

SAVE THE DATE

Volunteers, watch your e-mail to sign up for these events in the coming days or weeks:

December TV Drive pledge nights

We have two nights we need help with! Wednesday, Dec. 4 and Sunday, Dec. 8. [Click here](#) to sign up thru VolunteerSpot and view times.

The Little Theatre is looking for volunteers to help with their Membership Table and take tickets. [Click here](#) to view opportunities and sign up!

CONTACT

Contact Carolyn Reynolds to sign up for events at: volunteer@WXXI.org

Thanks to Mark Becker and Christine G. Adamo for this newsletter.

It's Auction Time! Our Talk with Karen A. Buesing

Karen A. Buesing, Auction Coordinator, has long been aware of WXXI.

"I was a member when the kids were small," she explains. "I believed in the programming (the station offered) for children."

She monitored what her four boys watched, trying her best to steer them clear of becoming obsessed with video games or network TV.

"I'm not sorry I did it the way I did."

Having bid in the WXXI auction for years, Karen met with Chris Perry, former Auction telemarketing supervisor, to make payment on an item. The two got to talking and Chris asked if Karen might want to help send out gift certificates to winning bidders.

Karen and her husband, Bob, were soon involved with WXXI on a volunteer basis and, by October 2007, Karen was offered a position as a part-time employee at the station.

"(I was asked to) call people and ask for donation (items)."

She initially worked 20 hours per week while maintaining a second part-time job.

"I was working 13 hour days for five years ... though that second job was (only) supposed to last a month."

On July 25, 2012, she joined WXXI full time.

"I walked in (not knowing) what I was getting into ... that started my full-time odyssey."

When the station put out an ad for a new Auction Manager, Karen was asked to meet with the candidates and offer her opinion.

"I thought it was important to get someone (young) with fresh ideas and the enthusiasm to move things forward."

She says hiring Danielle Abramson was smart.

"(Danielle) has ideas nobody has ever thought of, for the auction ... and there's such positive feedback. It's metamorphosed into a very smooth-flowing auction."

Karen says she appreciates Danielle's ability to encourage, educate and empower Auction staff and volunteers.

"I think this year will be telling," Karen explains of Danielle's impact on the process, "because we have so many different and fresh ideas moving (the auction forward)."

The auction is managed through Biddingfor-Good, a web interface Danielle has urged her team to have a hand in managing.

Karen says volunteers play a variety of roles in the auction process and their help is always appreciated: writing and reviewing item descriptions, following up on auction items, taking related pictures, making pickups, etc.

"I think (volunteering) gives you a sense of pride, a sense of accomplishment – and I think the volunteers here are treated exceptionally well; made to feel they're a necessary part of the equation. And they really are."

So, apparently, are auction staff members.

"It's a rewarding job. I look forward to coming to work. I love it here: the people I work with, the work I do.... I feel like I'm a big part of a successful auction."

The 2014 WXXI Annual Auction is slated for April 12 through 26. The after-auction auction will run through early May.

Volunteers interested in working on the auction should contact Danielle Abramson directly at dabramson@wxxi.org or (585) 258-0287.

Please note the upcoming event list at left. If you're able to volunteer for an event, e-mail: volunteer@WXXI.org