

BRIEFLY

Big Brothers/Sisters seeks volunteers

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Kinston and Lenoir counties need volunteers 18 and older to commit two to four hours a week helping kids aged six to 16. The organization matches people who have problems at home or in school with adults who can be positive role models. Call (919) 527-2227.

United Way offers volunteer opportunities

The United Way of Wake County is seeking volunteers for a number of local social service agencies, including the Food Bank of North Carolina, Meals on Wheels and for Wake Technical Community College. For details, call the Voluntary Action Center at (919) 833-5739.

Cities in schools gains VISTA volunteers

Ten VISTA volunteers will help Cities in Schools in North Carolina carry out model programs for youth and families in Northampton, Halifax, Nash, Lenoir, Robeson and Cleveland counties and counties in western North Carolina. For details, call Susan Brown at (919) 832-2700.

State housing agency gets federal grants

The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency has obtained \$500,000 in federal grants for affordable housing programs in Goldsboro and Wake County. The money will be used for nonprofit home builders that assist low-income families.

Media watch group eyes WUNC mission

Balance & Accuracy in Journalism, a Carboro-based group, wants the public involved in the writing of a new mission statement for WUNC public radio in Chapel Hill. In a letter to WUNC's Administrative Board, the groups asks that the public be allowed to comment on proposed changes. David Kirsh, spokesman for the group, says members are concerned that "the process of revision could be finalized behind closed doors and without opportunity for public input." Bill Davis, WUNC's station manager, says a board meeting in May that will include a final vote on the revised mission statement, will be open to the public.

Community convenors

Junior League adapts to changing role of women

The Junior League's international president talks about challenges facing the international women's organization.

Accommodating changes in the role of women poses the biggest challenge to Junior League chapters throughout the U.S., the organization's international president says.

"We've been pro-active, but the rest of the world doesn't operate with the flexibility we need," says Mary Babson, who is completing a two-year term as president of the Association of Junior Leagues International in New York.

Babson, who was in North

Carolina recently for speeches to Junior League chapters in the Triad and in Raleigh, took time for a brief interview with the *Philanthropy Journal*.

A certified public accountant who is director of communications for the Chicago-based Arthur Anderson accounting firm, Babson says prospective Junior League volunteers can find it difficult to get release time from their jobs, or to find day care.

"And it's tough for agencies to find meaningful work for volunteers in the evenings and on weekends," she says.

The Junior League's solution has been flexibility in assigning members to do volunteer work with nonprofit organizations.

At some chapters, for example, league members who teach school have the option of doing their volunteer work in the summer. And rather than assign volunteer work to members, some chapters allow members to make their own arrangements.

In addition, most league meetings now are held at night or on weekends, and training sessions that are required of members are staggered to accommodate their schedules.

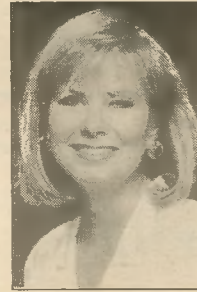
Babson, who has maintained her full-time job at Arthur Anderson while serving as league president, says her work with the league has reinforced her belief in the ability of individuals to grow and respond to changes.

"I have increased confidence in

the collective power of women, the power of women to make a difference and the power of citizen action," she says.

In addition to the issue of membership, Babson says, a big issue for her successor will be the "alignment of word and action."

"Accountability for nonprofit organizations, including ours, becomes more critical every year," she says. "And to me, that means we



Mary Babson

have to be absolutely vigilant in focusing on our mission."

The mission of the Junior League, with 280 chapters and 188,000 female members in the U.S., England, Mexico and Canada, is "promoting voluntarism and improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers."

Toward that end, Babson says, the league encourages local chapters to be "convenors" in their communities — bringing people together to try to solve local problems, particularly in the area of children's health.

"We have the ability to bring diverse groups together," she says, "because we don't have a vested interest and are considered neutral."

Todd Cohen

COLLEGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

bad rap.

"A number of people around the country, including the secretary of education, were painting college students as apathetic and interested only in cars and stereos and default-

ing on their student loans," says Nozaki. "The presidents thought that, if provided the opportunity, students would want to be engaged."

Nozaki says the college presidents were right.

"They have been proven correct. As these programs have developed, students have flocked to them."

At N.C. Central in Durham, a new

clearinghouse for volunteer opportunities in the community is well-used.

"There's been tremendous student voluntarism on campus," says Beverly Washington-Jones, a history professor who is one of the faculty members leading the initiative to integrate service learning into the curriculum.

The volunteer center "shows the

community that we're not just a citadel of the academy. We are part of the community. Their problems are ours."

Central is one of the few colleges that intends to make community service a graduation requirement. Chancellor Julius Chambers has suggested 30 hours of community service to graduate. Jones wants to

make sure at least some of those hours are done as service-learning.

Brevard College has had a 30-hour community service graduation requirement since 1990. Fran Lynch, director of Project Inside Out, says some students complained about the requirement at first, but once they started a volunteer project, "they got hooked on the idea."

Mountain tradition

Volunteers thrive at Asheville college

By KATHERINE NOBLE

ASHEVILLE

Community service is sweeping the country, but at a small school nestled in the mountains of North Carolina, it's been a way of life for students for more than 30 years.

At Warren Wilson College outside Asheville, many features of typical college life are absent. A flyer advertising the school reads: "What kind of college has no football team, no fraternities, no sororities, and believes one person can change the world?"

The answer is Warren Wilson.

Founded 100 years ago by the Presbyterian Church as the Asheville Farm School for Boys, Warren Wilson today admits students from 40 states and 30 countries. Thirty percent of the 500-member student body comes from North Carolina.

Since 1966, when the school became a four-year college, it has required community service of its students. Since 1990, the minimum required for graduation has been 80 hours. But the students do much more than that.

Nancy Rigby, director of the school's service program, says that students annually contribute more than 10,000 hours of service to the surrounding community, and to projects across the U.S. and overseas.

The school's mission emphasizes service "in a context that supports wisdom and understanding, spiritual growth and a contribution to the

common good," says Rigby.

Warren Wilson is one of five North Carolina colleges that received a grant from the Council of Independent Colleges to strengthen service-learning on college campuses.

The college will use the \$22,000 to integrate service more fully into its academic curriculum.

Warren Wilson also is one of a handful of work colleges in the United States, which means its students earn part of their tuition through on-campus labor. Each student works 15 hours a week milking cows, answering the telephone, or painting a building.

"It doesn't matter if you come here in a BMW or a bus, you work," says Rigby. Each student earns \$2,400 toward their tuition, which in 1994-95 will be \$13,617.

Weed says that requiring students to work teaches them there's no limit to what they can learn to do.

"The liberal arts teach you that you can do anything, but they don't make it practical. The work program does that here."

So does the volunteer requirement. "Students leave here knowing that they can and will make a difference — in the world and in their own lives."

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