

# Times Change helps South African women's advocate

At least 40 per cent and as high as 65 per cent of women in the Eastern Cape of South Africa are unemployed, with a high incidence of poverty in women-led households in rural areas. As well, South African women experience cultural and traditional barriers to employment and education

That's why on June 4th, Nonhlanthla Jordan, CEO of Women's Development Foundation (WDF), a South African organization dedicated to women's empowerment, visited the Times Change Women's Employment Service at Bloor and Sherbourne.

She concluded that "Times Change is well-organized with a wide variety of employment resources for women." She was clearly impressed with the support clients receive and plans to convey shared ideas to her foundation along with proposed interventions

for community development partners in South Africa.

Jordan gained information about the services Times Change provides to women - job search and career planning workshops, computer services and educational and employment counselling, all free of charge.

## Valuable exchange

Times Change staff enjoyed sharing information about employment services for women. "It would be wonderful if the shared information inspired a grassroots employment centre for women in South Africa," says Katie Didyk, Intake/Outreach Coordinator.

Established in 1993, the WDF operates on a governmental level to address social and historical injustices

against women. Jordan and her colleagues work tirelessly advocating women's advancement. The WDF supports the building of women's technical and leadership skills, confidence and self-esteem through government-funded opportunities.

Before the first general and democratic elections were even held in South Africa, the WDF encouraged women not only to vote but also to stand as candidates. The Foundation became involved in training women in campaign management and promoted capacity building programs for elected women in Parliament. Along with mentoring councillors in

municipal politics, the WDF's programs include HIV Community Homecare and gender sensitivity training.

Says Jordan: "The WDF hopes it will continue to make a positive impact in the lives of women in our society. As long as we are convinced that there is a role for us to play, we will continue to be a driving force for the empowerment of women's leadership."

*Times Change is a non-profit community agency established in Toronto in 1974. Employment counsellors are experienced professionals with a special interest in helping women reach their employment goals in today's labour market. For more information call 416 927 1900 ex 0 or go to [www.timeschange.org](http://www.timeschange.org)*



**NKOSI!:** Nonhlanthla Jordan, CEO of South Africa's Women's Development Foundation, says *Nkosi*, (thank you – in Xhosa, her language in South Africa) to Katie Didyk, Intake/Outreach Coordinator, for the tour and shared ideas. *Photo by Susana Parise.*

## Celebrating samaritanism with heart and vision

**By The Rev. John Joseph Mastandrea**

On Monday May 11 over

Pubs and founder of the distress help line. He spent years just listening to people on the edge - providing a movable feast of sacred sanctuary for

cinema scene. His dozens of classic films remain an integral component in the keystone of the North American film community. One of his

through fresh eyes.

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