

Wendy Pitts Reeves, L.C.S.W.
Speaker, Consultant, Psychotherapist

Did you know...

Tennessee ranks 50th out of 51 across the nation in the economic status of women.

- **Less than half the women in Tennessee earn enough to support themselves and their families.** Almost two-thirds of Tennessee single mothers earn less than \$10 an hour. A "living wage", defined as \$11.26 an hour, is considered enough to support one adult and one child, without the use of a car. In reality, self-sufficiency standards require much more, depending on the number of children, and their ages. (*IWPR, 2000*)
- **Teen pregnancy is costing us a fortune.** Fully 95.7% of the almost 200,000 families served from 1996-2001 by Families First (our welfare to work initiative) were headed by female caretakers. Of those, 42% had their first child before 18. On top of that, Tennessee ranks 50th in child support enforcement, trapping women in a vicious cycle of low education, low pay, limited childcare and no way out. (*TECW, 2001*)
- **Tennessee ranks 4th in the nation in the number of women killed by men.** (*Violence Policy Center, 2000*) The estimated annual cost of domestic violence to the nation is \$67 billion in labor force, child well being, housing social service, healthcare and criminal justice. In Tennessee, the annual costs total approximately \$36.4 million.

We can no longer afford to ignore the economic impact of the gender-based wage gap, low education levels, teen pregnancy and domestic violence on the status of living for all Tennesseans. Wendy Pitts Reeves offers keynotes, presentations and interactive workshops providing information, raising community awareness on these issues and ideas for empowering women and girls. She's also available for consulting with companies, schools, and non-profit organizations on how they can help improve the economic autonomy of women and girls.

The words of Tennessee women and girls...

"You love what you do, so why do you want to make a decent living? Can you imagine someone saying that to a physician?"

—Chattanooga Teacher

"I wish that someone hadn't said that boys are always better leaders than girls."

—Blount County Senior,
Sister to Sister Summit
2002

"According to the report, the victim told the deputy that her boyfriend did assault her, but she did not want anything done about it because she said she deserved it." A witness reported "the boyfriend began punching the victim until she fell to the ground and then punched and kicked her."

—Blount Records
The Daily Times
July 16, 2001



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