

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM FAQs

What is the Financial Empowerment Program?

WHF members volunteer to provide financial empowerment to clients of community organizations around the Washington, DC area. This training addresses issues such as family budgeting, savings, paying bills on time, credit repair, and basic banking and checking account management.

What types of volunteer opportunities are available?

Volunteer opportunities are available at local community organizations that serve low-income individuals. Currently, we offer financial empowerment instruction to residents of Calvary Women Services. The Foundation also teams up with Operation HOPE's Banking on Our Future program to provide fundamental money skills to youth in area schools. The Operation HOPE is a special opportunity held twice yearly.

How often are the financial empowerment classes held?

The program at Calvary Women's Services is held 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. every Tuesday over the course of two months. The program is repeated quarterly. Two WHF volunteers facilitate each class at Calvary.

Who are the participants?

The participants are the clients of the sponsoring organizations. The participants typically are low-income or disadvantaged women, most of whom were homeless.

How many participants/clients are in a session?

There are usually 5-10 participants. Occasionally there will be as many as 15 participants.

What is the volunteer's time commitment?

A volunteer can teach one session or multiple sessions. Each session is facilitated by two volunteers.

What curriculum is used?

The *Changepurse Strategy: An Action Plan for Money and Life* is presently used at Calvary Women's Services. The goal of the program is to create a healthy consciousness around money that supports and expands the resident's lives. This basic 8-week session course is designed to empower women to begin to establish financial security for stability, good health, and contentment.

Do I need training?

The WHF Foundation hosts training sessions for new volunteers and explain how to facilitate Changepurse. The program focuses on discussion with the women, rather than "teaching."

What is the format? Are materials provided to the volunteer facilitator?

The format is casual and informal. The volunteers are provided each week's session outline with handouts as appropriate for the attendees. The materials are provided to the volunteers in advance of each session.

Are materials for the participants provided?

Yes, participant materials are provided by Calvary's Director of Education for the women participants in advance of each class.

How can I volunteer?

You can volunteer by contacting the WHF office at whf@whfdc.org or 703-683-4742. We can share with you current program volunteer opportunities and / or add your name to a contact list as future program volunteer opportunities arise.