

Writing Her Story: Inspirational Hoosier Women

Cindy Felsten



Cindy Felsten was born a natural leader. In the many roles that she has filled, both personally and professionally, she has excelled to show the difference that one woman can make.

Cindy has won many accolades for the work she has done in her career as an interior architect, as a fundraiser, and as a volunteer. She insists, however, that her accomplishments are not her own, but are her community's and her organization's. As a member of the Business & Professional Women's Organization, Cindy has helped to raise awareness on many issues affecting women and families. Her passion translates into action. "I like to help so that people are able to have a community where everyone can live to their potential equally."

Cindy is particularly passionate about pay equity. Not only has she been subject to pay discrimination, but she has seen how it affects other women. "When you are a single parent and you have children to raise and you are not being paid equitably, it hurts all around – in retirement, in bringing the children up, and your total income in your household." She served as the lead on getting a pay equity bill passed in Indiana two years ago and encourages other women to ensure equal representation in the workforce and all aspects of life.

As a commissioner for the Indiana Commission for Women, Cindy has continued to help move Indiana Women forward. "I feel in Indiana, in women's issues we are so behind in so many ways...I think it is important to exist because we need to be a one-point where people can get information on women – whether it be different research issues, where

they can find or go for resources, or any information about women - period!"

Cindy has always been moved to help others. She attributes who she is today to her maternal grandmother and aunt who always spoke their mind and fought for the rights of people. She has been a mentor, a mediator, and a motivator. "It makes me proud to see someone - a woman - succeed after really striving, working hard, and really showing that she can do it, but also how it comes back to help her in the long run, or short run, and how she can help and benefit others."

It makes me proud to see someone - a woman - succeed after really striving, working hard, and really showing that she can do it, but also how it comes back to help her in the long run, or short run, and how she can help and benefit others.

There are many women like Cindy in Indiana who work tirelessly to help others and to promote equity in our communities. Cindy encourages women to join networks, women's

organizations where they have a sounding board and can share resources and get help overcoming issues.

Cindy's final advice to women: VOTE. If we want to make Indiana a better place to live, work, and raise a family, then women need to "stand on their own, do their research, and vote who they think would do best for the state."

Women in Indiana have an important role to play. You can make a difference by:

- Voicing your opinion
- Serving as an advocate for women
- Voting
- Mentoring another woman
- Learning more about the issues that affect women in Indiana.

Go to www.in.gov/icw to learn more about the Indiana Commission for Women and their current initiatives.

INDIANA
COMMISSION
for women