

Women in Commercial Real Estate Nashville

NEWSLETTER

Issue: WINTER 2012



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



By Donna Wheeler

As the saying goes - "Time Flies When You're Having Fun". What a whirlwind have been these first six months of the WCRE 2011-2012 fiscal year! This group has really accomplished a great deal thus far. I'd like to use this forum to recap and update our progress toward the goals established during our annual conference on August 26, 2011.

During the business meeting portion of our conference, it was determined that our primary focus for this fiscal year would be:

- Strengthening our involvement in community affairs
- Mentoring new members for leadership roles

We have made great strides in community affairs through the new Commit Your "T" Campaign. Following are the group's accomplishments with regard to each of the three organizations that membership voted to support:

Magdalene House

- Planted tree in honor of Oleita Norton
- Sent 8 volunteers to assist at the annual fundraiser for Magdalene at Vanderbilt University

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2011-2012 Board of Directors

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- Held housewarming to supply items needed for newest home for 4 residents
- Collected 46 ten dollar gift cards for distribution to residents during the holidays
- Donated \$200 from Community Affairs budget to organization

Karen Schorkopf,
Bancorp South

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Susan Ahlheit, The Shopping Center Group

VP Programs

Sue Franklin, ProVenture
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Carrie Perkins, Harvest Construction

Christian Women's Job Corp

- Several members attended training for mentors/volunteers
- Paid the CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) fee for one of the CWJC program participants as she entered this certificate program in fall 2011
- Collected 46 ten dollar gift cards for distribution to participants during the holidays
- Donated \$200 from Community Affairs budget to organization

Miriam's Promise

- Collected 46 ten dollar gift cards for distribution to participants during the holidays
- Donated \$200 from Community Affairs budget to organization
- Member volunteers assisted with general office/ mailing project in January
- Lane and Shelby are currently recruiting volunteers to assist with the annual fundraiser in March.

While we have made some positive strides with regard to our mentorship program, this is the area to which we will promote much attention during the next six months. We will be calling on seasoned members to assist in providing guidance and encouragement to our newer members in preparation for leadership roles.

Please accept my gratitude and admiration for all that you wonderful women have accomplished! I look forward to the spring season and all of the upcoming opportunities to promote WCRE in both our internal and external communities.

Community Affairs Projects

We have really made great strides with our "3T Community Affairs Program." Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Thistle Farms fundraiser, contributed to and attended the Magdalene Housewarming, and contributed gift cards to our 3 non-profits for Christmas. All of the non-profits were elated, and we far exceeded our gift card goal!

Upcoming group volunteer projects include the Miriam's Promise Spring Fundraiser, "Celebrate the Promise" which will take place on Saturday, March 24, 2012. There will be several ways that we can help with this fundraiser from décor to manning the registration tables, and etc., so please go ahead and mark that date on your calendar if you would like to volunteer. Shelby Larkin will send out more information as the event date approaches.

Finally, our "3T" program is lacking in the talent category. So, here are some ways that we can all share our talents with the non-profits:

CWJC - If you missed this weekend's training program at CWJC, here is a list of 2012 dates and locations. Please email Shelby at slarkin@boyle.com if you are interested in attending, and she will be sure to get you a volunteer application, and put you in touch with Sandy at CWJC. This is a great opportunity to become a career mentor!

2012 TRAININGS:

Tuesday, February 7th, Downtown Nashville, 6:30pm
Sunday, March 18th, Crieveview Baptist, 1:30 pm
Thursday, April 19th, Williamson County, 6:30 pm
Tuesday, May 15th, Madison, 6:30 pm
Sunday, June 10th, Crieveview Baptist, 1:30 pm
Tuesday, July 17th, Downtown Nashville, 6:30 pm
Tuesday, August 14th, Williamson County, 6:30 pm
Sunday, September 16th, Crieveview Baptist, 1:30 pm
Tuesday, October 16th, Madison, 6:30 pm
Tuesday, November 13th, Downtown Nashville, 6:30 pm

2. Magdalene/Thistle Farms - Got a talent that you would like to share in a low-key, classroom-type setting - i.e. crafts, cooking, organization, table manners, household talents, sewing, knitting, career mentoring, new ways to do old stuff? If so, email Shelby at slarkin@boyle.com, and she will put you in touch with Stacye, the volunteer coordinator at Magdalene/Thistle Farms.

3. Miriam's Promise - Miriam's Promise is located in East Nashville, and is always looking for volunteers to help with mailings, correspondence, and other office duties. There are also opportunities to mentor the women in terms of college and career opportunities. Please email Shelby at slarkin@boyle.com if you are interested in sharing your talents with Miriam's Promise.



Oleita's Tree Planting

On a beautiful afternoon on Monday, October 17th, members of WCRE, the women of Magdalene House and Oleita Norton's family gathered to plant a magnolia tree in her honor. Oleita was a beloved wife, mother, friend, long time member of WCRE, and avid supporter of Magdalene House and Thistle Farms. She left us all too soon, but will always be remembered.

The magnolia tree was planted in front of Magdalene House's newest residence on 801 Lena, which will now be a place for four women to call home and rebuild their lives. Both Trina Williams and Diane Adcock shared heartfelt stories about Oleita, and described who she was to the women of Magdalene House. Much like them, Oleita had some very difficult obstacles to overcome in her life, and was bent, but never broken by those experiences. She overcame her circumstances, and was such an inspiration to so many. One of the women from Magdalene House said a prayer to close out the ceremony, and exclaimed "this will always be Oleita's tree!"

A plaque will be placed in the front yard next to the tree as a constant reminder of Oleita. We know that she was smiling down on us that day. Her family was so appreciative and moved by the tree that now sits at 801 Lena in her honor. Thank you to all who participated in the ceremony. It was a wonderful event!



MTSU Scholarship Award Winner

In 2011 WCRE created a Legacy Award Scholarship program in conjunction with Middle Tennessee State University. As part of this commitment, WCRE will award an annual \$2,000 scholarship in honor of the WCRE member that is recognized that year with the Legacy Award. This inaugural award was dedicated to our beloved member Oleita Norton, who passed away two years ago, and Trina Williams, the 2011 WCRE Legacy Award Winner. Dr. Doug Timmons, an Associate Professor in the Finance and Economic department, oversees the MTSU Real Estate Enrichment Fund. He selects a worthy female student, whose major academic emphasis is the study of real estate, to whom the scholarship will be awarded. Our inaugural recipient is Merijama Malovic. Merijama is a junior seeking a degree in real estate. She is interested in becoming a Real Estate Broker or working in the Property Management field.

In October, Holly Buchanan and Katie James paid a visit to the MTSU campus to meet with Merijama, Dr. Timmons, and MTSU's Development Director John Mitchell. They enjoyed a wonderful lunch and took a tour of the ever growing campus. We are looking forward to a long and wonderful relationship with Dr. Timmons and the real estate students of MTSU.



WCRE WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

WCRE is proud to announce our new members:

Lizz Kabat, Kabat Real Estate Solutions, LLC
Catrina Haley, Highwoods Properties
Mary Martha Gaiennie, Highwoods Properties
Lindsay McGill, Interior Design Services, Inc.
Erica Hamlett, Interior Design Services, Inc.
Tiffanie Fitzpatrick, The Capital Corporation
Marjorie Kaup Haines, Kay B Housh PC

Please join us in welcoming them to our organization!

RACE FOR THE CURE

Susan G. Komen - Race for the Cure 2011

19th Annual Race for the Cure

\$5,120 raised and had 46 participants!

WCRE members have contributed over \$50,000 since 2006!



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Make your plans to attend the following great programs organized by our talented Programs Committee, led by Carrie Perkins and Sue Franklin.

March 6, 2012

Topic: Networking Communications and Business Leads via LinkedIn

Location: Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis Conference Center

Nashville City Center

511 Union Street, 27th Floor

Speaker: Travis Jones, Nashville Business Journal

Sponsored by: Waller, Lansden, Dortch & Davis

April 3, 2012

Topic: Real Estate Legal Issues
Location: Brentwood location managed by Cassidy Turley
Speaker: Ann Cargile, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings
Sponsored by: Cassidy Turley

SAVE THE DATE!

The WCRE Economic Forum will be held Wednesday, February 29, 2012.

The Connection will be held Thursday, May 10, 2012.

More details to come!!

SPONSORSHIPS

We are looking for WCRE Sponsors for 2012!! If anyone is interested, please contact Susan Felts at sfelts@firstam.com or Amy Byrd at abyrd@healthcarerealty.com.

Who's WCRE???

Rhonda Thomas



What is your greatest professional achievement? In 2009, I received both my CLS and CSM from ICSC, but planning for 2012 to be the year I attain my CPM!

What is your greatest personal achievement? My children, David, 23, and Baker, 19 are my greatest personal achievements. They have grown up to be Christian, compassionate, caring, and motivated young adults.

Who is your mentor and what traits do you admire most in that person? My mentor is Bruce Westling. Over the years, he has taught me a great deal about Commercial Real Estate. He has an energetic, fun, and very driven spirit. He gets so much joy from seeing deals being put together and helping those around him succeed. He has never hesitated to stop what he was doing to coach me.

What is your favorite vacation spot? Any beach, just a beach, the sun and a good book.

What is your favorite way to relax? I am an avid College Sports fan and a Lady Commodore Women's Basketball Season Ticket Holder. I love spending time with my husband, Shirman, reading and my newest favorite pastime- Pinterest.

What is the most challenging aspect of your job? The most challenging part of my job is trying to control the uncontrollable.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job? The most rewarding part is completion. Whether it be completing a leasing deal or solving a management issue, I feel the most sense of reward when the task has been completed and everyone is satisfied.

Describe your favorite pair of shoes. My favorite pair of shoes are a pair of dressy sandals. They have about 1 ½ inch heel and are neutral in color. I have bought outfits around these sandals. They are very comfortable and can be dressed up or down and they make me feel happy when I wear them!

What is your natural hair color? At this point, mostly gray, but I haven't seen my natural color in a long time! Thank the Lord for Color!!!!

Do you have a 'brush with celebrity' story? I was on the Teddy Bart show when I was a "Brownie" and we got to have lunch with him. He signed my autograph book. I think I was 6 or 7.

What is a little-known fact about yourself? I have 63 1st and 2nd cousins that live in and around Nashville.

What would be your first choice of another career? I always thought growing up that I would be a teacher. But as I ponder this now, I think having a shop where I could re-purpose old items and give them a new life, would be fun.

What is your favorite restaurant? My favorite restaurant is any great sushi place!

Who would you like to meet? Laura Bush. I have always admired her grace and strength.

COMMITTEE HELP!!

Looking for a way to get more involved with WCRE??? Contact a VP listed to the right to join a Committee!! We'd love to have your help and input!

WARNING: If you don't contact us, we will contact you!!

**Women in Commercial Real Estate Nashville
Would like to say
Thank you to our Sponsors...**



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