

ADVANCING THE CAUSE OF WOMEN.

This narrative is about ANNE HOIBERG -- a remarkable woman whose dedication to advancing women's place in society stands out for its effectiveness and contagious enthusiasm. Anne's involvement goes back forty years. Despite her demanding job as a research psychologist (working for the Navy, with focus on health issues), Anne soon became a pioneer in promoting change aimed at breaking down any kind of barriers that held women behind or resulted in unequal treatment.

Examples of Anne's involvements: American Psychological Association, UN Commission on Women, US State Department, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, United Nations Association/Women's Equity Council. Anne's work has been guided by a devotion to the common good, fundamental belief in social justice, and a keen understanding of the subtle ways in which women in general tend to be abused in some way. Hence her untiring efforts to encourage and support women to run for elective office; to struggle for equal pay; to identify and reduce any form of violence. And so Anne's work and commitment has also involved promoting peace and justice in a broader sense—keenly aware that women tend to be the first to suffer from any form of injustice or conflict.

Anne's current involvement includes her leadership role at the Women's Museum – dedicated to expanding its role into a Women's Center bringing together and uniting women from all organizations to maximize their effectiveness.

What is the “secret” of Anne's success? Very simple in a way: a genuine love and commitment to building a sense of community whereby people can support each other and share common goals. Hence Anne reaching out, for

decades, to fellow-human beings with grace and enthusiasm and hope – engaging and enticing people to become involved in searching for ways to bring equality to women. But consistently for Anne, the focus has not just been on women per se; rather, on the inspiring belief that by improving the lot of women in society we are in fact improving all of society.

Anne would of course insist that her role has been quite modest and that lots of other people have helped her along the way. This is correct. But the important detail is that Anne has consistently been the initiator, the humble person who does her home-work and then carefully mobilizes dozens of other people to join her efforts. By so doing, Anne has inspired and drawn others into her many initiatives.

Anne Hoiberg is currently President of the Board of Directors at the Women's Museum.

[Prepared by Primo Vannicelli, United Nations Association – San Diego Outreach Chair]