

# Equipped to serve



<http://teens.lwml.org>

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"I want to thank my mom for being my mentor."

My daughter, Rae Ann, who was serving the Texas District as Young Woman Representative, was speaking at a district convention about eight years ago. Of course, I was thrilled she was speaking, but I was also amazed that she was thanking me for being her mentor. After all, I had not intentionally mentored her! I had simply needed her!

Back in the late 1990s, I served as a Texas District Vice President. Rae Ann was editor of her high school newspaper. So when I needed a newsletter published, she was the obvious choice. Not only did she produce great newsletters that attracted notice from district and national LWML officers, she proved to be a tireless worker and a go-to person when other officers needed help.

Along the way, Rae Ann's service on the society, zone, and district levels led to her call to be Media & Marketing Chairman for the national LWML and to design logos, banners, and many products that are now available in our LWML Catalog.

Rae Ann now works in New York City as a designer of books and calendars that you can purchase in your favorite bookstore. She credits her experience in LWML with giving her the confidence to work comfortably in a corporate environment.

Now, as I work with teens in our church and district, I see them as sisters in Christ who want to serve and use their gifts alongside us. They want to be needed more than they want to be entertained. They blossom when we respect and welcome them.

We must not, in Paul's words, look down on them because they are young. One of Rae Ann's frustrations was the feeling that older LWML sisters were mentally patting her on the head for coming with "Mommy." In fact, Rae Ann was a full-fledged, active member, even though she was still a high school student!

As we mentor young women, our challenge is to see them as the women of God they are called to be and treat them as such. Then our mentoring will help them to grow into those women. And we will be blessed beyond our wildest dreams.

— Peggy Spitzenberger



National LWML convention, 1997



District LWML convention, 1998



National LWML convention, 2009



If you have a story you would like to share, please see the Teen Light Article Guidelines available on the Teen Leader Resource Page.