

Minutes – WIMS Executive Council Meeting, 1/16/15

Members present: B. Delidow (chair), K O'Hanlon, P. Wehner, J. Kim, WE Hardman, J Raines, M. Espiridion, H. Ali, D Shah

Guests: Nafeeza Hussain

1. Recap of Networking event: The event on December 9 went very well and a very large donation was collected for Branches. Dr. Delidow and Dr. Wehner recapped the event for a news item for the Medical School website. (See below)
2. Program ideas for 2015: The group discussed a variety of ideas for 2015 programs. The ideas that garnered the most interest were bringing in a leadership speaker or panel, and a dramatization of the life of Elizabeth Blackwell. Dr. Delidow and Dr. Shah will provide information for follow-up.
3. Nafeeza Hussain (MS3) shared with the committee her experiences in mentoring a young woman. She works with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization and there is considerable potential for mentoring young women and girls by partnering with them. Nafeeza will provide us with contact names for follow-up.

### **WIMS event benefiting Branches**

On the evening of Tuesday December 9, the Women in Medicine and Science Executive Council hosted a networking event and benefit for Branches, the Domestic Violence Shelter, in the lovely Magnolia Room at Savannah's. About 35 attendees enjoyed an evening of light hors d'oeuvres and good conversation with friends and colleagues. We were joined by two members of the Branches staff, who told us about how much they do to serve women in our community.

Branches serves about 1000 women in the tristate area each year, providing them with information, a safe place to go, and resources in the event that they suffer domestic violence. The shelter is supported by state and federal grants and by donations. They almost always have women in residence and they always have needs.

Attendees contributed donations of all kinds for the shelter, including toiletries, household items, cleaning items, clothing, and gift cards. We are so proud that our students and colleagues brought so many donations that the Branches staff had to make two trips and had to bring an extra vehicle to transport all of them. They were thrilled and so appreciative.

I am so grateful to all who made this event a success – the staff and management at Savannah's, the sponsorship of Medtronics, our WIMS colleagues and all the faculty, students, and professional women of Marshall who attended. It was a wonderful evening.

Beverly Delidow, Chair, WIMS Executive Council