

WINGS hosts Community Forum to combat Dallas poverty

On August 9, WINGS hosted a Community Forum on Strategic Partnerships. The Forum brought national and local leaders together to discuss the battle against poverty, and how we can work together to make a positive impact in our community. The Forum was held to share the outcomes of an 18-month national demonstration project on strategic partnerships among nonprofit agencies serving low-income clients, and included a training session for prospective partner agencies.

WINGS, along with New Friends New Life and Metrocrest Services, was among the seven nationally selected partnerships for the project. The objective was to integrate financial capability services into existing nonprofits, meaning that clients of New Friends New Life and Metrocrest Services were able to benefit from WINGS financial education and asset-building products in addition to the services they received through the partner agencies.

44% of households are liquid asset poor. In Dallas, that number is a staggering 52%, meaning that over half of our households aren't able to pay their bills if their income is disrupted.

“This is no longer a conversation just about ‘those poor people’,” said Levere. “This is a conversation about half of us.”

But Levere explained that financial capability goes beyond education and asset-building. Once people acquire simple financial skills, they need to earn enough income to cover basic expenses, pay down debt and save. With accumulated savings, they can be prepared for emergencies and invest in assets that can boost their earning potential. “By thinking deeply about our programs as real people experience them, we can design solutions that work for the people who need them most,” said Levere.

The partnership model gives WINGS the opportunity to share our financial capability expertise with clients at other organizations, and gives our partner organizations a tool to improve the lives of their clients without creating their own programs. “Rather than reinvent the wheel, strategic partnerships allow organizations to share valuable resources and keep the focus on their area of expertise,” said Becca Fritze, WINGS Vice President of Economic Advancement. “Working together, we can make a greater impact on our community.”



Andrea Levere, CFED President

The Forum featured speakers Regina Montoya, Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty, and Andrea Levere, President of the Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) who spoke about the high rates of Liquid Asset Poverty in our community. Liquid Asset Poverty is the lack of savings to cover basic expenses for three months if job loss, a medical emergency, or other crisis leads to a loss of income. Nationwide,



Becca Fritze, WINGS Vice President of Economic Advancement

investment as families improve their financial stability through our partnership programs,” Fritze said.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 • 6-8 PM • WINGSDALLAS.ORG/TICKETS

PETICOLAS BREWERY 2026 FARRINGTON ST. • DALLAS, TX 75207

Greetings from WINGS CEO, Jennifer Ware



Welcome to your first WINGS newsletter! At WINGS, we help women and families find their path to a better life.

For years you knew us as the YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas, with programs for women and families that evolved as their needs changed. However, today's women face much bigger challenges, prompting a bold move earlier this year.

In January, we voluntarily ended our association with our national organization to focus solely on a critical challenge faced by our local community: poverty. The numbers tell our story:

- 25% of Dallas residents live below the poverty line compared to 16% in the U.S. (In 2016, this is defined as a family of three earning less than \$20,090 annually.)
- 48% of female-led Dallas families with children live below the poverty line – the highest of any major city in Texas.

Surrounded by local need and equipped with programs that produce results, our 107-year old organization rebranded with a new name and a stronger than ever commitment to women. We are now WINGS: serving Women In Need of Generous Support. We address a variety of social and economic issues impacting financial stability, career readiness and parenting.

Over the coming months we'll continue to share the latest news in our efforts to help women and families lift themselves and their families out of poverty. We'll share invitations to engage in our work by attending events or volunteering with members. Quite frankly, we do important work and we cannot do it alone.

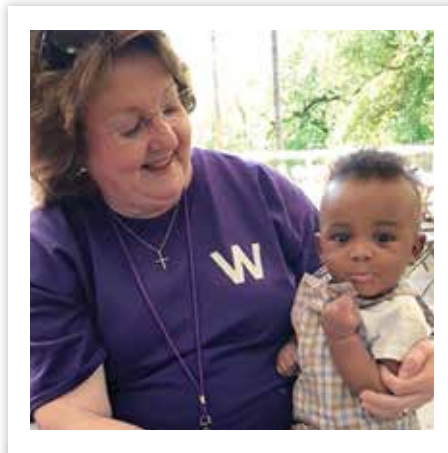
Join us today.

Jennifer M. Ware
Chief Executive Officer

Nurse-Family Partnership Party at the Dallas Zoo

This summer, we hosted our 9th annual Nurse-Family Partnership family celebration at the Dallas Zoo for over 300 moms, babies and guests. The Zoo Party gives families in the program a chance to spend a fun day together connecting with their nurses and other Nurse-Family Partnership members.

"Having all the families together in one place allows us to see the impact that Nurse-Family Partnership makes in the community," said Director, Alison Collazo. "We have the data to show that the program works, but seeing all the babies with faces painted, and moms and dads enjoying the day is a powerful reminder that behind the data are real families. Real families that are dedicated to raising happy, healthy children and becoming self-sufficient."



Upcoming Events

Wings for WiNGS Benefit
September 15, 6-8 p.m.
Peticolas Brewing Company

North Texas Giving Day
September 22

Women's Enterprise Center Graduation
October 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
WINGS Center at Ebby's Place



Volunteer Spotlight

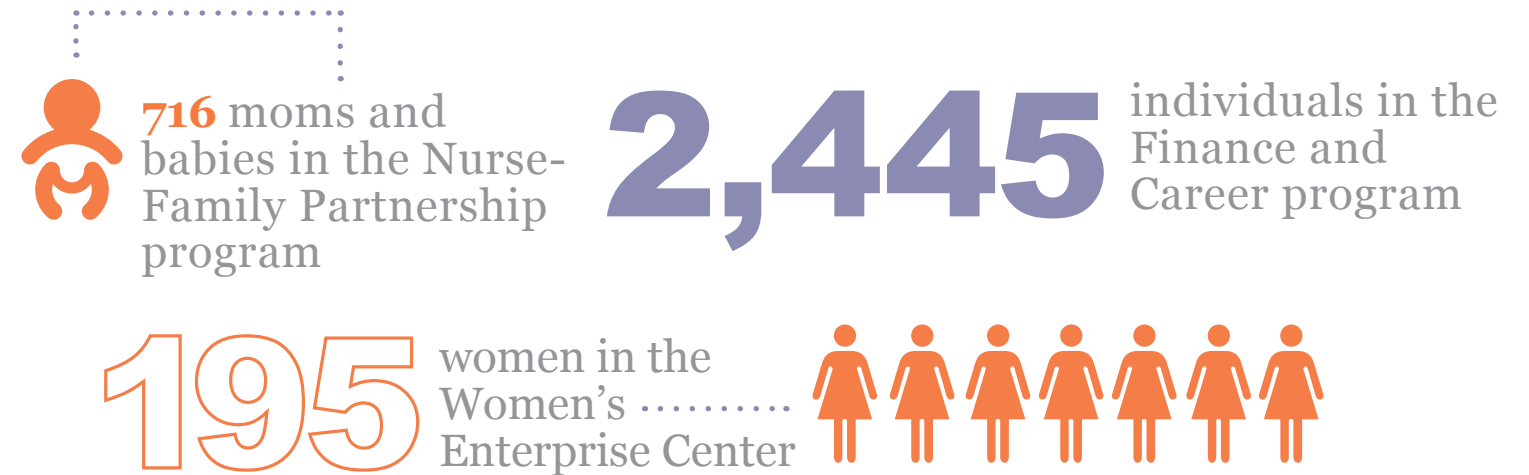
When Cheryl Orr moved to Dallas in 2014, she had two priorities: find a home and a place to volunteer. A coworker told her to contact the Community Engagement team at WINGS to learn how she could become involved. She registered for the WINGS Finance and Career training, and has been teaching our RiSE financial education series for two years.

"I like teaching the RiSE class. I think the information is well put together and to see women and men really grow in their knowledge each week is wonderful," said Cheryl. "I wish that others knew how effective WINGS is at providing women a path to a better life."

To learn more about how you can become involved please email volunteer@wingsdallas.org.

WINGS Community Impact

In fiscal 2016, WINGS served:



Your continued support allows us to make a difference in the lives of Dallas County families. Thank you!

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