



Empowering Women Since 1997

December 2017 Calvary Women's Services Change purse Graduation

Calvary Women's Services residents proudly celebrated their graduation from the WHF Foundation's Financial Empowerment Program on December 19. Facilitated by WHF volunteers using the unique Change purse strategy, the program is designed to assist women in creating a healthy consciousness around money that supports and expands their lives. For eight Tuesday afternoons in November and December, WHF volunteers facilitated lively discussions with a group of women, each with their own challenges and determination to make positive changes in their financial lives.

The activities and discussion were informative, and the interaction was truly brought to life by the volunteers from Women in Housing & Finance. The students with the best attendance received gifts (a gift card from Calvary) and a graduation certificate, but each person attending even one session received the gift of valuable information.

Having volunteered to facilitate one afternoon session, one WHF volunteer made the following observations: "Talking with the women at Calvary about making safe financial choices was so special and rewarding. They were incredibly engaged in the discussions over the course of the program."

At the graduation ceremony it was clear that women felt empowered to face their financial history, knowing they did not have to face it alone. WHF Foundation President Mary Martha Fortney congratulated the graduates at the ceremony. "These empowerment programs are a win-win for everyone involved, including the WHF volunteers, Calvary Women's Services and the graduates. It's exciting to know that value is being provided where there is great need," Fortney added.

Additional Change purse sessions will be held in 2018. For questions and to volunteer, please contact the WHF Foundation at 703-683-4742.

Pictured below are WHF volunteers Jennifer Aguilar and Mary Martha Fortney with Calvary graduates Sharonette and Blandine.

