

The Pathfinder

Fall 2012

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Purdy Challenges Guests to Live Beyond Limits

A “sell out” crowd of over 200 women and men gathered at The Columbus Foundation’s Davis Hall on October 9 to hear Amy Purdy’s talk on “Living Beyond Limits.” Purdy’s powerful remarks challenged the audience to “Think about your life as a book, with you as the author, and decide how you want the story to go.” This particular challenge is the one that motivated Purdy to live beyond the limits she experienced after losing her kidneys, spleen, hearing in one ear, and both of her legs (from the knees down) to bacterial meningitis when she was 19. She is now 32, a successful motivational speaker, actress, and the top-reigning female adaptive snow boarder in the world. In addition, she has founded a nonprofit organization that manufactures prostheses for amputees who desire to lead an active lifestyle and compete in sports.



Inspiration and energy filled the room as Purdy shared her life story and her definition of a limit, not as a stopping point, but rather a pushing off point at which every person, no matter your circumstance, has the power to ignite your imagination and write the next chapter of your life.

Combs Awarded 2012 Bostwick Scholarship

Jennifer Combs, a graduate of the Center’s Creating Career Options, Advanced Career Techniques, and E³ programs, was recently announced as the 2012 recipient of the \$2,000 Bostwick Scholarship. The award is given annually in memory of former NDCC staff member Anne Bostwick. She is the 20th scholarship recipient.

Combs, an experienced carpenter and cabinet maker, currently works full-time while pursuing her education full-time at Columbus State Community College. She plans to use the scholarship funds toward her associate’s degree in Civil Engineering Technology, with a plan to complete her bachelor’s degree, and eventually an MBA – all within a five-year time frame!

Jennifer emphasized that women, especially women with over 25 years’ experience in the commercial construction industry, are underrepresented in this growing field. She hopes her entry into the field signifies a new trend for women pursuing non-traditional careers. Congratulations to Jenny!



Jennifer Combs, 2012 winner of NDCC’s Bostwick Scholarship

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*Action is the
antidote to
despair.*

Joan Baez

Circle of Friends Annual Campaign Kicks Off

On October 19, New Directions Career Center's Annual Fund-raising Campaign, **Circle of Friends**, kicked off. This year's solicitation of individual donors has a goal of raising \$20,000 to support the Center's programs and services — ALL of which are offered on a sliding fee scale, with no one turned away because of inability to pay. The majority of NDCC clients pay only a small registration fee (\$10 or less, depending on what they can afford). Ability to offer high quality services to anyone in need is dependent upon support from various funding sources, including donations made through this annual campaign.

The **Circle of Friends** campaign will run through February, 2013. Please consider a generous gift. Your donations will support programs and services which empower women to change their lives!



Funding News

We continue to be extremely grateful for the various grants, which help the Center continue to deliver services to job seekers in Central Ohio. Recognition and thanks are extended to the following funders for their support:

- \$20,000 grant from the **Harry C. Moores Foundation** will support core programming.
- \$10,000 grant from the **Siemer Foundation** will support core programming.
- \$15,000 **Honda of America, Mfg. Foundation** grant will support core programming.
- \$30,000 grant from **American Electric Power** will support core programs and services.
- \$10,000 grant from **Walter and Marian English Foundation** — unrestricted funding.
- \$ 2,000 grant from **Alan Korb Trust Fund** — unrestricted funding.
- \$10,000 grant from **Tatman-Robins Fund** — unrestricted funding.



Young Professionals Group Launched at Fall Event

A group of 10 dynamic, young professional women have spent the past six months working to create the purpose, structure and criteria for an **NDCC Young Professionals Group**. At its October meeting the Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the group (as required by the Center's Code of Regulations) and the **New Directions Young Professionals (NDYP)** was announced at the October 9 Fall Event held at The Columbus Foundation. The group will work to further the Center's mission through both service and fund-raising activities, while furthering their own professional development. The group will also host periodic networking events — the first of which was held on November 8 at Claddaugh's in the Brewery District. If you (or someone you know) is a young professional (female or male) between the ages of 22 and 45, living and working in central Ohio and desiring to further the mission of NDCC (to empower women in transition to achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency), please contact either Sara Cotter at sara.e.cotter@cardinalhealth.com or Jillian Anderson at jillian.anderson@sc.ohio.gov for more information. Annual membership dues will be \$20 the first year.

Annual Volunteer Awards Presented

Outstanding Corporate Volunteer. This year **White Castle System, Inc.** was honored as the Outstanding Corporate Volunteer—in recognition of the many contributions of time, resources and expertise they so generously give to NDCC. For the past four years they have served as presenting sponsor for the Center's **Women of Promise** event; they have provided classroom meeting space for some of NDCC's programs, and have made numerous in-kind contributions to the Center. In addition, the Center has been the recipient of many valuable volunteer service hours from Board member Meg Kelley. Accepting the award were Meg Kelley, Erin Shannon, and John Kelley.



L to R: Angela Scali, Meg Kelley, Erin Shannon, and John Kelley



L to R: Kristen Moosmiller, Erin Gaeta, Angela Scali

Outstanding Community Volunteer (Organization Category):

The award for Outstanding Community Organization Partner was presented to the **Financial Planning Association of Central Ohio** for their work in planning and implementing a monthly workshop series PLUS quarterly 5-hour financial literacy Boot Camps for NDCC clients. The financial education programs cover a variety of financial topics from wills to bankruptcy to divorce planning to repairing your credit score and growing and protecting your assets. Accepting the award on behalf of the FPA were Erin Gaeta and Kristen Moosmiller.

Outstanding Community Volunteer (Individual Category)

The award was presented to Jillian Anderson, HR Officer for The Ohio Supreme Court, for her outstanding work in conducting mock interviews and resume reviews with NDCC clients, supporting the Center's events, and conducting speaking engagements at the Columbus Metropolitan Library and the Bexley Library on behalf of the Center. "Staff Choice" Award went to Warren Miller, owner of Edward Warren Jewelers for his help with the Center's annual **Women of Promise** event, his support and promotion of NDCC events, and his generous "in-kind" and financial contributions (including free watches for clients).



Jillian Anderson



Linda Danter and Warren Miller



Amy Berends and Angela Scali



Angela Scali and Sara Cotter

Outstanding Classroom Volunteer. This year's honoree was **Dr. Amy Berends**, a counselor in the Admissions Office of Columbus State Community College. Amy has generously given of her time for the past eight years to meet with clients of our programs and serve as a member of the Center's Educational Resource Panel.

Outstanding Board Service. Outgoing Board President, Sara Cotter, was recognized for her service as Board President, service on various committees including Fund Development, Board Governance, Executive, and **Women of Promise**, which she chaired two years ago. She has also led the establishment of NDCC's Young Professionals Group, which she is co-chairing.

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NDCC Staff Roster

Linda S. Danter, Ph.D., Executive Director
Linda Warden, Development Director
Raeanna O'Brien, LPCC-S Director, Programs/Services
Amanda Fox, LPC Counselor & Program Coordinator
Cynthia Kazalia, Employment Specialist
Meredith Kitts, Office Administrator
Rosanna Tabler, Office Assistant
Polly Dix, Volunteer Coordinator

NDCC Board of Trustees

Laurie Aquilina, Time Warner
Kathy Bickel, OSU Alumni Association
Joelle Brock, Leading EDJE
Christopher Burt, Information Control Corporation
Nancy Case, Columbus State Community College
Carol Conner, Ohio Health
Michelle Cook, ADECCO
Amy Coontz, Honda of America Mfg., Inc.
Sara E. Cotter, Cardinal Health
Megan Davies, Lee Hecht Harrison
Andrea Dowding, Thirty One Gifts
Gail Ford, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP
Amy R. Goldstein, Ohio Attorney General's Office
Carla Hicks, Columbus Public Health Department
Martha Hubbell, Huntington Bank
Meg Kelley, White Castle System, Inc.
Andrea Kirsh, American Electric Power
Lisa Plaga, The Ohio State University
Angela Scali, Limited Brands, Inc.
Laurie Schmidt-Moats, CF Bank
Mary Ann Short, Consultant
Susanna Su, Nationwide Insurance
Scott Van Woerkom, Grange Insurance
Ellen Wiseman Julian (Trustee Emeritus)

New Directions Career Center (NDCC) empowers women in transition — to achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency. To achieve this mission, NDCC delivers career counseling, employment-related education, life skills training and job placement services. These programs and services empower individuals to find fulfilling employment that will support a lifetime of economic independence — not just a job.

Since its inception in 1980, the New Directions Career Center (NDCC) has touched the lives of more than 60,000 individuals.

Lives Get Changed Here.

Wish List

The following items are needed:

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Kleenex
- Coffee (regular)
- Hand Sanitizer
- Liquid Hand Soap
- 8 1/2 x 11 Copier Paper
- Large (30 gallon) Trash Bags
- Inspirational and Career-Related Books for our Client Library



Many of our clients could use assistance during the holiday season. The following items are requested to make the holidays brighter for these women and their children:

- Kroger, Meijer or Giant Eagle Gift Cards
- Gas Gift Cards
- COTA Bus Passes

If you can help with these needs, please contact the Center by calling 849-0028 no later than December 10.

Happy Holiday Wishes from NDCC Board and Staff

We are taking this opportunity to wish our outstanding volunteers and donors a joyous and blessed holiday season. In the past three years, during difficult economic times, NDCC has been able to nearly double our budget. This has allowed us to add several needed new programs, like "Educate, Empower, Elevate (E3)" and "Computer Basics" to name two, and to expand our financial literacy programming to include an on-going monthly workshop series PLUS quarterly full-day boot camps. We have also upgraded our infrastructure and expanded our staff capabilities by developing a pool of extremely well-qualified contract workers, on whom we can call to deliver programs and services as the service needs expand and change. In Fiscal Year 2011-12, more than 250 volunteers donated over 5,800 volunteer hours of service to support our mission and give back to the community by giving their time and talents to support the Center's mission. The value attributed to this generous gift of time (using IRS guidelines) was \$118,387. Finally, we thank you for your thoughtful and generous in-kind donations (i.e. printing, graphic design, office furniture, social media management, technology equipment, and so much more). Such support is truly priceless, and allows us to have a much larger impact than we could possibly have with our small FTE staff of six! **THANK YOU and HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**