

THE HAPPY SPIRIT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP The Shelly Gilmore Story

By Gwen Swan

Shelly Gilmore, the beautiful and successful owner of Happy Spirit Adult Daycare, is the embodiment of the words of Madam C. J. Walker, America's first black female millionaire and creator of a line of black hair care products: *"I had to make my own living and my own opportunity. . . . Don't sit down and wait for opportunities to come. Get up and make them!"*

Shelly Gilmore literally did just that. She persevered through situations such as domestic abuse, racism, not being able to provide a heated home for her children, as well as other struggles. But those things didn't stop her from reaching her goal of becoming an entrepreneur.

The doorbell to her modern, well-lit facility rings non-stop as her employees arrive to begin their shift, passing by the prayer and meditation chapel, calling out greetings and absorbing Shelly's warmth and energy as they head through the door that leads to the large, bright room sheltering her clientele who have a wide range of special needs.

Their clientele ranges from the mentally-challenged to physically disabled adults. As we tour the facility, we are greeted by vacant stares and shuffling gates, and spastic movements. But the sheer warmth of the room dispels any lingering uneasiness. Shelly's presence seems to calm her clients as they rush to surround her. She is clearly in control . . . though she hasn't always been.

She had her share of hardships, but she kept the faith. Then a friend introduced her to Gloria Taylor and CWAH.

*Pictured below:
Gloria Taylor, CEO/Founder CWAH and
Shelly Gilmore, CEO/Founder of Happy Spirit.*



Pulling on the purse- and heartstrings of a group of Clayton attorneys, CWAH was able to purchase a furnace for Shelly's home. The subsequent warmth has served as a metaphor for Shelly's successful journey to entrepreneurship.

From home healthcare housekeeping aide making minimum wage to successful owner of her own business, Shelly says the journey has not been easy. But it has been *her* journey. She attributes most of her success to her *"don't quit"* attitude (words from her father) and faith in God. Shelly has never forgotten the help and kindness of people like Gloria Taylor, and makes regular donations to CWAH to help other women wanting to develop the happy spirit of entrepreneurship.

*The Happy Spirit Adult Daycare
3904 Delmar,
St. Louis, MO 63108*

Community Women Against Hardship



Kimberly Stemley, CFO RX Outreach Inc engages youth about becoming entrepreneurs...



CWAH's

Entrepreneurship Classes

Eight Week Pilot Program

In the US, children under the age of 18 make up 24.6% of the total poverty population. Poverty is a disease of lack; lack of knowledge, exposure and resources. Poverty is a mentality that robs people of the ability to make better choices. This concept has been proven over and over, that given better opportunities and information, people create better lives for themselves.

Community Women Against Hardship's efforts to combat poverty reaches out to its Youth Enrichment Programs and brings in the talented Kimberly Stemley, CFO, RX Outreach, to offer an eight week pilot program to create an opportunity to improve their odds.

The goal is to teach youth, ages 10-18, business and personal finances in order to prepare them for a global economy, positioning them to be future leaders; thereby improving their quality of life.

Guest Business Leaders

The excitement and enthusiasm of this program has been refreshing. Some of the brightest talent in the St. Louis region has joined Ms. Stemley in the education process of this program. During the first week, Ms Stemley was joined by Dr. Benjamin Ola Akande, Dean of Webster University as they discussed Money Matters. Michelle Tucker, Vice President of Community Affairs with Bank of America was on hand week two to discuss the ability to understand needs and wants. Kalimba Kindell of Massage LuXe followed as they began to talk about savings and the risk of going into their own business. In week four we were pleased to have King Taylor Jr., President Comet Medical Supply Inc., come in and help students write a business plan. Students are well on the way to becoming successful entrepreneurs.



Top left Dr. Benjamin Ola Akande – Dean Webster University School of Business and Technology, Top right – Michelle Tucker Vice President of Bank Of America, Bottom left – Kalimba Kindell, Owner Massage LuXe Bottom right – King Taylor Jr. ,President Comet Medical Supply Inc.

Community Women Against Hardship

People Against Poverty Campaign Kicks Off

Dear Supporter:

Community Women Against Hardship and the St Louis American Newspaper have once again joined in an effort to assist families this holiday season.

This is your opportunity to help families struggling with unemployment, layoffs, downsizing, or who are just plain down and out. Families will benefit from our development programs, which will support their dreams and hopes to get beyond their current status. CWAH offers a variety of programs including, Soup for the Soul, with family therapist Dr. Evelyn A. Erving, Computer Training, Job Readiness,. Other programs consist of Career Assessment and Counseling in partnership with the University Missouri -St Louis, Dr. Angela Coker, Associate Professor Division of Counseling & Family Therapy ; Jewelry Making,; Fitness Training with a certified licensed trainer, Nutrition, and many more workshops and support resources.

Families from all walks of life who discover they need assistance come to us- some with newborns, toddlers, young children, teens and young adults in the household. Economic conditions today have changed the face of poverty at alarming rates, and the needs of families have increased tremendously.

We welcome monetary donations and household items, such as towels, sheets, spreads, blankets furniture, kitchen utensils, pots, pans, dishes, appliances; stoves, microwaves, refrigerators, clothing items (all sizes, all gender),coats, jackets food items (fresh meats, chicken, ham, turkeys, hot dogs, hamburger, bacon, sausages etc.) canned and box foods, toiletries; soap, washing powder, lotions, tissue, paper towels, deodorants, personal items, socks, shoes, educational games, computers, software. The needs are great and greatly appreciated

Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Gloria Taylor
CEO/Founder

*****All household items should be new or slightly used*****



Jasmine knew she wanted to attend college, get a job, and be a stronger parent; CWAH's Programs and Services assisted as a support system.

2012 PEOPLE AGAINST POVERTY CAMPAIGN

Seeking To Identify and Assist 20 Families

**You can help a family to receive the same
kind of help as Jasmine –
Because sometimes all we need is “a hand
up...”**

**Mail or bring donations to:
Community Women Against Hardship
3963 West Belle
St. Louis, MO 63108**

ATTN: PEOPLE AGAINST POVERTY

Community Women Against Hardship

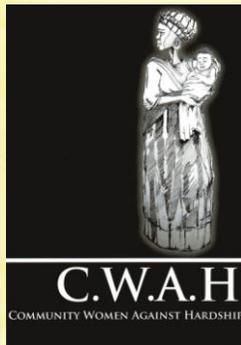
CWAH's Wish for 2013



Community Women Against Hardship is in need of a van, our little putter which goes to pick up supplies, donations, make deliveries to families in need, is on its last leg. It has served us well, and we are making an appeal for someone to donate us a van. It has been said we have not because we ask not – So I'm just asking! Won't you grant our wish today?

Donation is tax deductible...

*Thanks
Gloria Taylor*



PROVIDING HOPE FOR THOSE IN NEED

Make all donations payable to: CWAH

Name:

Address:

City: State Zip

Phone: () Alt # ()

Email:

Board of Directors

Christine Reams, Board President/Chair
Stephanie Muldrow, Board Treasurer
Cynthia Clay, Board Secretary

Board Members

Arthurine Mason – Hunter
C. Christopher Lee
Edmond Johnson
L.Patrice Johnson
Leon Henderson
Lisa Langeneckert ESQ
Sharon Johnson
Sue Landis
Theresa Stuart
Zekita Tucker

Gloria Taylor, CEO/Founder

All donations are tax deductible

3963 West Belle
St Louis, MO 63108
(314) 289-7523
www.cwah.org