



Anne Grozier

"I hope the person who invented algebra died a horrible death!"

That was a little footnote I wrote at the bottom of the last algebra test I took in high school. If you get the idea that I have not been a math fan, you would be right. Yet, here I am, many years later serving as the *bookkeeper* for Christian Job Corps and loving every minute of it. Actually, I had been responsible for keeping financial records at three churches before I inherited the CJC job – each time using a different computer program, so I was up to a challenge.

I enjoy being a behind-the-scenes person, so this job fits me well, as all of God's appointments will. Even though I don't have the close, day-to-day interaction with the students, I do get to meet them and learn about their life stories. Their names and faces are always before me in my prayers.

Standing beside Lynn Heckler one evening as we rehearsed ringing hand bells I first heard about Christian Women's Job Corps. Lynn later gave me a brochure giving the details of the ministry, and I thought, "Wow, that sounds like a great program!" Just before New Year's Day 2005 I called Lynn and asked if the Boerne program would be starting up soon, and if so, what kind of help she needed. When she replied that she was in need of an admin person, it was one of those "God things" as far as I was concerned because that's what I love doing! So I signed on right then and there and haven't looked back since.

Our first office was a plastic milk crate, but as soon as someone donated a file cabinet, I proceeded to try to fill it up. The bookkeeping assignment came along a couple of years later. It seems when you make yourself available to the Lord, He has a way of keeping you busy. I can't think of another job I would rather have or another place I would want to do it. Where else can one work with a group of leaders and volunteers who are committed to the Lord, who love people and give sacrificially of their time and resources to help our participants reach their spiritual, job and life-skill potential?

I have found many "faith sisters" through my association with CJC. There has been laughter, and there have been tears, both disappointments and miracles, but always the knowledge that what we are doing has eternal consequences. Even in the most trying days there are blessings, and twice a year we get to start anew - turn a new page and see the surprises the Lord has in store for us. What could be better than that!



LYNDA HARRIS

In our 50-plus years of ministry in three different states, I have had the privilege of teaching women's Sunday School, spoken at Women's Retreats, and been a leader in Women's Ministries Bible studies. God has used all of these experiences to develop in me a love for connecting with women and their needs.

We retired from ministry and moved to Boerne in 2002. When Kathryn Solt asked me if I would be interested in being one of the Bible teachers at CWJC, I was happy to know that God still had work for me to do. Plus, I knew Lynn Heckler from a Bible study at First Baptist Church, Boerne.

I have not grown tired of CWJC because it is "NEW" each semester with different girls who have different backgrounds and needs.

CWJC is very special because it offers women of all ages and from all backgrounds a chance to "start over" learning new skills, becoming aware of who they are in Christ, and becoming "sisters" with their classmates.

I have been so blessed by being a part of CWJC - witnessing the change in the student's lives, witnessing the growth of CWJC as a community service, running into our alumni in Boerne and seeing how God has changed them and their circumstances. AND I have been personally blessed by what the students have taught me!



LYNN HECKLER

God gave me a passion to help women who were living away from Him and experiencing the pangs of this world because of it. So many had lost respect for themselves and lost confidence to live above their miserable circumstances and had lost hope to find a way out.

As the founder of CJC of Kendall County, God brought me to intense prayer for these women, and then showed me the answer – Christian Women's Job Corps. Since then, I've been committed and "on the ride of my life" – helping women see the potential of who they could and should be in Christ.

Wow – looking back I can see God's hand in all of this, from childhood, where I attended parochial school, first learned about Jesus, and even then, had a desire to be a missionary, to my profession as a registered nurse gifted by Him with compassion for people, to my career as an Air Force officer growing in leadership and development. Along the way, I entered a marriage which He had not ordained and was a battered wife – He miraculously brought me out four years later with complete forgiveness and a promise that I would be helping women.

When you remember what the Lord has done for you, and how He's used you, you cannot turn away. It's comes down to "trust and obey" – there have been rough times along this journey, but He has always shown me His hand in all of it, and it's required strength in Him, patience, and lots of prayer.

I see God working in all of us – volunteers, staff, board, employers, and I've seen hundreds of women's lives transformed through our Program. CWJC is an environment full of joy, encouragement, and empowerment. Our Program offers hope to those willing to reach out and ask for help.

I rejoice in each answered prayer and every changed life – knowing God has all things in His control and He is using me, and all our volunteers and staff, for His purposes. It all glorifies Him and brings people into a lasting, personal relationship with our Creator and Savior. I'm living the abundant life as I'm working in His fields to cultivate life transformation.



CHERRIE KASSINGER

My life was lived out in a series of moves and position/job changes while raising children. Through all those experiences, God had been equipping me with life and job skills that are useful to the women who come into the program -- skills like communicating effectively and appropriately; working with and understanding others who are different from me; and adapting

to change or new experiences. With each move and job change, God taught me to rely on what He had already equipped me with and to be open to all He still had to teach me. When I share these skills with the women and help them identify their skills, talents, and preferences, it is like holding up a mirror for them and allowing them to see who the Creator designed them to be. It is a period of self-discovery that is exciting and confirming for the women. They become assured that they have value just as they are and prepares them to learn as the program progresses

When the program was being developed, I was asked to participate in designing the curriculum. The vision and possibilities of what could be accomplished were compelling. I wanted to be a part of giving opportunity to the women who were to come through the program.

I love the excitement in each class that is generated when the women get a glimpse into "God's mirror" and they see themselves as women of value, each with different experiences and skills. It keeps me coming back!

What makes CWJC so special are the women who come into the program. They are vulnerable but open to learning about themselves and developing skills that will prepare them for future employment. Over the 10 years, there have been so many success stories -- employment, changed lives, changed families and, most important, trust placed in Jesus Christ. This program works because it touches on more than just learning skills; women get to know their one true foundation -- Jesus Christ.

There are some very special relationships that have developed from people I meet in CWJC -- new friends, new sisters-in-Christ -- that continue beyond the walls of the program. Teaching encourages me to keep my skills polished and to stay abreast of current trends. I am challenged to have and share a stronger, growing witness of the power of Christ working in and through me, one that grows as I see His work in the lives of the women I meet.



KATHRYN SOLT

I have had a love relationship with Christian Women's Job Corps from its inception. Serving with Lynn Heckler on our church Women's Ministry Committee, I was as they say, "In on the ground floor."

I volunteered to serve as one of the four Bible study teachers the

first semester, and the love grew. When the first program coordinator left, I added to my role by taking on that responsibility. Each year I served, the bond became stronger.

When I took a salaried job at the Pregnancy Care Center, I was unable to teach, so I became a CWJC mentor - another rewarding privilege.

When I retired again (first retirement from USAA), I reconnected with what had become CJC, my first love. I am again teaching Bible study and have stayed in contact with both of my mentees. When asked by Cherie Kassinger if I was interested in serving on the Board of Directors, my first question was, "Can I still teach and mentor?"

As a board member, I was able to ensure the program remained available and strong for those men and women who need a helping hand up.

So, if you ask why I volunteer, I would have to say it is because God has given me a special love for women - women who are struggling and need a chance to do more with their lives and grow to a place where they, too, can be in a position to help others. I know that to have a truly abundant and fruitful life, you must have the strength of our Lord. CJC offers it all to them.



EMILY SWOPE

My life experiences can easily be compared with many of the women who come into our program. I can relate to their hurting and their lack of self-worth, which I believe makes me someone they can relate to. I was praying to God to lead me to the purpose He intended me for and "lo, and behold, Lynn Heckler enters my life and introduces me to her vision of Christian Women's Job Corps." God gave me leadership skills, teaching skills and the ability to raise fund -- all of which have benefited the Job Corps.

I volunteered because I was led by God and I dare not refuse when God plants the desire in me.

The Christian Job Corps, which now consists of a men's program as well as the women's program, is a major part of my life. I will be involved helping others to reach their potential for as long as I am able.

For me, the thing that is special is that because I teach and I am with the women for the full 11 weeks, I see the transformation in them and I see how God works, which reinforces my faith and trust in Him. I also see these women become employed in positions that they really want

and love. I meet them in the grocery store and other local places and see that they are doing well, and their lives have improved so much.

The mere fact that God is using me as His instrument to help others, especially women, makes me feel so blessed and so special to God. Not many people can say that they are fulfilling their purpose, but I feel that God led me to Christian Women's Job Corps and had a specific role for me to play to do His will and His work. What more can anyone ask?