

SPECIAL FOCUS: Women in Business

In 2005, the Regional Women's Initiative at Chatham College undertook a comprehensive study of the 11-county southwestern Pennsylvania region to look at the status of women in the area. Factors examined included political participation, employment and economic status, social and economic autonomy, reproductive rights and health/well-being.

When all the factors were measured, Washington County ranked first overall for the status of women in southwestern Pennsylvania. Although the county did not rank highest on any

individual measure, we ranked second for health/well-being and our area hospitals were particularly noted as beneficial to women, our readership area and throughout the county.

Also of note was the number of women involved in politics on a local level. When it comes to economic status/autonomy, Washington County women rank squarely in the middle (i.e. 5th out of 11 counties).

Women in Washington County are making strides in business as well

as proving themselves to be crucial leaders of non-profit organizations. Women tend to build relationships that go beyond the typical male-dominated business world. And women like to help other women, as our story about "Women Helping Women" shows.

As a woman-owned enterprise, *Washington Crossroads Magazine* is proud to celebrate women throughout the region who are making a difference both small and large in southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond.



“Your husband is on line two. He says it’s an emergency. He wants to know how to work the microwave.”