



Carolyn Nopar Joins The Enterprising Kitchen as New Executive Director

The Enterprising Kitchen's Board of Directors is pleased to introduce Carolyn Nopar as the new Executive Director as of April 5, 2010. Prior to coming to TEK, Carolyn was the Chief Development Officer for the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, where she oversaw all fundraising activities and volunteer relationships. She has also served as the Associate Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations at the Alzheimer's Association. While there, she successfully implemented a corporate employee giving strategy and greatly expanded revenue from new funding relationships.



Carolyn brings a unique combination of non-profit and for-profit experience to TEK. Her early career includes 13 years in marketing and sales with companies such as AT&T, Del Laboratories, and CORT Furniture Rental,

where she served as the Commercial Sales Manager for the Chicago area. In 2006, she entered the nonprofit arena and successfully launched a new social enterprise for Habitat for Humanity in Elgin, Illinois. This social enterprise, The ReStore, sells merchandise donated from retailers, manufacturers, distributors, contractors and homeowners to the public. The revenue generated from ReStore sales helps to underwrite Habitat's building program in the Elgin area while reducing the amount of material that would otherwise go into landfills. Since its inception,

ReStore has helped to build 15 new houses and has provided many other families with affordable merchandise, allowing them to remain in their homes.

A native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, Carolyn received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing from Michigan State University and her MBA from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Currently, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She lives in Arlington Heights with her husband Ken and two daughters Katie and Lauren.

Carolyn states, "I am excited about TEK and workforce development programs. Women-headed households comprise the vast majority of the working poor families. If we can help these women become self-sufficient, we will impact not only their lives but those of their children and families too. This multi-generational affect, combined with the sustainability component, is of great interest to me".

Carolyn comes to TEK with the goal of expanding the number of women we serve. By maximizing job placements and expanding earned income opportunities, we can help more women obtain the skills they need to become self-sufficient. Carolyn's excitement and enthusiasm, paired with her marketing, sales and nonprofit background, will make her a superb ambassador for TEK. Please join the Board of Directors and staff of TEK in welcoming Carolyn Nopar by reaching out to her at (773) 506-3880 or cnopar@theenterprisingkitchen.org.

Join the fun this year

This year's **Bubble Bash** promises to be an exciting event at the Chicago Cultural Center on May 6 from 5:30 - 9 p.m. The Enterprising Kitchen welcomes NBC5's Zoraida Sambolin as emcee for the night's festivities, with auctioneer Richard Wright in charge of the live auction. Sponsored by Harris Bank, The Bubble Bash's 2010 theme - Anchors of Hope - celebrates The Enterprising Kitchen as a firm foundation during stormy times for the women who are making the choice to improve their lives and sail onward to success.



Zoraida Sambolin

"Everyone at The Enterprising Kitchen is thrilled about the 2010 Bubble Bash," said Carolyn Nopar, Executive Director for The Enterprising Kitchen. "During a time when the need for hope and help is the greatest, this event promises to deliver both to the women we serve."

Since The Enterprising Kitchen was established in 1996, over 400 women have participated in the program, with 70 percent graduating to employment or advanced training. On average, graduates earn 30 percent more than the national average wage earned by former welfare recipients. Historically, participants have been able to

reunite their families and gain custody of their children due to the stability offered by The Enterprising Kitchen.

"I learned how to get back in the workplace," said TEK participant Jasmine. "The Enterprising Kitchen is showing me to be a good example for my kids - getting up to go to work in the morning, not calling in sick. They are



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The Enterprising Kitchen's New Director of Development Wants to Meet You

The Enterprising Kitchen is pleased to announce the appointment of Carey Smith as the new Director of Resource Development. She has previously served as Development Coordinator for Parenthesis Family Center and as the Corporate and Donor Relations Manager at Housing Opportunities for Women (HOW). Most



recently, she served as the Coordinator for Individual & Community Giving at The Night Ministry.

Born and raised in Oak Park, IL, Carey received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing Communications from Columbia College Chicago. While at Columbia, her non-profit print advertising campaign, "Silent Voices, Abuse and Pregnancy," was featured in the Creativity with a Conscience: The Alexandroff Exhibit. The print campaign raised awareness in regards to the alarming statistic of murder being the number one cause of death among pregnant women stemming from domestic violence.

Throughout her career, Carey has implemented successful and comprehensive development plans. She has a passion for the mission of TEK as she has focused her career on empowering women. "The women in our program are so inspiring to me. Their drive to succeed after experiencing tremendous hardships continues to awe me every day."

Carey was introduced to TEK in 2006 by then Board President, Erin Drury. Since that first introduction, she has been committed to TEK through her participation as the volunteer manager during the annual Bubble Bash fundraiser.

"I was drawn to this organization because of the transitional jobs training program and was so impressed by the quality of spa products produced with the CHOICES line of products. I like how after each item is completed, the woman who made it signs her name on the back. Every time I pick up a bar of soap created by the women at our Ravenswood location, I know that my purchase has truly made a difference in the lives of women in Chicago."

Carey is looking forward to speaking with you at the annual Bubble Bash fundraiser on Thursday, May 6th at the Chicago Cultural Center. In the mean time, please touch base with Carey by calling (773) 506-3880 or emailing her at csmith@theenterprisingkitchen.org.

recipe for success

Meet Arzu Eren, TEK Chief Soapmaker

Arzu Eren shares her story, "I am from Turkey, where I was a pharmacist. After I married, I moved to the United States. I needed to leave my husband so I lived in a shelter for two years. I was homeless and couldn't speak English. That shelter introduced me to

"This organization... cares about people"

was then hired on as staff. I love it at TEK; especially watching the women flourish. The first thought here is not about money, it's about us. For me, what is important is health, happiness, then money, in that order. I could earn more as a pharmacist but money isn't the important thing. This organization is a nonprofit and cares about people. I am valued, I like this mission. This place has to stand. This place is kind of our home."

***Interview conducted and written by SERV and featured in their Spring, 2010 newsletter**

TEK. With my chemist background I became in charge of soap making. I create all of the soaps, including new scents, and also make sure the quality is maintained. It is fun to create new things. I have done every job at TEK, including door-to-door sales. I started here as a participant 7 years ago and

mission

The Enterprising Kitchen (TEK) empowers low-income women to create a brighter future by helping them build a foundation for permanent employment. During their transitional employment in our social enterprise, the women of TEK learn critical life and job skills and receive the personalized training and support services they need to be self-sufficient.



Photo credit: Andrew Collins



New at last year's Bubble Bash was the popular Grape Grab, where guests tried their luck at a chance to win a variety of wines. Guests purchased corks for a 1 in 4 chance of winning a bottle of wine. Start building your wine cellar today. Cheers from TEK!

The green scene

Green Mama: A Guilt-Free Guide to Helping You and Your Kids Save the World was released in February, 2010 and features The Enterprising Kitchen's CHOICES products at the beginning of Chapter 8. In her debut book, Tracey Bianchi encourages readers to take small steps towards becoming eco-friendly by offering an array of advice on how you and your family can go green. Bianchi's practical suggestions include exchanging Styrofoam coffee cups for mugs or planting a vegetable garden. Her advice ensures that your busy family can still make environmentally wise choices at the grocery store, schoolyard and kitchen table, while also keeping an eye on budget.



The Enterprising Kitchen is featured at the beginning of the Working the System: Purchasing Power chapter. Bianchi described her first experience as she entered The Enterprising Kitchen, "it is apparent that this is no ordinary kitchen. It smells like a spa. Warm air with a tinge of lavender and mint pry open your senses." While touring TEK and meeting the inspiring women who manufacture and package the CHOICES brand, Bianchi talks about having her eyes opened to the idea of giving gifts for good. "Why grab soap from a mall when I could give a bar that changes lives?"

For more tips, visit Bianchi's blog at <http://traceybianchi.com> or visit The Enterprising Kitchen's new website at <http://www.theenterprisingkitchen.org/store> to give a gift that gives back. Go ahead and begin to build your green confidence today by picking up a copy of Green Mama!

2009 highlights



You won't want to miss a great time with friends filled with delicious food and a signature drink. Meet the women of The Enterprising Kitchen and hear their stories of success thanks to your generosity!

Join the fun this year

(continued)

starting to notice the benefits of taking responsibility."

The evening will feature an extensive silent auction that will help you grow your social calendar with the many sports and theater tickets available or treat yourself to some spa and get-away offers. The live auction will feature a variety of experiences including the chance to drive a Ferrari or Maserati, a Disney vacation, and a New York, New York getaway. All these plus jewelry, home and garden gifts and much more are yours for the picking!

Tickets to the event or raffle tickets can be purchased securely online at <https://tek.ejoinme.org/bubblebash> or by calling Carey Smith, Director of Resource Development at (773) 506-3880. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Carolyn Nopar**
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newsletter

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This is a cute spring soap, great for baby showers and children's gifts. Or as a cute soap in your guest bathroom. It is a mild soap that works for everyone from babies to adults. Buy some today!





The Enterprising Kitchen
4426 North Ravenswood
Chicago, IL 60640

Introducing Choices Organics Avocado Citrus Mint from CHOICES at The Enterprising Kitchen

The women of TEK are proud to unveil our new certified organic line of products! The new Avocado Citrus Mint scent has been crafted to revitalize your skin while refreshing your look. Avocado oil was chosen as an essential ingredient in the new line of products because the avocado plant is a highly renewable resource. Other benefits to TEK's new organic line include:

- Avocado Oil moisturizes and rejuvenates your skin.
- The Citrus blend of organically grown orange, lemon and lime tones your skin and invigorates your mood.
- Our Mint blend of natural and organic peppermints and spearmints help freshen your skin and center your focus.

"The concept of making a product from start to finish — and one that is certified organic and exceptional in quality — is an extremely powerful training tool for women who are transitioning from unemployment and underemployment to self-sufficiency," said Carolyn Nopar, TEK's Executive Director.

To purchase the new organic line or to view TEK's other products, please visit our website at <http://www.theenterprisingkitchen.org/store> or call (773) 506-3880.