



Empowering
Women in Development
New York

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear WID Colleagues:

In my first President's letter, I'd like to introduce myself as WID, NY's Chief Volunteer. Volunteering has been a powerful force in my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up in Calcutta, India and went to school at the convent from which Mother Teresa launched her Missionaries of Charity, and had the opportunity to meet, volunteer for, and be inspired by her. At 80 years old, my mother was still working tirelessly on behalf of her community, and even before I was born, my father was recognized for his civic engagement by the city of Bristol, England.

More recently, the privilege of volunteering for WID has afforded me the opportunity to observe talented fundraisers and their leadership styles up close. I feel honored to have known and learned from former WID Presidents Betty Becker, Marguerite Gilpatric, Margaret Holman, Linda Hartley, Maggie Buchwald, Barbara Leshinsky, Brenna Mayer and Virginia Strull. I am so proud to follow them in my new role.

My immediate predecessor and dear friend, Virginia Strull, worked to inspire each of us, as women in the development field, to help advance each other's careers through mentorship, role modeling, networking and sharing expertise. She stressed the importance of a passionate commitment to WID's mission, and wanted to empower each and every member to learn and grow. I know all of you join me in expressing WID's gratitude for her leadership.

As some of you know, before I moved to New York, I worked and lived in India, Lebanon, South Korea, Hong Kong and Jamaica. I hope that during my tenure I will be able to make WID an even more broad, visible, inclusive and welcoming organization. As I reflect on the benefits of my WID membership over the years, most important

for me has been the opportunity to connect with so many incredible women working in my new field and in my new home town. I value so much the rich network of friends and esteemed colleagues that I have gained through my involvement with WID. I have been mentored by the best in the field, learned from the speakers at luncheon programs and workshops, encouraged my students and friends to consider openings in the Job Bank and listed my own, and called on colleagues for information and advice. Do take advantage of all of these benefits of membership and others which are designed to help you build an exhilarating and rewarding career in development.

WID has just completed a whirl-wind summer. I had the pleasure of recognizing all of our wonderful volunteers on July 14th. The same day, our Board Retreat allowed us to dig deeply into our recent member survey. We discovered that you want opportunities to grow in your profession, network with your peers, and learn from leaders in our industry. I am determined to implement some of the resulting ideas in the next year to bring you strong programs, meaningful networking opportunities, and access to cutting-edge thinkers. I invite you to join WID's cadre of talented, dynamic volunteers as we work together in the upcoming year. As you read this issue, you'll find opportunities to get involved in committee work, special events, and much more. I look forward to working alongside you. But first you have to renew your membership....

See you at our first monthly luncheon on October 15. It'll be held on a Wednesday for the first time.

With my warmest regards,

Poonam Prasad
Prasad Consulting & Research

*Published by Women in Development New York, September 2008.
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