

Quantum Leap®: Making a Difference in the Community

Holly Graff, CPO®; Chair, Quantum Leap®; Clutter Control Angels®, Folsom, CA

The Quantum Leap® program is a community service program of NAPO. It provides organizing training to those people who are welfare-vulnerable or in a welfare-to-work transition. Professional organizers are specially trained and then work with their local agencies to provide skill-building sessions on paper, time, and money management.

We have dedicated NAPO Quantum Leap trainers that really make this program come together. To give back to the community is truly a great gift and their support is wonderful. Quantum Leap trainers are provided teaching outlines for paper, time, and money management classes, as well as information on securing class supplies. Professional organizers can volunteer as an individual, team, or as part of their local NAPO chapter.

Esselte (Pendaflex) provides donated supplies to the Quantum Leap program. Sharon Mann, of Esselte Corp. says,

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“Pendaflex is proud to support the great effort that NAPO members make to benefit those who need it most.”

After two years of development the Quantum Leap program results were presented at the 2002 NAPO conference. The program was founded by Denslow Brown, Ann Gambrell, Kate Rhoad, Dorothy Streich, Jan Limpaugh, Mary McGovern, and Mary Rossow. Since its inception, thousands of students have been trained by professional organizers through a wide variety of community agencies. The Quantum Leap program continues to grow with more than 50 professional organizers recently attending the teleconference orientation session for Quantum Leap training. With more than 30 agencies across the U.S. participating in the Quantum Leap program, professional organizers are providing training for those less fortunate.

More than five years ago, one woman, Peggy, made a life change that brought her from a life of poverty and incarceration to one of stability and structure. While at the Women’s Bean Project, Peggy met

“One person **can** make a difference in the community!”

Sally Allen, a professional organizer based in Golden, CO who helped her and other women set goals as well as manage time, paper, and money through organizational workshops.

“Each session brings something new and valuable to the women to improve their life skills. I also love the problem solving that goes on among the women,” says Allen, who last year received the NAPO service award for her involvement with the Women’s Bean Project and other nonprofit organizations.

She adds, “Quantum Leap and the Women’s Bean Project have afforded me the opportunity to give back to the community. I’ve found out so much more

about myself in the process. I have learned more from my students in the program than they have probably learned from me. I am learning about their culture, their living conditions and their frustrations with their lifestyles. They seem to appreciate what I have to offer them and in return I appreciate the mountain they have to climb.”

Allen is volunteering for the fourth consecutive year to present her workshops, “Making Time Work for You, Overcoming the Time Bandit,” to Women’s Bean Project participants to demonstrate practical ways to help create better lives for themselves and their families.

“By learning organizational skills, the women can begin to get the chaos out of their lives and focus on the skills needed to get and keep a job,” says Tamra Ryan, executive director of the Women’s Bean Project.

One person **can** make a difference in the community!

Contact Holly Graff at holly@cluttercontrolangels.com

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