

Rock-a-Thon!

A FUN-RAISER for the LEGACY FUND!

United Methodist Women members of the
Desert Southwest Conference asked friends and family to
sponsor them as "Rockers" for Rock-a-Thon fundraisers.

The Desert Southwest Conference raised
over \$12,000 for the Legacy Fund!



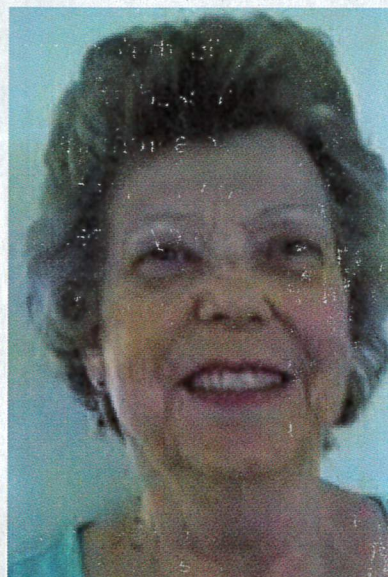
**THE LEGACY FUND
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN**

A Rock- a-Thon and a Mustard Seed of Faith Testimony by Eileen Guillermo

Eileen Guillermo, Legacy Fund Liaison for the Desert Southwest Conference, shares her inspiring story about how a mustard seed of faith can raise a lot of money for the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. Eileen also provides samples of the materials her conference used to promote the Rock-a-Thon. Other United Methodist Women districts and conferences can refer to these resources as they create their own Fun-Raisers or adapt the Rock-a-Thon to fit their needs.

Praise God in all things and to His name be the glory. It is through God all things are possible. You might ask, "Why start off an article in this manner?" I can honestly say some things are beyond our logic, and we must rely on faith. We all know the parable of the small mustard seed, and at times our faith can be that of a mustard seed. Let me take you back to the beginning, the sprout of a seed.

When I returned home from the United Methodist Women Legacy Fund training held in early 2017, I was stoked and a "girl on fire", ready to encourage others to fundraise for the growth of the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. I went to the North District leadership team meeting and explained that every conference, district and or local unit was encouraged to create fundraisers to help United Methodist Women reach the \$60 million goal for the Legacy Fund.



Left to Right, Eileen Guillermo,
North District president and
Sharon Scobie, North District treasurer,
Desert Southwest Conference

I presented the idea of a 5K run/walk or a 5K bike ride. The team members rolled their eyes and chuckled saying, "We don't think so!" Then, Sharon Scobie, our District treasurer, laughed and said, "About all I can do is rock, so how about a Rock-a-Thon?" Immediately, I envisioned sewing a skirt with an embroidered poodle on it and searching online to find a pair of black and white saddle shoes. What I thought I heard Sharon say and mean was a rock and roll dance. More laughter, then she said, "No, a Rock-a-Thon, in rockers!" Sharon planted a seed. Our next step was to set a goal. The goal was to raise \$1,869, representing the year United Methodist Women first organized for mission. At the time, I thought that was a lofty target, but I did not let anyone know I doubted we could reach that goal. Oh, me of little faith. When I attended the Desert Southwest Conference meeting and explained the plans for our North District Legacy Fund fundraiser, I encouraged each district to think of ways to support fundraisers within their respective district and local units.

Our north district Rock-a-Thon was held in August 2017, featuring 12 "rockers," and we exceeded our goal raising \$2,109.76! I remember being thankful and telling God in prayer I was sorry for doubting. I reported our success to the conference team, letting them know how easy and enriching the event was.

That tiny mustard seed that was planted took root in our district and spread to other districts within our conference. Women of the East/West Districts decided to combine their efforts to present a similar Rock-a-Thon event, modifying it to their needs. Wow, did they accomplish their goal! They not only rocked at churches, but some ladies got sponsors from family and friends and rocked in their own homes. It was probably best I didn't know they'd set a fundraising goal of \$7,500, as



**Peggy Vise, East /West District,
Desert Southwest Conference**

I should know not to put God in a box! I get "chicken skin," even now as I tell you the next part of this story. The morning of March 26, I turned on my computer, and before my browser had even fully opened, I heard a familiar voice, as plain as day, audible and clear coming from my computer. It was the voice of my mother, who passed away many years ago!

Just as surely as I am typing these words and you're reading them on this page, I heard my mother's voice, and all she said was my name, "Eileen." My name was not said in anger, but in a tone she used to imply I cannot believe you didn't know that. My mother spoke to me, just as I was telling myself that I couldn't believe I had put God in a box. While still in disbelief, and asking myself what just transpired, with tears in my eyes and a lump in my throat, my browser opened with incoming e-mails. The first was from Carla Whitmire, one of the organizers of the East/West District Rock-a-Thon. Carla indicated that in her previous e-mail she had initially reported the wrong total of money raised. They for-got to include cash received during the fundraiser. Oh my! Goose bumps again. More tears.

Over the years, I have heard stories of God speaking to people. I will admit that I have asked for signs when talking and praying with God on many issues throughout my life. I think we all have. But this time, when I least expected it, I heard God speak to me, through my mother's voice. GOD was letting me know that I should never doubt, because all things are possible through God I am thankful and give all praise and glory to God that through



Left to Right: Rachel Nondorf, Phyllis Coxson, Larae Kieffer, Chris Hooke, Michele Justice, and Deanna Barrier, East / West District of Desert Southwest Conference.

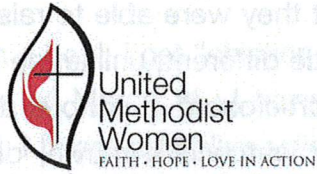
the women of the East/West District they were able to raise over \$9,917.83. The East/West District Rock-a-Thon was a little different; unlike the north district, they did not all rock at the same time. Members participated in various activities while they waited to take their turn as a "rocker." They watched a movie, did some reading, crafts and games. Shared conversations and friendships were deepened. A story shared with me was about one member, Pat Goss, a retired deaconess, and former United Methodist Women's director, who "rocked" in a chair that was over 154 years old, made by her great-grandmother's brother.

So far this year, the Desert Southwest Conference raised over \$12,000 in Rock-a-Thons for the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign, and money is still being raised!

I pray that the seeds you plant take root and spread, and may you all continue to rock on.



Pat Goss' great-grandmother's brother carved a rocking chair out of an Indiana apple tree 154 years ago that Pat, pictured here rocked in to help raise funds for the Legacy Fund. Pat is a retired deaconess and a former Women's Division director. She is an active United Methodist Women member at the Red Mountain unit in Mesa, Arizona.



**North District – United Methodist Women
Desert Southwest Conference**

Cracker Barrel
2815 E. Craig Road
North Las Vegas Nevada 89030

June 5, 2017

Re: Legacy 150 Rock-a-Thon Fundraiser

North District United Methodist Women of the Desert Southwest Conference will hold a Legacy 150 fundraiser. Our organization was established March 23, 1869 and has been actively involved in mission for almost 150 years. We have a purpose. Our focus is on women, children and youth, which involves initiatives that include providing opportunities to grow spiritually, equipping women and girls to be leaders, providing transformative education experiences, organizing for growth and flexibility, and working for justice through service and advocacy. Funds raised at this event will help ensure that we can continue in mission for another 150 years.

Women of the North District will hold a Rock-a-Thon. Literally, the participating members will be rockin' in rocking chairs from 10am – 4pm on Saturday, August 5, 2017. "Rockers" will be women from units throughout the North District. Each participant will be seeking financial sponsors. We have established a goal as a district to raise \$1,869. This amount represents the year that the United Methodist Women organized.

We respectfully request your support and hope that you could possibly donate of one of your "Cracker Barrel" rockers. If this is not acceptable, perhaps another form of support could be considered.

Donors will be acknowledged at the event, in the publication of our district newsletter North County Breezes, and the Conference newsletter. It is also highly likely that the event may also be acknowledged at the national level publication(s) as well.

It should be noted that there are units throughout the entire country conducting various fundraising activities for this cause. Some will be doing 5k runs/walks, bake sales, etc., but I believe we are unique in that we are the only district to use rockers!

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Eileen Guillermo
President North District
Desert Southwest Conference
United Methodist Women
(702) 807-3270 (cell)



NORTH DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ROCK-A-THON SPONSHOR SHEET

Rocker's Name _____

Rocker's Address _____

SPONSOR'S NAME	SPONSOR'S ADDRESS	Amount Pledged	Paid by Check / Cash	
	United			
	Methodist			
	Women			

Page ___ of ___

Total this page \$

Rock-a-Thon!

A FUN-RAISER for the LEGACY FUND!

Who? Name of your district

What? Rock-a-Thon

Where? Name of venue

When? Date and time

Why? The Legacy Fund

Money raised goes into an endowment to ensure United Methodist Women continues in mission for the next 150 years. Our goal is to raise \$1,869 symbolizing the year our foremothers organized and raised money to send the first female doctor and educator to India.

How? 1. Come Rock With Us
2. Sponsor a Rocker! Donate by length of time rocked or give a set amount!

Contact: Names, numbers and e-mail addresses

