



Growth, Taxes and Volunteers

April 2011 Newsletter

Dear Brenda,

Our newsletter this month reflects some important things about the month of April. First, it is a time when we look for signs of new growth that heralds the promise of warmer weather. Second, it is that dreaded time of year when our tax bill is due and we either rejoice because we are due a refund from Uncle Sam or groan because we owe him more. But April is also a time when we say thanks to those who volunteer; who give of their time to serve another. And in some odd way, these three things are interconnected so we want to focus on them in this newsletter.

New Growth at My Sisters, Inc.!

We are excited about some new additions to our Council of Advisors and Board of Directors. Yvonne DeVaughn and Dr. Janelle Kwee recently agreed to serve as Advisors for My Sisters and Betsy Gamlin and Kathie Hayden now serve on our Board of Directors. Check out our [website](#) to read about these amazing women and their impressive credentials. We are grateful for such talented people who have come alongside us in this journey.

We are also seeing growth in the number of women we are serving inside correctional facilities. To date, we have served over 70 women in two facilities in the state of Illinois--and we are just getting started. The impact our volunteers have on each individual life is unmeasurable; the potential impact on the lives of children incalculable.

Volunteer Appreciation Month



Recently trained volunteers

We are so grateful for individuals who volunteer of their time to work with My Sisters, either in an advisory or administrative capacity or as facilitators in correctional facilities. This picture was taken after some of our newest recruits completed their safety orientation at an area facility (one facilitator was absent when the picture was taken and two more will complete their orientation next month).

Something to think about...



My Sisters, Inc.

"The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." Dr. Albert Schweitzer

"Volunteer activities can strengthen the social ties that protect individuals from isolation during difficult times, while the experience of helping others leads to a sense of greater self-worth and trust." Corporation for National & Community Service

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information, check out our website: [Volunteering](#) and get out there and volunteer so you can live long and well!

Taxes

Charitable giving is one sure way of reducing one's tax burden. So in this month when we focus on what we owe Uncle Sam, consider becoming a regular donor to a charity that you believe in. We'd love that charity to be My Sisters. We exist on the generosity of our donors and offer services free of charge to incarcerated survivors of family violence. Maybe you can't get excited about going into a facility yourself but your financial support will enable us to train individuals who will go behind the bars and barbed wire. Your gift enables you to participate from the comfort of your home.

So, our challenge to you is to get involved! Become a volunteer with an organization in your community. You will get more out of it than you give.

Sincerely,

Brenda Ratcliff
My Sisters, Inc.

Volunteer Training now underway!

For a limited time, we are offering our training free of charge to individuals and agencies who wish to begin offering abuse awareness services to incarcerated or formerly incarcerated women. In exchange, we ask for feedback as we continue to refine both the content and delivery modes of our program. Individuals who complete the training are provided with two curriculum and support group manuals. If you are interested, contact us today.