51,500

¹ U.S. Programs is asking the Women of Vision program to carry forward \$51,500 in funding from the FY10 award for programming that will be implemented in FY11. This will allow U.S. Programs to complete the implementation of projects requested in FY10 where the funding arrived too late in the year to get the program launched.