

Public Service Leadership & Management 101 Workshop, 3/4/06: Getting Up to Speed

Instructor 1: CHRISTINE PINA '91

Christine has been involved with nonprofits throughout her life, including the Girl Scouts, local food pantries, community outreach projects, cooking for and clothing the homeless, and more. She is a founder of A Hand Up, a nonprofit organization which recycles goods that still have some life in them and which encourages people who are struggling to put their lives back together after domestic abuse, drug recovery or just bad luck. She also works as a Development Officer at Wesleyan, and has been working in the areas of development, fundraising, and education for most of her career.

She received her BA in African American Studies, concentration in Women's Studies and Government, and earned an MEd. from Harvard's Graduate School of Education, concentration in Higher Education. She has been a lifelong Episcopalian who believes that we can have global reconciliation through social action in our own communities.

Instructor 2: ROBIN GILMARTIN

Robin uses her skills as a social worker in her volunteer capacity as one of 5 founding board members of A Hand Up, Inc., a non-profit organization that helps people transition from homelessness to independent living. She is director of a residential treatment program for veterans with post-traumatic stress at the Newington Veterans Administration, a program that utilizes "logotherapy." Logotherapy, a meaning-focused treatment based on the life and work of Viktor Frankl, also inspires Robin in her own life.

Frankl challenged each of us to find "meaning in the moment," that is, to determine for ourselves what life is asking of us at any given moment. With each delivery of furniture and needed household items, Robin, other Board members, and our many volunteers from churches, schools and corporations, discover meaning by helping our neighbors in need.

Instructor 3: DIANE MACK

Diane, a founding board member of A Hand Up, has served on Boards of several non-profit organizations in Connecticut. Her work with My Sisters' Place, which provides housing and support services to homeless women and children in Hartford, and Prudence Crandall Center, which provides shelter and services for abused women, raised her awareness of the challenges faced by people trying to move from homelessness to independent living.

Diane is an attorney and used her legal skills to incorporate A Hand Up and to obtain its tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. She is currently employed as Vice President and Associate General Counsel for MassMutual Financial Group. Her work with non-profit organizations has enriched her life in many ways, including keeping the important things in life in perspective.