

SHE Network History 2003-2013

Since 2003, SHE Network has provided support for up to fifteen women a year and generally works with each woman for a period of three to six months. Because of the unique personalized service & emotional support that we provide however, we measure our success, not by how many women we serve or for how long, but by how our assistance empowers women and improves their lives.

Over the past ten years, SHE Network has provided a wide variety of assistance, to women in many different situations. For instance, we've helped a number of women going through treatment for cancer, by offering emotional support, often from other cancer survivors in our network. Also, practical assistance such as meals for the family, arranging transportation to medical appointments and household maintenance eases some of the stress of the illness & treatment. When one local client told us her brain tumor was terminal, we also assisted her with the cost of flights to see her mother for one last time. Imagine what that visit meant to both mother & daughter.

Thanks to our well-established network of volunteers, SHE also offers pro bono professional advice and assistance. We're fortunate to have great volunteer resources in professional counseling, which is often the first step for clients after their application has been accepted. When one client requested help with the financial ordeal of divorce proceedings, SHE was able to offer free professional financial advice, providing clarity & optimism in an otherwise overwhelming situation. This woman now successfully runs her own business.

Our generous volunteers in the legal professional have also given free consultations in matters from real estate to wills & estate planning. Where needs cannot be met within our own network of volunteers, SHE provides referrals to, and often works alongside, local agencies with whom we've built up good working relationships over the years. These agencies include the YMCA, as well as local counseling and legal aid agencies.

Where housing or relocation is an issue, SHE Network has provided moving assistance, as well as house cleaning and donations of furniture. When a local fire destroyed a group of apartments, a beautiful bedroom set was generously donated from our network for a woman who had lost everything in the fire. She is now living happily in her new apartment. We were also pleased to provide a dining table & chairs one December, to enable a woman's family to sit down & enjoy their holiday meal together – an immeasurable gift for that woman and her family.

SHE Network runs a successful Holiday Appeal at the end of every year to give extra holiday gifts to recent clients & local women in need. Our local community has been very generous to these appeals with gifts of products & services, as well as financial donations and store gift cards - all of which serve to spread joy & empowerment to women at this demanding time of year. We've also organized occasional food & clothing drives to meet specific needs.

Finally, we're delighted to say that some of our most loyal supporters and volunteers are previous clients at SHE Network. We're very grateful for the generosity of all our supporters and their commitment to our mission, and as a thank you, we organize occasional events to give back to our volunteers. Such events have included a professional financial planning evening, holistic health guidance event and an internet security advice session by local police - as well as fundraisers including instruction in salsa dancing and belly dancing!