



Purse Power or the Power of the Purse

Handbags have been essential to history ever since people have had something precious to carry around with them and only the items have changed over time. The very first mention in written literature comes from the 14th century, even though Egyptian hieroglyphs show pouches carried around the waist. Bags were attached to what were called “girdles” which were fastened to the waist. Embroidery and jewels adorned these articles and were used to show status - the richer the person, the more elaborate the bag. Should a purse define who we are? No, although it does show the **Purse is Powerful**.

Take a moment to think about what’s in your purse and how many times a day you need to reach for your purse; women often start their day reaching for their makeup bag, their keys to head out to work, a cell phone to call home to check on the kids, business cards to hand out to a perspective client, family photos to share with an old friend, money to

pay for the groceries, band aids to cover a child’s boo-boo; the purse is not just a handbag or a fashion statement it contains everyday essentials necessary to get through the day.

Many women in our community don’t have a purse and are struggling and reaching for resources. Since its inception in 2006 the Women’s Leadership Initiative of United Way of Washtenaw County has been looking to the **Power of the Purse** to help local women and their families gain self sufficiency.

Whether you sling your purse across your body or nestle it on the crux of your arm we hope that you will draw it close to your heart and join the **Power of the Purse Committee on March 14, 2012 for the Power of The Purse Event at Eastern Michigan University, Student Center Ball Room.**

Meet the committee that makes more than a fashion statement

Rachel Barsch, Washtenaw Community College
Kathleen Craig, United Bank & Trust
Lynette Findley, Eastern Michigan University
Karen O. Gladney, Comerica Bank
Jackie Jenkins, Committee Chair, Bank of Ann Arbor
Kim Liberati, Bank of Ann Arbor
Lolita Nunn, Key Bank
Sandy Rupp, United Way of Washtenaw County
Sally Schmall, Academy Coaching
Mitzi Talon, Bank of Ann Arbor

Joanne Bellfi, United Way of Washtenaw County
Shon Dwyer, University of Michigan
Stacy Fuqua, United Bank & Trust
Joanne Hansen, Eastern Michigan University
Carly Knotts, United Way of Washtenaw County
Tina Marteney, Benz Insurance Agency
Denise Rabidoux, Evangelical Homes
Joanne Rau, Fifth Third Bank
Ching-Yune C. Sylvester, University of Michigan
Betsy Volaric, Champions for Charity

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SAVE THE DATES:

United Way of Washtenaw County
2011 Campaign Kick-Off
September 15, 2011 11:30-1:00
Eastern Michigan University,
Student Center




Register on-line at uwWashtenaw.org
Or call 734-971-8200 by September 9th



The Power
of the
Purse

Save This Date:
Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Location - Eastern Michigan University,
Student Center Ball Room
900 Oakwood St., Ypsilanti, MI
Information call 734-971-8200



*I have someone
I love
I want
to know
I feel better
I can't wait and off*

How do I empower the Powers of my Purse?

- ▶ Make a contribution through your workplace campaign or personal pledge form; you can designate a portion of your pledge to the Power of the Purse.
 - \$750 qualifies you for the Women's Leadership Council
 - \$156-\$499 qualifies you for Women's Caring Club
- ▶ You can make a **contribution** by giving on line at www.uwWashtenaw.org
- ▶ Ask your company for a **corporate sponsorship** for the Power of the Purse event
- ▶ **Donate** a Purse to the Power of the Purse Silent Auction for the event
- ▶ **Attend** the Power of the Purse event.

My Personalities

The Power of the Purse committee is collecting purses for the silent auction and you will soon see all of the fun categories and get a sneak peak on the Power of the Purse of Washtenaw County Facebook page.

2012 selections

- Nine to Five's
- Girls just want to have fun
- Knock out knock off's
- Generation to Generation
- Second time around
- Signature Purses
- All around town
- Material Girls
- After Dusk
- When size does matter

If you would like to add to the collection please call 734-971-8200

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