

SISTER MARY SCULLION, ADVOCATE FOR HOMELESS AND MENTALLY ILL PERSONS, SPEAKS AT WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT LUNCHEON MAY 30

Lawrenceville, NJ – May 20, 2007. Women in Development of Mercer County (WID), a nonprofit professional association of women in the field of development, will host a presentation by Sister Mary Scullion, a nationally recognized champion of the rights and needs of mentally ill and homeless persons, at its next networking luncheon on Wednesday, May 30. Sister Scullion is expected to talk about her history of developing programs and the resources to support them. The luncheon is the organization's Annual Meeting and is open to WID members and their guests. It will be held at St. Lawrence Rehabilitation Center in Lawrenceville from 12:00-1:30pm with networking to begin at 11:30am. The fee for the luncheon is \$20.00.

Sister Mary Scullion has been involved in advocacy and service work for mentally ill and homeless persons since 1978. In 1985, she co-founded Woman of Hope which provides supportive housing for homeless mentally ill women. In 1988, she helped establish the Outreach Coordination Center, a nationally recognized model for coordinating street outreach to chronically homeless persons in Philadelphia. Sister Mary is responsible for co-founding Project H.O.M.E – Housing; Opportunities for employment; Medical care; and Education – which addresses the structural causes of homelessness and poverty through neighborhood revitalization in North Philadelphia. She is the recipient of numerous national and regional awards, including the Ford Foundation's prestigious "Leadership for a Changing World Award" and The Philadelphia Award, as well as several honorary doctorates.

The Annual Meeting of WID is the occasion to honor the recipients of the organization's Rookie of the Year and Founders Awards. The Rookie Award recognizes an individual who has been a member of Women in Development for fewer than three years and during that time has exemplified the mission of the organization through her enthusiasm and contributions to Women in Development. This recipient has shown great potential for being a leader in the Women in Development organization and as a fund raising professional. The Founders Award recognizes a member of Women in Development who empowers and advances women as professional fund raisers through innovative, cutting edge programs and resources that develop skills and foster relationship building. The Founders Award recipient exemplifies the mission of the WID organization in her professional life, has shown outstanding leadership, willingly mentors and continually strives to build and maintain relationships that benefit her organization and that of her profession.

Women in Development (WID) empowers and advances women as professional fundraisers through innovative, cutting-edge programs and resources that develop skills and foster relationship-building. WID offers a yearly calendar of dynamic programs on such topics as networking, mentoring, continuing education, and specialized training that prepare women to be leaders in their field. For information on joining WID, please contact WID Administrator Meredith Murray at (609) 371-9714 or at [emess\('widmercer','info','General Website Inquiry','org',' ',' ',' '\)](mailto:emess('widmercer','info','General Website Inquiry','org',' ',' ',' '))