



# WOMEN IN CHARGE

independence through healing, education and support

Spring 2017

## What's New?

The Fall 2016 Gala netted almost \$62,000—a new record! Thanks so much to all who attended. Our student, Tayler, who spoke at the Gala has passed all sections of the HiSET, and recently found a good job in Inventory Control!

Marcy Austin, our HiSET Instructor and Technology Director, has a new album, MONIKER, coming out this spring.

June 2017 we will host another graduation ceremony complete with robes, mortarboards and tassels, for all participants who passed the HiSET during the academic year. Students feel such pride as they process down the aisle. Family members beam and many photos are taken. Diane Katzman provides a special gift for each graduate.



## Olivia's Story

My mom was a very good mom. She was a Christian and that was the way she brought us up. I had to go to church every Wednesday and Sunday. She lived her life out of the Bible, the holy way. My father left when I was 9 or 10, it didn't affect me at all, my mom was very strong.

I went to grade school in the city, and Soldan High School, until 11th

grade. I was just immature doing crazy things. Mom didn't even whup us. I just got with other kids and got sassy but she was a good mom. I did get pregnant at 18, that's when I started working two jobs, and been working ever since. I love to work. My mom and his mom decided we should get married so I had three children by Harry. When I got married I started

*Cont'd on Pg. 3*

## *Our Mission Statement*

***Women In Charge heals the spirit, builds confidence, and educates women in need so that they may provide a better life for themselves and their children.***

We offer Adult Education and Literacy instruction, HiSET preparation, individual and group counseling, career counseling, parent mentoring, yoga and computer classes. The program is free of charge. A free on-site children's program is available to participants. September through May, hours are: Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 2:30 PM. Summer hours are: Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 12:30PM.

Save the date!!

Friday,  
October 6, 2017  
for the  
Women In Charge  
Annual Party

***Thank you to:***

***The Assistance  
League***

***For purchasing new  
workbooks for our  
classes.***

***100 Women Who  
Care***

***For choosing Women In  
Charge as the recipient of  
funds from their  
December meeting.***

***All those who  
participated in our  
Direct Mail  
Campaign  
in December!***

## **Wish List**

Children's Stackable  
Cots

Wipes

Diapers Sizes 4 - 6

Copy Paper

## **Know Thyself First**

**A Volunteer Experience  
by Nancy Jones, Board Member**

A highlight of my experience with Women In Charge was being invited to facilitate a session with the WIC women to explore personality preferences using the Myers Briggs Type Inventory.

The MBTI tool is based on the work of the Swiss psychologist Carl Jung and is the most widely used and recognized personality tool in the world. Everyone took the inventory in advance of the session. Through exercises and small group discussions we reflected on the challenges and opportunities associated with different types. For example someone with a preference for introversion expressed the observation that this helped her understand why she was exhausted after a day of working with other people, while another woman in the group whose preference was for extraversion found that same day very energizing. Both can be equally successful but one will benefit from time to "recharge her batteries." Several expressed how useful it was as they thought about important relationships in their lives. MBTI is about "know thyself first" and then explore and value differences in others.

The class ended with a quote from William Bridges: ***"...the best work that is being done today is being done by people who are working with (and not across) the grain of their temperament."***

I have served on boards before and every organization is very worthy. What sets Women In Charge apart though is the commitment to the whole person. I came away from our time together so impressed with the curiosity and intelligence of the women. I so enjoyed their company and am grateful to Women In Charge for supporting them in achieving what they are capable of and deserve.



***Two of our volunteers and their friends, Beldon and Patricia Lane, enjoy the 2016 Gala. Cathy Vivirito (2nd from left) and Maury Baumer (far right), are both math tutors.***



*Olivia's Story: Cont'd from page 1*

going back to church. Harry and I grew apart and he went his way and I just kept steady working. We got divorced, but he was really good about staying in their lives,. They really love their dad.

My kids are good, my daughter, 40 yrs old, is a nurse, and never got into no trouble. My son, 37, does construction work and travels, works on pipe lines and highways. He makes good money. My other daughter is a cafeteria supervisor in a grade school. All three are married. I taught them that church was the first thing like my mom taught us, I made sure they were brought up in church. They don't smoke. They don't drink. I'm glad to say that I never had any problems and I thank God for that.

I'd rather pray about things than worry about things. In my last job, I was a monitor technician in one of the top St. Louis hospitals for 17 years. I was responsible for 30 to 40 patients at a time. I got laid off because the facility wasn't up to OSHA standards and the state closed it down. I had hoped to retire from there, but I had to move on. I can't get a monitor tech job now because I don't have a GED (HiSET). Even though I have 17 years' experience, they can't hire me. Every job interview I went on I got hired, but when they asked for my HiSET (high school equivalency test) I don't have it. They are demanding the HiSET now. You *must* be a high school graduate.

The only thing I am focused on now is passing the HiSET and to move on. I know you are never too old to do what you want to do in your life as long as you've got your health. I want to get into a nursing program – I know it is hard because I saw my daughter go through a lot when she was at UMSL for 4 years. But she did it, she didn't stop – sometimes when she wanted to give up but her husband and I said she went too far to want to give up. As it was getting



*Students with Christmas gifts provided by an anonymous donor.*

harder and harder she stayed in there. She works at BJC. She's in the process of going back to get her masters to become a nurse practitioner. Her husband is a pilot.

My son takes good care of me. He is always asking me what I need.

I was told about Women In Charge from my daughter-in-law. She was at WIC for about 8 months. It was a very good deal here because she learned so much. The staff worked with her one on one so I came here, too. Since I've been here I have learned a lot of my math. Marcy says I am catching on really fast with grammar, writing, science and computer too. I'm getting really good at typing. I like the teachers here, I like the other students. I see myself progressing here. The teachers are very patient, they break it down. If you come to a problem you can't solve, they immediately show you how to solve that problem and if you don't understand it, they will show you another way to solve it.

I was a workaholic and never had time to get this done, but now it is time. I can really see myself getting my HiSET!

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And anonymous donations at all levels!!

Many thanks to all who contributed in-kind donations, art, desserts, and your time.  
We couldn't do it without you!



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