



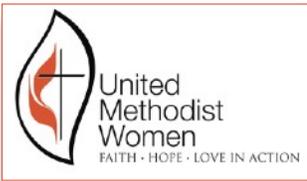
AUGUST, 2019

Comment

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, and your neighbor as yourself.”

A Newsletter for United Methodist Women of the North Star District (NSD)

The Purpose of United Methodist Women



United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose Purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



The Next 150 years – your contribution!!

As we look back, it is also an opportunity to look forward. When our foremothers were “stepping out in faith”, I don’t expect that they ever envisioned that we would be talking about their efforts today. As we continue to ***Boldly*** move forward through a time of turbulence and change, we can’t see what things will be like in 150 years but we can ***Boldly*** influence today! Today we can use our influence to shape social change, engage in radical discipleship and seek justice for women, children and youth at home and around the world. Through membership as United Methodist Women, we have a platform to be a catalyst for change that as individuals, we would not be able to influence. Take the ***Bold Step*** of joining the on line community of United Methodist Women at the National Level, regularly check out the UMW Minnesota Web page and tell anyone who will listen about why you are a member of United Methodist Women.

Our North Star Annual meeting will be held September 21 at Aitkin UMC, Aitkin, Minnesota. Within this newsletter, there is more information about this event but the most important thing is your participation. This is **YOUR** meeting, **YOUR** gathering, **YOUR** opportunity to be part of **SOMETHING BIG!!** Hope to see you there.

Marion Hansen, North Star President

NSD Calendar

September 21, 2019

Annual Fall Gathering
Aitkin, MN

October 12, 2019

Annual Conf. Gathering
Centennial UMC
St. Paul, MN

April 25, 2020

Annual Spring Gathering
Pequot Lakes, MN

July 17 - 19, 2020

Mission u
Kelly Inn
St. Cloud, MN

July 25, 2020

Mission u Too
Waseca, MN
(Faith UMC)

August 1, 2020

Mission u Too
La Puerta Abierta UMC
St. Paul, MN

September 12, 2020

Annual Fall Gathering
Alexandria UMC, MN

October 10, 2020

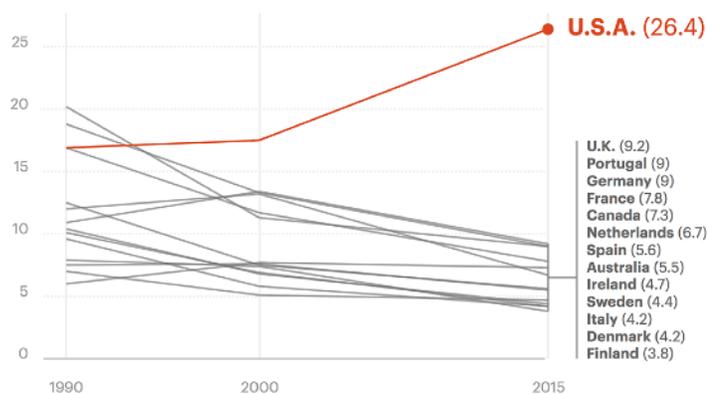
Annual Conf. Meeting
Riverside UMC
Park Rapids, MN

**FAITH, HOPE &
LOVE
IN ACTION!**

SOCIAL ACTION

MATERNAL MORTALITY/MORBIDITY

Our UMW sisters in the Southern Prairie District have put ACTION into Social Action and the other Minnesota Districts are climbing on board. **Here's the problem.** In the United States and in Minnesota there has been a 24.6%* increase in mothers dying while giving birth. In the chart below you can see how the U.S. compares with the rest of the Western world. While other countries have a decline in deaths, ours has risen dramatically. There is a Minnesota Maternal Mortality Review Committee Program but it is woefully underfunded. The program investigates causes of death in mothers and is funded through grants



*Number different from 2015 graph.

from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and from the Public Health Department.

This year State Senator Dave Pinto from MN District 64 introduced Senate File #909 legislation for increased funding for prenatal and postnatal care of Native Americans and other women of color. The Southern Prairie District helped the bill make its way through the legislature with a massive 450 postcard mailing campaign. Senator Melissa Wiklund introduced Senate File #2294 adding 'maternal morbidity'- meaning almost dying or being disabled because of giving birth - but it was too late in the session to make this addition so it needs to be addressed again in 2020.

We must all join together as UMW Women and take action NOW for the sake of women and children. District officers are promoting the campaign in home churches and liaison churches. Postcards are printed and available to send to your district senator and district representative. Cards will be at the Fall Gathering for you to sign. You can find out who your senator and representative are, by going to www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/. Usually

Continued on Page 6

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NORTH STAR DISTRICT OFFICERS

President *Marion Hansen* – 28287 Co Rd 23, Sebeka, MN 56477 – 218-837-5054 – marionha@wcta.net

Program Coordinator *Vacant position* – CAN YOU HELP??

Secretary – *Jomyla Choate* – 30683 Dove Road, Cushing, MN 56443 – 218-575-3161 – jomylac@gmail.com

Treasurer – *Litta (Le) Sears* – 1392 24th Street SW, Pine River, MN 56474 – 218-839-6171 – sears.litta@gmail.com

Nominations Chair – *Karol Lehman* – PO Box 146, McGregor, MN 55760 – 218-310-1578 – lehmankarol@yahoo.com

Nominations – *Judy Lightowler* – 44867 E. Little McDonald Dr., Perham, MN 56573 – 218-298-0786 – metlight@eol.com

Spiritual Growth – *Pam Johnson* – 41118 343rd Ln, Aitkin, MN 56431 – 218-927-4813 – picklepam@hotmail.com

Social Action – *Vacant Position* – CAN YOU HELP??

Education & Interpretation – *Vacant Position* – CAN YOU HELP??

Emma Norton – *Valerie Solem* – 21816 115th Avenue NE, Thief River Falls, MN 56701 – 218-681-5208 – valsolem@gmail.com

Program Manager – *Julie Hansen* – 37814 State Hwy 47, Aitkin, MN 56431 – 218-927-2547 – jjhansen53@gmail.com

Communications – *Angie Barnhart* – 24145 435th Ave., Aitkin, MN 56431 – 218-678-3344 – cartoonC@juno.com

Historian – *Susan Clark Harris* – PO Box 362, Aitkin, MN 56431 – 218-838-2579 – sclarkharris@mlecwb.net

Diane Jensen

Our Speaker at the Fall Gathering in Aitkin

Diane Jensen lives in Melrose, MN. Diane has been sewing since she was a teen and got into quilting in the last 15 years. A Bible study class 'Quilting, the Women of the Bible' caught her attention and the rest is history. Join the North Star District team and welcome Diane at the Fall Gathering in Aitkin. You'll learn more about the development of this wonderful story quilt.

Every quilt has a story, some grab you and hang on. The Women of the Bible quilt, is one of those labors of love that once you see it, you want to know more. As our keynote speaker at our North Star District Fall Gathering, Diane will share her story of how this quilt came about. Come and see the quilt, learn about its story and more about the Women of the Bible.



*"The Best kind of sleep beneath Heaven above,
Is under a quilt handmade with Love."*

I Think God is a Quilter

*I think God is a quilter
Who takes His needle and thread
To piece our world from nothingness
And give it form instead.*

*I think God is a quilter
And everything I see
Are pieces from His careful hand
From tree to bumblebee.*

*I think we see God's stitches
His texture everywhere:
The velvet moss, the grainy sand,
The silky strands of hair.*

*I think God is a quilter
Stitching tight and tiny rows
Adding to my scraps and pieces
Seaming everything He knows.*

*I think he cuts the pattern
From what I'd throw away.
He shows me how to use each scrap
In His redeeming way.*

*I think God quilts a pattern
From everything I live;
But He can only stitch the quilt
From what I choose to give.*

*I think God is a Quilter
Stitching strength where I am weak.
Showing me that life He touches
Embraces everything I seek.*

*I think God is a Quilter
From the patience in each thread;
Proving length of time no barrier;
Treating time a gift, instead.*

*I think quilts are lessons
God uses just to teach
That our pieces and our remnants
Have kaleidoscopic reach.*

*So, in the life I'm living
With pieces everywhere
I'll give them to the Quilter
To stitch with loving care.*

*I'll give them to the Quilter
Unwanted though they be
And with his work of quilting
He'll make a quilt of me.*

– Author Unknown –



NSD TREASURER

Can you believe this year is half over?!?

North Star District United Methodist Women thank you for your mission giving in 2019. The contribution of each unit is extremely important in supporting

UMW efforts around the world on behalf of women, children, and youth.

The total amount sent to the District Treasurer for half of this year is:

Mission Giving – \$14,603

(our goal is \$47,000)

Emma Norton Services – \$4,282

(our goal is \$11,100)

Other Giving – \$2,215.

I am sure all units are working to make sure we again reach all our goals for UMW mission giving.

A large part of being able to contribute to our goals is due to the prayers and thoughtful contributions of the North Star District United Methodist Women. Let's keep up the good work.

Many of our units may be small in the number of members, but we are all big in heart and tireless in working for our mission as United Methodist Women.

The form on the right is for your convenience in sending your 2020 District pledge. You can mail it to me or bring it to the Fall Gathering in Aitkin on September 21.

I am very proud to be serving you as District Treasurer. I encourage you to contact me to discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

Litta Sears, NSD Treasurer

SEPTEMBER 21
North Star District
UMW Fall Gathering
at Aitkin UMC



Put Sept. on your calendar today for the Fall Gathering.

Send in your registration found on page 5 by **September 10.**

Our UMW 2020 District Pledge

Unit/Church: _____

Treasurer: _____

Address: _____

Treas. Phone: _____

Treas. email: _____

Pledge to Mission: \$ _____

Goal for Emma Norton Services: \$ _____

Bring to the Fall Gathering or Mail to:

Litta (Le) Sears, NSD Treasurer

1392 24th Street SW, Pine River, MN 56474

email to: sears.litta@gmail.com

Unit Census Reports are due!! Please submit your Census Report ASAP for 2018.

This important information is collected

each year and is easy to submit. Go to

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on the green Census 2018 button. the form is easy to fill out and will help us stay connected with each other and is not shared outside the UMW organization without permission.

Currently only a handful of churches in the North Star District have completed the census. If you need help in

completing the census please contact

Melinda Kohrt • 952-934-9325

MN Conference MN&O

mnomnumw@gmail.com

16512 Seymour Drive • Minnetonka, MN 55345



Quilting the Women of the Bible

**North Star District Fall Gathering
September 21, 2019**

*“Every quilt has a story.
Some grab you and hang on!”*

Aitkin UMC • 104 2nd Street NW - Aitkin, MN 56431 • 218-927-3242

Directions to Aitkin UMC: One Block west of Stop light in Aitkin

Details: Send \$10 registration by September 10. (\$15 at the door). Checks payable to Aitkin UMW

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. REGISTRATION

- Muffins for Emma. Free will donations go to Emma Norton Services in St. Paul.
- Program Resources and other tables of interest will be available (also during lunch).
- Check out the Emma Tree and add a leaf. Bring or buy a used devotional book to benefit ENS.

9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please join us as women of **FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE IN ACTION** for worship, song, good food, fellowship, inspiration and fun during this Fall Gathering.

Highlights of the day: - Our guest speaker is **Diane Jensen**. (See Diane's beautiful **'Women of the Bible'** quilt on page 3.) She will speak to us on how this quilt came about. We will also conduct our annual NSD UMW business meeting and have a remembrance of UMW sisters who have past on. Communion will be served by **Aitkin Pastor, Dawn Houser**.

Please let us know you are coming! Send registration form below by September 10 to:

Beth Kuiken, 30853 350th Avenue, Aitkin, MN 56431

Registration for UMW NSD Fall Gathering at Aitkin, MN on September 21, 2019.

Name _____ Church Name _____

Are you a District or Conference Officer? (Y/N) District _____ Conference _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Do you receive the Comment Newsletter by email? Would you like to? Yes _____ No _____

Any special dietary needs? Vegetarian? Vegan? Gluten Free? Please tell us so we can prepare your noon meal.



NOMINATIONS

Is God Calling You?

Hello everyone, I pray everyone is having a wonderful summer. As Fall comes closer and all the summer activities end, I pray that God sends out a call for United Methodist Women to continue another 150 years. If you would like to be a part of the history of United Methodist Women now and in the future to continue you can by volunteering. Are you a sister of Faith who dares to step out of your comfort zone to help others and put your faith into action? In what ways will you become a part of the United Methodist Women story? In what way will you BE PRESENT? In what way will you SEE with new eyes? In what way will you DARE to disrupt? What or who is calling for you to be present? What or who is crying out for you to see? What or who is waiting for you to disrupt? Is God calling you?

The United Methodist Women of the North Star District are looking for people to fill positions that are currently vacant.

Please call me. Is God calling you?

Slate of officers for the executive team will be voted upon at the Fall Gathering:

VACANT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS:

- Secretary - VACANT
- Resource Manager - VACANT
- Social Action - VACANT
- Spiritual Growth - VACANT*
- Education and Interpretation - VACANT
- Membership and Nurture - VACANT
- Committee on Nominations
- Class of 2021 - VACANT
- Class of 2023 - VACANT

LEADERSHIP CONTINUING IN OFFICE:

President

Marion Hansen - First Term, Second Year

Treasurer

Le Sears - First Term, Second Year

Nominations

Karol Lehman

Appointed Leadership

Communications - Angie Barnhart

Historian - Susan Clark Harris

Emma Norton Service Rep.- Valerie Solen

*Karol Lehman, Nominations Chair
Judy Lightowler, Nominations Committee*

*Pam Johnson has accepted a Conference Position for 2020.

MATERNAL MORTALITY *continued from page 2*

entering a zip code in the box requesting your address will work. If it doesn't you may have to type in your whole address. If you can't make it to the Fall Gathering simply get any postcard and write on it:

KEEP MOTHERS ALIVE AND UNINJURED

United Methodist Women of MN (over 2000 strong) urge our State Senators and House Reps. to fully fund the MN Mortality Review Committee Program (MMRCP) and support passage of SF #2294 which adds maternal morbidity to #145.901 and # 4615.0800. My name and contact info is:

If you want, you can add a personal message.

Urge others in your church to do the same. When postcards are completed they should be sent to **Sandra Adelmund, 10161 Uplander St. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433 by February 10, 2020** so they can be brought en masse to the Capitol before the 2020 legislative session begins. If you have questions contact President of North Star District, Marion Hansen. (See page 2)

We pray God will lead us in this endeavor to help women and children in this way. We believe we can make an impact.



'Official' Postcard 6



PROGRAM MANAGER

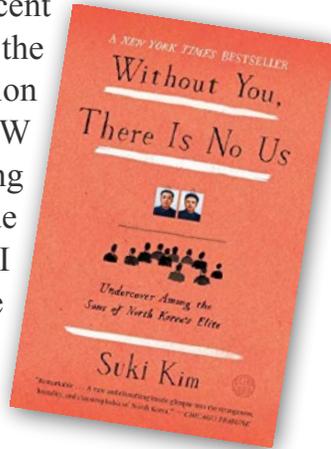
Hello UMW members across the North Star District!

Read Any Good Books Lately?

Since I am an avid reader, let me suggest a couple.

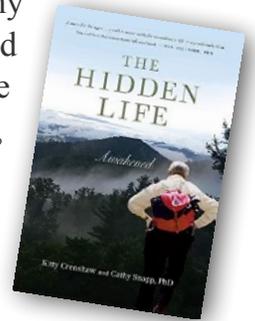
Without You, There Is No Us

by Suki Kim, was a recent read of mine. This is in the 2018 Education for Mission category of the UMW Reading Program. Reading this book gives an inside picture of North Korea. I found it very informative considering the changing status of North Korea in the world. Suki Kim accepted a job teaching English at the all-male Pyongyang University. She spent the next six months teaching her young charges to write in English while carefully telling them about the world beyond their borders.



The Hidden Life Awakened

by Kitty Crenshaw and Cathy Snapp, PhD was another good read for me. Well before antidepressants were available, persons with clinical depression were placed in institutions. Betty Skinner at age 42, turned her life around. By clinging to her faith and a glimmer of hope she was able to heal her broken body, mind and spirit. Changing her thought patterns, she changed her life. This book is in the 2019 Nurturing for Community category.



To be a part of the UMW Reading Program, check out the program online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org or contact me. Officer contact information is on page 2.

Book sales have changed this year. Books will no longer be for sale at the District Meetings. As I reported in the spring issue of the Comment, it is cost effective since many readers get their books from other sources. I will have free materials and the printed 2019 reading program.

Julie Hansen, Program Resources

Education & Interpretation



Even in early August, farmers and gardeners are thinking about the harvest. They go over what went well, problems, solutions and planning. As workers in the Lord's field and garden we

need to evaluate our work, as well. The Mission Today report is one tool to help us.

The Mission Today report will be in the conference yearly mailing to unit presidents. It will be on a separate sheet of paper and included within the body of the "Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women 2020 Directory."

The report is designed to help units evaluate programs and determine ways to grow in service. As your unit plans for 2020, you could review and complete the 2019 report. Use the report to 'expand concepts of mission' as you plan for 2020.

Send completed Mission Today reports to your district Education & Interpretation coordinator, prior to the district Spring Gathering. If your district doesn't have an Education and Interpretation coordinator, your district president receives the report.

*Peace, Your sister in Christ,
Linda Brinster
Minnesota Conference
Education & Interpretation Coordinator*



Emma Norton

The Journey Home Begins Here

Opening Doors Dinner

FYI: The Opening Doors Dinner last spring raised \$80,000 for use in programming and support for women and

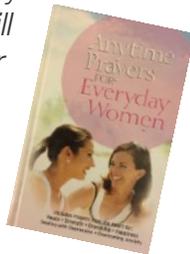
children in achieving independence and self-sufficiency. Praise God and thanks to all who helped!

“Defend the rights of the poor and the orphans; be fair to the needy and the helpless.” Psalm 82: 3

Support Emma Norton at our Fall Gathering! Eat Muffins – That’s Easy! Share Devotional Books and Pin a Leaf on the Emma Tree!

Recycle and Share Devotional Books

A devotion is always a great way to begin or end a day. A table will be at our Fall Gathering for recycling and sharing devotional books. You may purchase one for only \$1.00 per book. All proceeds will go to Emma Norton Services. Fairly current and still good shape devotional books can be donated to this table. Give one and purchase a ‘new to you’ book.



Pin a Leaf on our Emma Tree and Make a donation toward purchase of paper products for Emma Norton Residence!

Look for the fall leaves and tree at our fall gathering on

September 21. When you make a monetary donation, you may pin a leaf on the tree. **Let’s support the women and families at Emma Norton!**



Ever heard of Church Women United?

It’s an ecumenical, multi-cultural, national Christian women’s movement which has been in existence since

1941 and to this day continues to work for peace and justice. Minnesota has it’s own chapter of the organization.

Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women’s movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice.

It’s a movement representing Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women;

- biblically based, shared Christian faith;
- organized into more than 1,200 local and state units working for peace and justice in the United States and Puerto Rico;
- supported by constituents in state and local units and denominational women’s organizations;
- impassioned by the Holy Spirit to act on behalf of women and children throughout the world;
- recognized as a non-governmental organization by the United Nations.

CWU’s Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, September 14 at Discovery UMC in Chanhausen.

Keynote Speakers are Faye Christensen (former NSD UMW President) and Jene Collum with a presentation on ‘When Words Get in the Way of our Faith Journey’.

If you are interested in joining with and spreading Christ’s love with other Christian women you should attend this meeting.

Send registration with payment of \$15 (includes lunch) by September 6 to treasurer **Margit Hauge, 5100 w. 102nd Street, #206 Bloomington, MN 55437**. Make checks payable to CWU of MN. Include your name, address, email, phone, denomination and if you have any dietary restrictions.

For more information about CWU contact Sandy Meyer, 952-270-1157. Email Sandy at sandrimeyer51@hotmail.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Hello My Sisters in Christ,

I write this hoping that you all are doing well. Summer has gone by way too fast for me. I find my life being a full yet busy one. My connection to the United Methodist Women has been such an important part of my faith journey.



God has taught me so many things through my connection with the North Star District. Being involved with missions and outreach programs are one of the best ways that we can show our Christian love to others. This summer I have been helping out with our Vacation Bible School at the Aitkin United Methodist Church. Our theme is 'To Mars and Beyond.' I have the honor of being the voice for our Robot Puppet EP-3-2-O. The puppets name is in relation to our Bible School Theme verse

Ephesians 3:20. The verse reads "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." It is a beautiful verse that reminds us of God's power. As disciples in Christ, God has begun a good work in us. That is exciting news. We can continue to let God's work in us grow and shine knowing that we don't do it alone. Besides having each other we also have God who is there with us to lead and guide us every step of the way. My prayers go out for all of you as we continue our faith journey.

Please remember to send me names of district UMW members that have past away during this last year, so we can recognize them at the fall conference. Also keep your eyes and ears open for Day Apart event that will be taking place Spring 2020. Blessings to all of you!

Pam Johnson

Deaconess and NSD Spiritual Growth Leader



There is Still Time Give to UMW's Legacy Fund

UMW was born on March 23, 1869, when a few women in Boston gathered to respond to women in India who needed access to health care and education. In the 150 years that followed, United Methodist Women have continued working on behalf of women, children and youth throughout the world.

One of the easiest ways we can support the legacy of United Methodist Women for another 150 years is to make a gift of \$18.69 to the Legacy Fund. Here's how to give:

Online: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund

By Phone: 800-278-7771 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT, M - F

By Check: United Methodist Women
Attn: Development, Legacy Fund
475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10115
Write 'Legacy Fund' on the memo line

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR UMW SISTERS WHO ARE IN GLORY WITH CHRIST.

At our Fall Gathering we will be having a service to recognize UMW Women who are no longer with us.

*I thank
my God
EVERYTIME
I Remember
you*

Philippians 1:3

*In this short service we will remember those who have past away between the dates of **September 1, 2018 and September 1, 2019.** Please send the names of women in your unit who you wish to remember to Pam Johnson, current NSD Spiritual Growth Coordinator.*

(See page 2 for Pam's contact information.)

mission Today

Mission Today 2019 Forms are due by December 15

Mission Today is an opportunity for you to report the sorts of mission activities that are part of your UMW experience and let the Education and Interpretation officer know what you've been up to. The form is located on pages 18 and 19 in your 2019 MN Conference UMW Directory. It has a bright yellow cover and every unit should have one. There are a number of choices for you to say "Yes, we did this mission activity!" Units with fewer members have fewer requirements than units with more members so don't be fearful that a lot is expected of you. You're probably doing these activities already anyway. Since the North Star District has a vacancy in the E&I office, please give your completed forms to President, Marion Hansen at the Fall Gathering in Aitkin or mail them to her by December 15. Her contact information is on page 2. Units responding will be recognized with a Mission Today Certificate.



The colorful 'pin a flower on the Emma Tree' at the Grey Eagle Gathering in April. We're looking forward to seeing what talented Le Sears does for the Autumn tree at the Aitkin Fall Gathering on September 21. This is a great way to support Emma Norton Residence. Write an encouraging note to one of the residents at the same time.



COMMUNICATIONS

I always wait until the very end of completing a COMMENT to see if there's a little corner for me to get in my two cents worth. This time you got a ten pager for the same price as eight but with good information about helping mom's live through child birth and about joining with other Christian women to promote peace and justice in the world. Talk about **'Turning Faith, Hope and Love in Action on behalf of women, children and youth!'** I see by the calendar that next summer one of the Mission u topics is 'Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety'. WOW! What an appropriate subject for the middle of next summer. Do you think there will be any

anxiety going around the news by then? A couple of Sundays ago I noticed that Psalm 82:3 had something that is the very essence of the theme of the Bible and something Jesus taught over and over again – **"Defend the rights of the poor and the orphans; be fair to the needy and the helpless."** LOVE. Love is the most important thing that we can give. An old Chinese proverb says "Hatred corrodes the vessel in which it is stored." A fortune cookie I got once said, "No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted." And at Mission u Too We got heart shaped coins that said, "Do small things with great love." Go for it UMWomen! ACTION! Show your love in the midst of hate and chaos! *Angie Barnhart, NSD Communications*