

Terri Lee Butler

April 30, 2013

WOMEN BEYOND SURVIVAL

The organization I completed my internship with is called "Women Beyond Survival" (WBS). Safiyya Sarkin is the founder of WBS and was my site supervisor. The mission of WBS is *"Based upon the principles of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, we strive to give women a better tomorrow and a brighter future that is free of violence and discrimination."* WBS is a nongovernmental nonprofit global humanitarian organization that seeks to prevent and eliminate violence against women, children and adolescents in areas affected by conflict or war. The programs provide security, medical and psychological care, medicines and health supplies, social services and education to support and strengthen the critical role that women play in rebuilding and revitalizing communities ravaged by warfare.

One of the first things I noticed was that the organization I am interned for had a very weak Facebook presence and was non-existent on twitter. Considering the importance that social media plays in promoting, recruiting and informing people, I was surprised by the low social media interaction of this organization that does have a good main website. Building up the social media presence and influence was a goal that I tried to improve during my internship.

Because the Facebook page for WBS was not very user friendly, I suggested to Safiyya that I create a new main page for WBS and in addition, a group page which makes enables an administrator to create events that automatically sends invites to all members of the group. Safiyya agreed to allow me create a new WBS Facebook page, group page and also a yahoo account that included the name of the organization (womenbeyondsurvival@yahoo.com) During the weeks of my internship I was able to build up the newly created facebook page to 351 friends

and the group page to 349 members. I did encounter some setbacks during the semester which included Facebook blocking me from sending out friend requests for 7 days, because it said that I had sent out too many to people they said I didn't know. But in actuality, most of the friend requests I sent out were to people who were already friends with Safiyya Sarkin on Facebook.

However, I did try to utilize that time by continuing to send out posts on the Facebook timeline that encouraged women empowerment and any related information against domestic violence and rape that I found to be relevant. In addition, I created a twitter account for Safiyya Sarkin and sent out tweets about WBS events and website information.

One of the most exciting parts of my internship was that Safiyya invited me to be a key speaker at a special conference in New York City on March 7th. I did accept the invitation and wrote a speech based on my own personal experience as well as research and delivered the speech at the 57th Commission on the Status of Women. Information about this event will be attached at the end of this paper.

Some challenges I faced was that I felt that WBS lacked strong leadership. My supervisor gave me a lot of freedom to do whatever I wanted to build up a Facebook and Twitter page. However, I did wish there had been more leadership from the founder.

For example, when I founded WECAM in 2009, I hired some people to do specific jobs, such as taking photographs, design a logo, help with events etc. I met with them and clearly outlined to them what I wanted done by what deadline, and what I was trying to accomplish (the bigger picture) also their compensation. I knew what I wanted and just needed skilled people to help me accomplish my goals. It seemed like with my intern for WBS that I had no idea what my supervisor was trying to do, no clue what she was possibly planning for upcoming events (with the exception of the March 7th conference) and no direction for moving in the future. I felt limited to just trying to gather more supporters online through social media and promoting past events... Although the past is important, I really would like to have seen more planning and vision for the future. And that is something I feel should come from the leader and founder of

the non-profit. Nevertheless, I did work with what I had and tried my best to do what I could to support and promote this non-profit organization.

Overall, I am glad that I did intern for a non-profit that seeks to help support women and children that are victims of abuse and trauma. There is such a great need for support for women and children since there are so many cases of this locally as well as nationally, and internationally. I realize that it is difficult to accomplish much on a shoestring budget. Perhaps with a solid business plan WBS would be able to receive grants/donations that could enable this non-profit organization to accomplish more and expand its effectiveness.

I did what could with the time and opportunity allotted to me during this semester. I hope that I did make a difference and I will continue to support WBS and work towards promoting help for women and children that are victims of abuse and/or violence.

57th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls

New York, March 4 to March 15, 2013

Thursday March 7th 12:30 to 1:45 pm

Salvation Army

221 East 52nd Street

New York, NY 10022

IT IS TIME TO ACT: Preventing Gender-based Violence by Strongly Supporting Gender Equality and Mutual Respect among School-age Children, Boys and Girls.

Concepts of gender roles, expected behaviors and the resolution of conflict through the use of violence are ALL LEARNED BEHAVIORS and CAN BE CHANGED, thus preventing violence before it begins. By referring to the successful project:

Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS) just carried out from 2008-2011 in Mumbai India, as well as other comparable projects to change young people's perspective on gender roles by appealing to their common humanity and human rights, we will discuss in this context the multiple strategies that can be employed to modify concepts of gender roles, from self-reflection and introspection to peer-pressure via role playing, games, plays, debates, group discussions and education activities.

We will highlight the ways children can learn to recognize, anticipate and challenge what are inequitable gender norms as they are played out in their everyday lives. Timely future large-scale projects will be discussed. The importance of systematically challenging inequitable gender roles in the schools and at home in order to progressively change mutual expectations will be emphasized.

Speakers:

Nandita Bhatla, International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), New Delhi (India) (invited)

Gerry Barker, ICRW consultant, Latin America (invited)

Terri Lee Butler, Intern with Women Beyond Survival, Singer, Song Writer

Nikki Zivkovic (invited)

Yaarah Pinhas (invited)

Safiyya Sarkin President and Founder Women Beyond Survival- Moderator

Organized by the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and by the CoNGO Committee on Children's Rights and its forty affiliated NGOs including National Council on Family Relations, Sociologists for Women and Society, International Humanist and Ethical Union, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Women Beyond Survival, Defense for Children International, and many

TERRI LEE BIO

Terri Lee is an intern with Women Beyond Survival and has truly gone beyond survival to care for her two daughters. She sought music as a tremendous way of healing and letting the world know who she is. Her ability to write songs can be traced from her birth-father, singer/songwriter Roger Koob, who sang with The Premiers, The Frontiers, and Roger and the Travelers and is the author of tunes from the 50's-60's such as "Your Daddy's Little Girl", and "I Who Have Nothing". Terri Lee's style is a unique blend of folk, country, alternative, jazz and pop-rock. Her formal training began with organ lessons starting at age eight. By age ten she had written her first song and was the church organist at Blessed Sacrament of Saugus, MA.

During the 90's, Terri Lee joined the Connecticut Songwriter's Association (CSA) and the Boston Songwriter's Workshop (BSW). She also became a lead singer for the classic-rock cover band Hard Drive. In 2003, she was a lead singer/keyboard player for the cover band The Bah Flies. Lee was one of the three founding members of North Shore Community College's first music club. Later she became a member of Salem State's College Music Society, the Salem State College Jazz Band, the Salem State College Chamber Singers and Salem State College Women's Chorale. In 2007, Lee won awards for eight of her original songs in the Song of the Year Contest (sponsored by VHI.)

In 2009, Terri Lee created WECAM (WE Care About Music) in order to provide strength support for the artist community. The goal of WECAM is to provide support for local musicians, writers, artists and local businesses, uniting them to promote peace within their community. WECAM views creativity as an essential aspect of daily life and is committed to helping local musicians, artists and writers share their talent and skill in their community.

