

A CWA member who makes a difference

CloseUp



Shar Hoffman of Overland Park, Kansas, is the assistant director for CWA of Kansas.

How did you become involved with CWA?

About 10 years ago, I heard Beverly LaHaye on the radio and thought, "She's saying what I believe." I started picking up information about CWA of Kansas and joined one of the prayer/action chapters.

Tell us about the "Encourage A Legislator" program you organized.

We try to match an interested person with her representative or senator. When someone expresses interest in becoming an encourager, I put together a packet specifically about the legislator. I also include postcards with the legislator's address so all she needs to do is add postage and a note that might include patriotic quotes or encouraging Scripture verses.

We've gotten terrific responses. One legislator said, "This is a wonderful program. Yours is the only organization that sends anything on a regular basis to encourage us." Our lobbyist feels it has improved her working relationship with

the legislators, which isn't one of the reasons we're doing it. We're doing it to encourage and pray for them.


Tell us about a recent issue where you've taken action.

Common-law marriage had never been addressed in Kansas. There's a situation where a girl was given to a man when she was 10. She was abused and repeatedly raped. Now she's 18. We explained the situation in our newsletter and encouraged women to call their legislators. Now, a bill that limits common-law marriage to those 18 years and older has passed the House. A bill that completely bans it passed in the Senate.

What feedback have you received from the newsletter and legislative updates you send out to Kansans?

In two cases, our legislative updates got readers very interested in the whole process and they are now representatives! Plus, several other legislators commented that they rely on our newsletter for information.

What encourages you to stay active in CWA?

I'm reminded of a passage in Ezekiel 33. If a watchman fails to warn of danger ... and something bad happens, the blood is on his hands. As a watchman, when I see attacks on women and especially on children, it's my responsibility to warn others. Editing the newsletter is my way of getting out that information. 

CWA of Kansas has many opportunities for you to make a difference! Contact State Director Judy Smith at 1-913-491-1380. For more information about other states, call 1-800-458-8797.