

"...to bring good news to the poor... proclaim release to the captives...let the oppressed go free..." - Luke 4:18-19



Dear Sisters and Friends in Christ,



Welcome to the January edition of the Elevate newsletter! This month, we are honored to feature Joanne Brown, President of our Rhode Island region, whose journey with ABWM began rolling bandages as a Junior High student. Joanne's story is a beautiful testament to the lifelong bonds created when women care for one another, and she champions the Rhode Island region's creative spirit in organizing events that lift up new voices. Her passion for inclusivity and developing leadership skills in women and girls reminds us all of the vital work we do to build up the body of Christ through mission and mentorship.

Why did you choose to be a part of this organization?

I grew up in it and was a part of the women's group rolling bandages while in Jr. High, and then right after college, I was a part of our women's group in my home church. I continue to be a part as I believe in the care of women caring for other women and the special bonds created through our work together. I also appreciate the mission work that is accomplished.

What are you most proud of about your region, or what is something you would like others to know about the region?

Our Rhode Island region is very good at organizing events with creativity and variety, and tries to include those who may not always be in the limelight to help in growing their leadership skills.

Why do you give to ABWM?

Because I believe in the mission of ABWM, I think that it is also important to support it financially.

What core value of ABWM speaks to you?

One of the core values that I really appreciate is how ABWM helps lay women and girls to grow in their leadership potential for service in the church and beyond. Creating workshops that help in

developing these skills, practical application in mentoring women, and encouraging women to step out and learn alongside others helps to build up the body of Christ.

What is your fondest memory of ABWM?

When the RI board put on a baby shower for me when I was new to their board back in the mid-80's. What a surprise and blessing.

Is there anything else you would like to say to our readers?

Don't forget to reach out to others on the fringes or new to your congregations to include them in the fold.

Thank you for sharing this time with us. As Joanne Brown reminds us, our mission relies on both our hearts and our resources; supporting ABWM financially ensures we can continue the vital work of mentoring women and girls to reach their full leadership potential. Let us take her encouragement to heart—to not only build up those already with us but to actively reach out to those on the fringes and welcome them into the fold. Together, we can strengthen the body of Christ and ensure that every woman has the opportunity to serve and grow.

With hope and blessings,

American Baptist Women's Ministries



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1075 1st Ave, Suite C-210, King of Prussia, PA 19406, USA