

WFWP USA: Well Done! A Big Thank You to Mrs. Kiyomi Schmidt!

Angelika Selle
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Ms. Kiyomi Schmidt, has worked with and invested into WFWP USA wholeheartedly over the past 7 years, from December 2014 until November 2021.

She started as an Administrative Assistant, creating systems, streamlining and documenting our operations, creating supportive materials, while also serving the chairwomen in the field. More recently her work shifted to being the WFWP's Outreach Coordinator, focusing on promoting ongoing events, activities, and vision on social media. Kiyomi also created a new website, assisted with national assemblies, and the development and launch of the Global Women's Peace Network, in particular she created the Global Friends feature. Her outstanding work ethics and professionalism, paired with kindness, grace, humility and willingness to serve anyone who asked for help touched all she came in contact with from the local to the national and international levels!

If you have attended any of the WFWP international or national programs and conferences in the past years, chances are Kiyomi had a hand in helping to create a warm, welcoming, and also well organized environment and program for all guests. She has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to support the President and give WFWP an amazing boost in our public image. On the international level Kiyomi represented WFWP with dignity, and professionalism, and was respected by all.

You can read more about some of her personal reflections from working with WFWP [here](#) and [here](#).



One slideshow of many featuring Kiyomi's work and participation in WFWP over the last seven years.

To thank Kiyomi for her seven years of loyal service and her countless contributions to WFWP, the Home Office held a Thank you and Good-bye party, inviting all of those leaders and members in WFWP who have been impacted by her work. Many personal stories were shared about Kiyomi's kindness, creative spirit, amazing work ethic and intellect as well as her heart of service and how much everyone will miss her.

Please, read a few of the comments shared about her below, especially the "Ode to Kiyomi" written by Shirley Chimes, WFWP Board member.

We wish Kiyomi much luck in her future endeavors, knowing that she will shine wherever she goes. In our hearts we also believe we will connect with her again in the future.

"When I interviewed Kiyomi for the job I asked her: "What is your passion and what do you like to do? And I could not believe what I heard. "I like to work hard and I like pressure." ...Kiyomi has an incredibly sharp intellect. I called her many times when I needed help. I am very grateful. You did your job completely well. You inherited well. You received what God wanted to give you here. We are so proud of you." (President Selle)

"I felt comfortable because she was always there and reliable. She has a creative spirit, humility and a heart of service. She was just a phone call away. One text away. She always responded to me with such heart."

"Kiyomi was always the person behind the scenes that made us look good"

"It was all heart behind the scenes. She really really cared for others, and was very considerate. I really admire that quality in you Kiyomi"

"We really treasure just the fact you have been here all these years. The memories will always be there."

"You are extremely smart and talented. You always had all the right answers. Just your calm spirit sets the tone for me"

"When we went to Arizona we had a party. I mean partee. Oh my I could not believe what I saw. You are the daughter everyone wants, the sister everyone wants, just this friend everyone would want... you are the person everyone would want to be working with."

"Kiyomi is very capable but she is also fun"

"We love you, thank you, may God Bless you on your journey"



Participants in the good bye party for Kiyomi.

To top it all off Shirley Chimes wrote the following in honor of Kiyomi:

Ode to Kiyomi,

This ode is meant to be sung

but I am not at the point where it can be done

These words are an ode to Kiyomi

who is moving on a bit
blessings to her as she sees fit
Thanks to her a million-fold
There are too many words to be told
GWPN inaugurals, Global Friends
they all give homage to her in the end
Phones, technology, computers and more
she poured out her heart through the doors
Best wishes to her, her husband and their cat
let's remember to call her and chat
Her new job will allow her to grow
and may her skills shine and glow
May peace be with you, Kiyomi, and may it show.

Editor's Note: Kiyomi is the outgoing Outreach Director, WFWP USA and Secretary General North America



LIFE SKILLS I GAINED FROM WFWP: STOP LETTING YOUR FEARS KEEP YOU FROM ACCOMPLISHING GREAT THINGS

May 30, 2019 · Kiyomi Schmidt, Outreach Director

I have always taken school very seriously, but as I grow older I realize that there are so many life skills that you don't learn in the classroom, like confidence, determining your value system, facing your fears, or trailblazing something new. And through working with WFWP over the past four and a half years, I have gained new experiences that have challenged me to develop life skills outside of what I needed before.



While I have many strengths, I acknowledge my innate weaknesses in certain social settings. I have always been a bit shy or timid, which makes public speaking, voicing my opinions, and making conversation with new people feel overwhelming. (Not to mention the added challenge for a self-proclaimed planner to do these things off the cuff of my sleeve.)

I have heard the idea many times that you should just focus on what you are good at, and someone else will fill in the gaps. And for a long time, I believed that. While it is true that teamwork and utilizing each other's strengths can be a really important tool, I think with only that mindset we end up *selling ourselves short*.

Why? Because when we tell ourselves time and time again that we are no good at something, we start to define what we can and can't do. When I told myself I am no good at public speaking, I created my own self-imposed wall of what I can't do. Instead of working on that weakness, I avoided it at all costs, leaving myself to approach the idea with paralyzing fear.

When I started working with WFWP, I had zero interest in public speaking, to the point where I brought it up in my interview. Well, the joke was on me because just three months into the job I was asked to speak during a United Nations Commission on the Status of Women event in front of hundreds of people. And even though I strongly did

not want to, I felt like I can't let my fear allow me to pass up this opportunity. So I did it, felt accomplished, and took a sigh of relief thinking that was the end of it...

Spoiler alert - that was just the beginning. Since then, I have emceed events featuring high end speakers, given trainings and presentations, spoken on conference calls, videos, board meetings, and much more. And each time it is still a major challenge for me to get over the nerves and the fears. But every time I do, that self-imposed wall gets a little bit shorter and seems a little less insurmountable.



2015 CSW

Through working with WFP, I found I had so many ideas I wanted to make happen, like video ideas or social media posts, and the only way for me to do it was to face my fears and stop worrying about what other people might think. I had something I wanted to accomplish and it was literally only me and my fears standing in my way!

I decided, in that case, I might as well take a step forward and try, accept the fact that I will definitely fumble along the way, and know that is okay.

This has empowered me in my own life, giving me confidence to speak out on things that matter to me, and to do things I normally would never do.

Two recent examples:

- A few days ago a man commented on my body after I had passed him and was already a few steps ahead. Instead of pretending I didn't hear and just letting his comment bother me, I confidently turned around and walked toward him. You could tell he wasn't expecting it, as he shriveled back into the wall and meekly said "it was just a compliment." I looked at him straight in the eyes and said "Your creepiness is not a compliment. Get it straight." And I walked away with confidence instead of feeling defeated, as I had experienced the power in speaking up.

- The second example was when I noticed one of my favorite YouTube stars in the coffee shop I frequent. The thought of asking him for a photo was making me hyperventilate. I knew if I waited until I was ready, the moment would certainly pass. So instead I took the first step by just standing out of my seat. Then I committed to taking one step forward, then two, and somehow made it to where he was sitting, where I spewed a few jumbled, unplanned words out of my mouth asking for a photo. I accepted that my delivery was less than perfect and that I may have embarrassed myself, but the reward was much greater as I did something I would have otherwise only daydreamed about.

I have been noticing more of my friends and people in my life that are too afraid to go after what they want, full of self-doubt in their own capabilities or shyness.

So I want to say to you that when you are the only one standing in your way, know that you are the only one who can change that!! Take the first step and see what happens!



PREVIOUS

BOOK REVIEW: DON'T LET THE CULTURE RAISE YOUR KIDS

NEXT

OPEN WIDE THE DOOR TO YOUR INNER CIRCLE: PEACE STARTS WITH ME AND MY FAMILY IN CHANDLER, ARIZONA



481 8th Ave. Suite 1228, New York, NY 10001 - 1 (212) 302-8837 - info@wfpw.us
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How WFWP USA has been Impacting: A Reflection on Building Confidence and Realizing Dreams

April 26, 2021 · Kiyomi Schmidt, Outreach Director

As we just celebrated the 29th Anniversary of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), I am reminded of all I have gained as a result of being a part of WFWP.

My name is Kiyomi, and I have been involved with WFWP USA for the past six years. Early on in my involvement, I recall reading the WFWP USA vision and mission statement and wondered, how is WFWP tangibly achieving these grand and lofty goals, such as establishing a *culture of heart*, a *supportive community*, or *lasting peace*? But as I sit here many years later, I want to confirm that, yes, these changes are happening, and I have seen the impact WFWP has had in all of these areas and more.



Focusing on the mission statement, what we do is empower women with knowledge, skills, and supportive community, to discover our own unique value, so that we can in turn contribute to lasting peace.

In terms of leadership skills, one of the main things I have personally learned through WFWP is the **importance of believing in yourself to build something from nothing**. And that starts with committing yourself to something worthwhile, and putting in the effort to make it happen.

We all have thoughts and dreams of something we would love to do. But once reality hits, our fears and excuses often get in the way. Thinking about what projects or career I should invest into, I often found myself thinking 'someone else would be better at that' or 'I don't have enough experience,' or 'I didn't go to school for that.'

Over time, I have come to learn that I don't have to be the expert to commit myself and initiate something worthwhile. As a small example, WFWP USA needed to build a new website from scratch. I had zero experience start to finish, from design, coding, and web layout. I committed myself to learn and do my best, and now many people can benefit from the website that was created.

This mentality has impacted all other areas of my life. I developed the confidence to

start my own eco-friendly business, grow a successful backyard garden, and I'm initiating fitness projects to inspire people to get moving.

Seeing many homeless people living in my neighborhood, I felt a pull to do something about it. Instead of waiting for an opportunity to fall in my lap, like I would have before, I formulated a plan, considered my resources, and did something about it. As I traveled quite often, I began to bring home any unused essentials such as shampoo and bars of soap from my trips. Then I would purchase free products online using rebates, such as packs of bamboo toothbrushes. Every few months I would use these and create individual care packages with granola bars, and drop them off along nearby 'tent communities'. More recently, as I do my spring cleaning, I consider if my clothes or shoes would be of service to others before throwing anything out.

Those who are peace leaders are moved by a worthwhile vision or idea, and find the confidence to do something about it.

What are your dreams? Where is your heart pulling you? What is stopping you from getting started?

To those with little experience or don't know where to get started, I would highly encourage to look for a way to get involved and find something to commit to. Maybe you are looking to become a writer, and commit to contributing articles to the Logic of Love News. Or maybe you want to become an event planner, and offer to support your local chapter's next enriching program. Along the way, you might find your network has expanded, you have gained new skills and experiences, and eventually develop a newfound confidence in yourself.

You definitely have something important to contribute to the world. And you have a supportive community in WFWP to reach that potential.



PREVIOUS

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NEXT

Wisdom from Women Leaders on Achieving Domestic Peace: Online Webinar hosted by WFWP Canada



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