

Written by
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Amy Scott and the Unexpected Journey

Some things are simply meant to be.

This is certainly the case for Amy Scott, Director of Development and Community Relations for The Centre for Women. Driving down South Hyde Park Avenue past the Centre's building day after day, Scott had no idea she would find a home there, within the organization that has been helping the community for almost thirty years.

After a year of self-employment as a marketing consultant, Scott finished consulting in May, did some traveling and the very first day she was looking for full-time work, came across the Centre for Women web site. The web site expressed a need for a Director of Development. "The same day they were looking for someone, I applied and the rest is history. I am really happy here. I am very fortunate to be working for an organization that really helps our community, but also my colleagues are wonderful. I feel very proud to be here," says Scott.

Overseeing all aspects of the Centre's fundraising, media and marketing activities, Scott's background includes the role of Director of Annual Funds for the Florida Orchestra and Development Manager in Bermuda by a non-profit called the Bermuda National Trust.

When asked what the most fulfilling aspect of her position in the Centre is, Scott responds, "Getting to know and build relationships with our community partners and individual donors. I really like working with people, especially getting to know the people that make the Centre what it is today."

The Centre for Women has come a long way since its inception by Senator Helen Davis and a group of volunteers in 1977. It was founded as way to bring displaced homemakers back into the workforce. "Senator Davis also saw a need to help women who may have had substance abuse issues, alcohol, prescription drugs – to help these women get job opportunities."

Today, Scott is proud of the many specialized programs the Centre for Women has grown to offer. "It's pretty incredible. We are not just serving women. We have five core programs to help the community."

Project Recovery is a one-of-a-kind "women only" substance abuse treatment program; Employment Services helps get men and women back into the workforce; SHIP – Senior Home Improvement Project, a free program, helps low-income seniors with major home

repairs allowing homeowners to remain safely in their homes, and Family Services Association (FSA) offers counseling for individuals and family.

During the late 90s, the Centre added the Center for Girls, a free after-school program for girls ten to eighteen that touches on all issues impacting girls and provides licensed counselors to answer any and all questions. "Parents sign a waiver letting them know if their child asks a question, it is going to get answered," explains Scott.

The Centre also provides an Elder Link Consortium that links seniors to in-home non-medical services. Says Scott, "Sometimes it's as simple as phone call reminding them to take their medication."

Upcoming Center for Women events includes the 10th Annual Golf Tournament at Hunter's Green on March 9, 2009 and the annual Gourmet Feast-ival during the last week in August. Says Scott, "We are always looking for new sponsors, new golf foursomes, and new volunteers. All the information is posted on our web site at www.centerforwomen.org." High school students can even participate to receive the volunteer credit hours needed for scholarships.

Though her phone rings non-stop, Scott would have it no other way. "I love working here. It's amazing to see the breath of services we offer, to see first-hand how this place changes lives and makes our community a better place."

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