



Women In Need of Generous Support\*

2603 Inwood Road

Dallas, Texas 75235

# SPRING NEWSLETTER



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## WINGS Entrepreneurs Showcase Their Talents

On November 16, three aspiring entrepreneurs shared their passions and visions for success with an audience of 50 supporters at the second annual WINGS Enterprise Showcase Sponsored by EY. The Showcase is an opportunity for graduates of the Women's Enterprise Center to present their business concepts to an audience, and receive helpful feedback from a panel of successful businesswomen and community leaders.

"It's like 'Shark Tank' without the sharks," said WINGS CEO, Jennifer Ware. "The Enterprise Showcase gives our graduates a chance to pitch their ideas and polish their presentations in a friendly, supportive environment."



Enterprise Showcase presenters Rita McLean, Tanasha Allwood and Shannon Banks.

The only similarity in the graduates' business concepts was their creativity and innovation.

They included:

- **Buzzed ArtNite**, a mobile paint and sip party company
- **Foodology 180**, a farm-to-table restaurant designed to bring healthy food options to South Dallas food deserts
- **My Puberty Party**, which provides an opportunity for girls to learn about puberty in a fun, safe environment alongside their parents

The Showcase gave Enterprise Center graduate and entrepreneur, Tanasha Allwood, the chance to share her plan to expand her business, Buzzed ArtNite. "It was amazing to be here, to get over my butterflies and meet some other women who are entrepreneurs like myself and get the encouragement," said Tanasha Allwood, presenter and owner of Buzzed ArtNite.

"I really had a great time and am so grateful to WINGS for being part of my entrepreneurial journey."



Entrepreneur Cynthia Nevels and Councilmember Carolyn King Arnold offered advice to WINGS Showcase presenters.



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## Greetings from WiNGS CEO, Jennifer Ware



This month marks two years since moving into our women's center, now known as the WiNGS Center at Ebby's Place. During those early weeks at the Center, our team spent time thoughtfully crafting the member experience. One of their first decisions,

in fact, was to shift our language from "clients" to "members", reinforcing the message that the WiNGS Center belongs to the women in our community who turn to us for guidance. We launched the Women's Enterprise Center, providing tools, resources, and, more importantly, peer support for women ready to grow or start a business.

Over the course of the last two years, we've reached over 6,000 women - not all at the Center - but all with our same philosophy to give them the support and confidence to overcome the obstacles in their path. Our commitment is to the women in our community who struggle to get by. To feed their kids. To live in safety. To avoid disaster, day after day.

The women we serve know that a better life exists. They are not looking for luxury. They want stability, security and independence. They want the freedom to make choices and take risks. They want to know they can pay their bills every month, and be prepared for the unexpected. They want to give their kids a solid foundation, and to make them proud.

Today we are living in a world where the women we serve are quickly becoming marginalized. Where women's voices are hushed. Where decisions are made in haste and with no consideration to those most impacted: women and children in need.

Your support—as a donor, volunteer, or advocate—has never been more critical. We need you to join with us as we work with women and for women. As we stand side by side with those simply trying to create a better life for themselves. Together we can give women the opportunity to turn their hopes into goals, their goals into a plan, and their plan into reality. Because everyone deserves a path to a better life.

Jennifer M. Ware, CEO, WiNGS

## WiNGS to offer GED and English language classes

WiNGS is proud to announce that we will be offering English Language Acquisition courses (formerly known as English as a Second Language, or ESL) and GED preparatory courses (a.k.a. General Education Degree or high school equivalency) this spring at the WiNGS Center at Ebby's Place. The services will be offered at no-cost to individuals who want to continue their education and improve their proficiency.

"By offering these learning opportunities, members of our community can acquire additional skills that will help them find a job that pays a living wage," said program Director, Linda Munoz. "As the program grows, we will offer job skills training on topics such as workplace communication, resume writing and interview skills."

## Upcoming Events

**Volunteer Training Night and Mixer**  
Monday, 3.13.17, 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

**Business Mentor Training**  
Saturday, 3.25.17, 9:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

**Mentors & Allies Luncheon**  
Monday, 5.1.17, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

## Meet our Volunteer of the Year: Cheryl Barnes



Throughout her banking career, Cheryl Barnes has seen how a lack of financial education can lead to disaster. She's watched as a young woman who added her boyfriend to her checking account as an act of love saw her account emptied after an argument. She's seen an elderly couple lose most of their life savings to a manipulative nursing home employee. She's taught a widow who had never managed her own money, or even owned a checking account, to handle her finances after her husband's death.

Cheryl's employer, Mutual of Omaha, encourages their staff to become involved in the community. When she and her team were looking for volunteer opportunities, the chance to teach financial

education to women seemed like a perfect fit. "I was lucky enough to have had a strong role model in my mother who showed me that a woman was able to handle her own finances and not give away her power to others, so I was able to help my clients to understand this as well," said Cheryl.

Cheryl has served our members and partner agencies as a Rise facilitator, a Tax Credit Educator, and a budget coach for nearly seven years. "Each time I partner with WiNGS I feel I that I take away more than I am able to give," Cheryl said. "I don't think I could ask for anything more."

Cheryl is the 2017 recipient of the Ebby Halliday Volunteer of the Year Award, and will be honored at the WiNGS Mentors & Allies Luncheon on May 1.

Sponsorships now available for the



**Mentors & Allies Awards Luncheon**

Monday, May 1, 2017, Omni Hotel Dallas

Featuring Keynote Speaker Erin Botsford