But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."  

Matthew 19:26 (ESV)
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19 Project Possible – A Work in Progress

Matthew 19:26 (ESV)
The saying goes, when God gives you a vision, He also makes provision for it to come to pass. Such is the case with Project Possible.

In the early months of 2013, I shared my vision for this broad initiative with you, my dear sisters of the First District. You heard it, you embraced it and you acted on it. I was humbled by your immediate support and overwhelmed by your enthusiastic involvement from day one.

I applaud the efforts of the Conference Branch Project Possible Coordinators, and the leadership of the Project Possible District Manager, in bringing us to this point in time, when we can celebrate all that has been accomplished during Phase I.

As a part of Phase I, all Conference Branches got busy brainstorming a project that could help to alleviate a critical women’s issue in their respective regions. I am excited by the passion, compassion, commitment and research that went into the selection process. Seven tragically persistent ills that have affected women and their children for far too long are going to be addressed—and, hopefully, eradicated—as a result of the work of the Conference Branches comprising the First Episcopal District.

The initiatives that have been selected are wide ranging, reflective of the pressing concerns in the neighborhoods, cities, counties, states and territory where our Conference Branches are located.

I can hardly wait to see what God is going to do to improve the condition of women—as well as their children, families and communities—through these projects. Senior citizens, both men and women, also will benefit from the outreach of one Conference Branch that refused to leave them behind. Love and concern on this level can only be inspired by God.

The plans have been developed. Now it is time to implement them. It is my prayer that each Conference Branch will do all that is required to breathe life into these initiatives. Broken women, uneducated children and homeless seniors are counting on you to do whatever is required to help make their lives better, and to equip them so that they can be the difference in someone else’s life down the road.

Be advised: You may not have all of the resources you need to complete the task. You may not have all of the people you need to tackle every area of the plan. But you must not allow what you do not have to prevent you from getting started with what you do have.

Leadership requires sacrifice. Words cannot express my appreciation for the time, talent and, yes, dollars you have sacrificed thus far to make Project Possible a reality. Please continue to press toward the mark, for I know that when we get there, women’s lives will be transformed, gender inequality will be a step closer to being eradicated and God will be glorified!

With rejoicing in the possible,

Rev. Jessica
To All Members and Friends of the Women’s Missionary Society,
I cannot fully express how humbled and honored I feel to have been selected to serve as the District Manager for this most incredible outreach initiative, Project Possible. I thank our District President, Mrs. Jewel D. McAshan, for the recommendation and extend my gratitude to our Supervisor, Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram, for her confidence in my ability to coordinate this work, which was inspired by her vision from God.

Project Possible is an innovative initiative that engages all missionaries of the First Episcopal District in Conference Branch service projects. Project Possible has an overarching goal of “Eradicating Gender Inequality among Women of Color.” Toward this end, each Conference Branch had to identify a need within its geographic region that would result in positive change in the lives of the women, families and communities to be targeted. Some of the critical issues to be addressed include domestic violence, homelessness, unemployment and crime. Our local Societies have chosen to tackle these issues through mentoring programs, housing-referral services, career-development workshops and support groups. I could not be prouder of the depth and breadth of the initiatives that will be coming to fruition over the next few months.

Dedicated and committed Project Possible Coordinators were selected by each Conference Branch President to design and implement these local initiatives. Since the beginning of 2013, these Coordinators have worked diligently to develop timelines, assess resources and partner with numerous social and political entities in their regions to reach their goals of bringing stability, equality and empowerment to women in desperate situations.

As we move forward, we will establish a Project Possible Advisory Council on the District level. The distinguished women who will be selected to serve on the Advisory Council need not be members of the WMS. They must, however, be committed to the principles and goals that undergird Project Possible. The Advisory Council will be charged with determining the focus of a unique, District-level initiative that will be announced at our Fall Convocation 2014 or by Founder’s Day 2015. Our plan to expand internationally will follow soon thereafter, when we will focus our attention on “Eradicating Gender Inequality among Women of Color—Worldwide.

Before we can move to a global agenda, though, we first must complete the task before us on the domestic front. I would like to thank every woman who has worked to bring us to this place in our ministry of service to suffering women and children throughout the First District. I cannot wait to see how lives will be transformed, burdens lifted and communities strengthened as a result of your efforts. To God be the glory!

Margaret (Peg) V. Davis
First District WMS Second Vice President and Project Possible District Manager

To reach, mentor and support vulnerable women and teen mothers who have been referred to us by our partners, and to collaborate with the Senior Residence Coordinator at the Matilda Smith Williams Seniors Residence (MSWSR) to assist in areas of need.

Project Purpose or Need:
The present economic environment in Bermuda has had its most drastic impact on families, women in particular. Hence, we are experiencing the highest levels of unemployment, homelessness and crime in our history, with more and more families seeking food, clothing and shelter from our Societies. Due to the reduction in government funding, community programmes have been reduced, such as the school for teen mothers. Our seniors are similarly challenged to find resources that can help meet their basic needs and offer supplemental support.

Target Populations:
Females ranging from teen girls to adult women, as well as senior residents at MSWSR.
Expected Accomplishments:
With the help of Almighty God and the assistance of the entire Bermuda Conference Branch Women’s Missionary Society, we will help women lead Empowered lives, which will enable them to become self-Actualized, Restored and Transformed from the constraints that have held them back from achieving their goals and dreams. We further will assist teen mothers in achieving their high school diplomas and work to empower women to increase their opportunities for socio-economic stability. Additionally, we intend to heighten our visibility in the MSWSR beyond our current commitment.

Project Possible Coordinator:
Mrs. Bonnie L. Smith

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Mrs. Valerie A. Smith at 1-441-236-2322

Bermuda Conference Branch WMS Officers:
President ......................... Mrs. Valerie A. Smith
First Vice President ............... Mrs. Eunice L. Jones
Second Vice President ............ Mrs. Cynthy Thompson
Third Vice President .............. Ms. Juliette Smith
Asst. Recording Secretary ........ Mrs. Lesilene Williams
Corresponding Secretary ........ Mrs. Pauline Walker
Treasurer .......................... Mrs. E. M. Lovette Brangman
Historiographer/Statistician ........ Ms. Coral Wilson
YPD Director ........................ Mrs. Elizabeth Davis Smith
YPD President ........................ Miss Kelechi Jones
Parliamentarian .................... Mrs. Grenell Stocks
Worship Director ................... Mrs. Deborah Wales
NGO Representative ............... Ms. Dwanita Grant
Project “Another Chance” – Standing with Our Sisters

As God is a God of another chance, The Delaware Conference Branch Women’s Missionary Society (DCBWMS) will follow in His steps as we embark on Project Possible. Our project, entitled “Another Chance,” will focus on women who are exiting the Delaware prison system. Our goal is to assist them in the areas of spiritual growth, education, career preparation, family life and social awareness/interaction. While these are broad areas, direct individual assistance will be given where there is the greatest need. As we stand with our sisters, we extend our arms out to embrace and help them, as we reach up to God for continued strength, guidance and direction.

Project Purpose or Need:
Project “Another Chance” will be an opportunity for the DCBWMS to help our sisters who are being released from incarceration to remember and/or realize that they are fearfully and wonderfully made by God, our Creator. Through our intervention, we hope to instill the belief that even though the choices they made in the past resulted in a negative outcome (incarceration), those choices do not have to dictate the outcome of their future. By working to change their thought processes, our sisters will not become repeat offenders, but will improve spiritual relationships, attain education levels that may result in enhanced employment opportunities, experience more secure family lives and take pride in their ability to positively participate in their communities.

Target Population:
Women exiting the State of Delaware prison system.
Expected Accomplishments:

We expect to assist the targeted population in five key areas:

1. **Spiritual Growth:** Fellowship with them through weekly Bible studies, prayer partner(s) or sister circles.

2. **Education:** Assist them with completion of high school, attainment of a high-school diploma or its equivalent GED, or entrance into post-secondary studies.

3. **Career/Employment Preparation:** Improve their job-seeking skills, such as (but not limited to) preparing résumés, completing employment applications and mastering employment interviews.

4. **Family Life:** Equip those returning to children and/or spouses with essential transitional tools, such as (but not limited to) parenting and/or communication skills, housing and financial planning.

5. **Social Awareness/Interaction:** Offer tools and tips that will increase their awareness of issues that affect them personally, as well as their families and communities.

**Project Possible Coordinator:**

Sis. Janet Bordley

**For More Information Please Contact:**

Sis. Janet Bordley at janet1137@comcast.net

**Delaware Conference Branch WMS Officers:**

President .............................................. Sis. Wanda M. Hunt
First Vice President ............................... Sis. Deborah Dunbar
Second Vice President ......................... Sis. Mary Ann Curry
Third Vice President ............................. Sis. Lolita Sims
Recording Secretary ......................... Sis. April Browne
Asst. Recording Secretary ..................... Sis. Keena Spence
Treasurer ............................................... Sis. Janet Bordley
Historiographer/Statistician .................. Sis. Timah Ricketts-West
YPD Director ........................................ Sis. Sebrena Taylor
PME Director ........................................ Sis. Carrie Daniel
Parliamentarian ................................. Sis. Delores Price
Worship Director ................................. Sis. Delores Foster
Name of Initiative:
Project “Pivotal”

Project Description or Mission:
Girls in our target group are typically not properly exposed or encouraged to pursue careers in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). In addition to not having this critical exposure, in many instances they do not have the benefit of encouragement from role models, mentors and supportive networks required to help them navigate through their formative years. We believe the STEM areas are where the careers of the future lie.

Project Purpose or Need:
The purpose of Project “Pivotal” is to provide girls much-needed exposure to STEM in engaging and nonthreatening formats, so that they will gain interest in, overcome possible fears of and dispel stereotypical notions about careers in STEM. We also hope to instill in them confidence, self-awareness and self-motivation. However, they cannot thrive or successfully pursue STEM, if they do not have the proper role models and interactions. Our aim is to provide them with the “safety nets” and exposure they need to become productive citizens, to encourage them to pursue college and to help them identify other sustainable programs and agencies that could help them overcome any obstacles that could possibly disrupt their positive journey.

Target Population:
Girls ages 12-18 from urban communities. Primarily, these girls will be from underprivileged homes. Some will have been exposed to incidences of domestic violence and other social ills.

New England Conference Branch Women’s Missionary Society
Expected Accomplishments:
The New England Conference Branch WMS expects to become a “pivotal” point in the lives of these young girls by aiding in their overall development, affirming their ability to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles and enabling them to see and aspire to a bright future in a STEM area.

**Project Possible Coordinators:**
Sis. Paulette Evans and Sis. Eva Smith

**For More Information Please Contact:**
Sis. Paulette Evans at pauletteevans9@comcast.net
or Sis. Eva Smith at eva.smith720@gmail.com

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**New England Conference Branch WMS Officers:**

President .................................................. Sis. Edwina Mays
First Vice President .......................... Sis. Christine Sears
Second Vice President ............. Sis. Carole Copeland Thomas
Third Vice President ......................... Sis. Teresa Jenkins
Recording Secretary ..................... Sis. Jennifer Little Greer
Asst. Recording Secretary ........... Sis. Willie Mae Watkins
Corresponding Secretary ............... Sis. Brenda Birch
Treasurer ........................................... Sis. Veronica Williams
YPD Director .......................... Sis. Crystal Glasscock Stephens
YPD President ........................ Sis. Krystal Harris
PME Director .......................... Sis. C. Mae Bunch
Parliamentarian ......................... Sis. Ethel M. W. Jenkins
Worship Director ......................... Rev. Katrina Jones
Member-at-Large ......................... Sis. Trisha Josephs
Name of Initiative:
Project “Skills That Propel”

Project Description or Mission:
Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed. (Proverbs 16:3, NLT)
Our mission is to give women the tools and techniques required to self-assess the skills and interests already existing within them that can be developed to yield personal income, while providing the community around them with a viable product or service.

Project Purpose or Need:
• To provide opportunities that assist women in discovering their skills and interests.
• To motivate women to use their passions to create projects that fulfill their purpose.
• To identify skills that can increase the earning potential of women and lead them to financial stability and independence.

Target Population:
Adult women seeking self-actualization.
Expected Accomplishments:
• Help women discover their spiritual identity and inner worth.
• Create mentoring relationships to assist women in creating businesses.
• Promote long-term stability for family well-being.

Project Possible Coordinators:
Sis. Torna Brown-Bell, Rev. Melinda Contreas-Byrd, Rev. Valerie Hughes, Sis. Helena Monroe, Rev. Darlene Reynolds and Sis. Zina Ashley Tompkins

For More Information Please Contact:
Rev Darlene Reynolds at rdj266@yahoo.com

New Jersey Conference Branch WMS Officers:
President ........................................... Sis. Patricia Nira Smith
First Vice President .............................. Sis. Wilma Robinson
Second Vice President .......................... Sis. Darlene Justice
Third Vice President ............................. Sis. Gloria Pettiford
Recording Secretary ............................ Sis. Brenda Y. Green
Asst. Recording Secretary ....................... Sis. Gloria McClain
Corresponding Secretary ........................ Sis. Victoria Gandy
Treasurer ............................................. Sis. Lois Perren
Historiographer/Statistician ..................... Sis. Josephine Horton
YPD Director ....................................... Sis. Laverne Mackey-Merritt
PME Director ....................................... Sis. Bernice Dillings
Parliamentarian .................................... Sis. Sheila Bell
Worship Director ................................... Sis. Juanita Moss
Member-at-Large .................................. Sis. Courtney Marable
Name of Initiative:
Project “W.I.N.” (Women In Need)

Project Description or Mission:
To empower women to move from histories of alcoholism, drug abuse, violence and crime to lives filled with hope, resilience and self-sufficiency.

Project Purpose or Need:
After several years of providing counseling, tutoring and parenting skills for women as an alternative to incarceration, the Women’s Opportunity and Resource Center (WORC) program, operating under the Economic Assistance Corporation, was defunded due to budget cuts. WORC has operated independently since 2011. The program is in critical need of funding and permanent space to assure continuity of care for women seeking assistance.

Target Population:
Women from poor socio-economic conditions who will be referred to us by the Nassau County criminal-justice system and other agencies on Long Island. Typically, participants will be 18 years of age and older. Their life experiences will include histories of family violence, mental illness, alcohol/substance abuse and other related challenges.
Expected Accomplishments:

- Assist the WORC program with the completion and submission of grant applications and the identification of new funding streams.
- Provide onsite support to the WORC program through WMS volunteer workforce initiatives, such as counselors, workshop leaders and teachers.
- Strengthen linkages with other community based organizations, such as the Nassau/Suffolk Law Services, Fortune Society, Legal Aid Society, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Five Towns Community Center and local treatment agencies.
- Increase the awareness of WORC clients and the community to program services and benefits throughout Nassau County through community education and outreach activities.
- Replicate the WORC Hempstead program model in other areas of the Conference, such as Suffolk County, Queens County, Brooklyn and The Bronx through local churches and the WMS.

Project Possible Coordinators:
Ms. Arita Babb, Ms. Amber Burgess-Greene, Ms. Alexis Gadsden and Ms. Tina Hines

For More Information Please Contact:
Ms. Tina Hines at thines8@verizon.net

New York Conference Branch WMS Officers:

President ........................................... Ms. Shermanita Dixon
First Vice President ................. Mrs. Melissa Garvin-Birddell
Second Vice President ....................... Mrs. Clyde Correa
Third Vice President .....................Ms. Coleen Williams-Lewis
Recording Secretary ......................... Ms. Eunice Gibbs
Asst. Recording Secretary.............. Ms. Lois Darby
Corresponding Secretary ........... Ms. Doris Parker
Treasurer ............................................. Ms. Doris Evans
Financial Secretary .......................... Ms. Dianne Hodnett (Appointed)
Historiographer/Statistician ............. Ms. Elfrieda Parrilla
YPD Director ................................. Ms. Linda Snead Adelaja
PME Director ................................. Ms. Daisy Brunson Fox
Parliamentarian ............................. Ms. Antoinette Miller
Worship Director ............................. Ms. Wilhelmina Sweeting
Member-at-Large ......................... Mrs. Jennifer Hodnett
Name of Initiative:
Project “L.E.A.P” (Leadership, Education, Attitude and Preparation)

Project Description:
Project L.E.A.P. is designed to assist single parents in realizing their intellectual potential through participation in a meaningful academic program. The parents will be expected to meet the requirements for a high school diploma or to acquire a G.E.D certificate. Each woman will be encouraged to pursue postsecondary education and will receive guidance related to her career choice. Each woman will develop parenting and socialization skills that will help her navigate through life and build strong relationships with her children, family and others in the community. Each parent will be given tools to assist her children in obtaining a meaningful education.

Project Mission:
To equip single parents and their children to become future leaders through the achievement of educational goals, the development of positive attitudes and exposure to preparation skills that will empower them to overcome the challenges that impede their success.

Project Purpose or Need:
Many female single parents between the ages of 17 and 30 enter into alternative educational programs to earn their high-school diplomas. Unfortunately, they are unable to complete the process or advance to postsecondary education because of various barriers that impede their success. The following statistics confirm this regrettable reality:

- Fewer than 40% of female single parents earn high-school diplomas.
- Fewer than 20% of these females are accepted into four-year college programs.
- Fewer than 5% of these females complete a four-year college program.

Some of the above facts are the result of the following sad realities:

- Many female single parents do not have the skills needed to strike a balance between the achievement of their educational goals and the commitment required to properly raise their children.
- Many female single parents lack awareness of and/or lack the ability to navigate the complexities of federal, state, and city educational programs that are available to them.
**Project Objectives:**

1. To identify the barriers experienced by female single parents that impede their academic progress, especially their successful completion of alternative high-school education programs.

2. To identify federal, state and city educational programs for female single parents.

3. To identify additional resources that will facilitate successful parenting while pursuing academic success by:
   a. Working with the School District of Philadelphia to equip female alternative-education students to assist their children with homework and overcome their own academic challenges.
   b. Organizing and establishing a clearinghouse of City of Philadelphia resources for women who meet the criteria of the project.
   c. Providing educational information, workshops and programs that address healthy eating habits for youth and children, through collaboration with the City of Philadelphia Health Department.
   d. Assisting with the completion of higher-education and financial-aid applications.
   e. Working with higher-education programs to monitor and support the transition from high school to two- or four-year colleges.

**Target Population:**

Female single parents between the ages of 17 and 30 who have returned to high school through alternative-educational programs to earn their diplomas and continue on to vocational training or postsecondary education.

**Expected Accomplishments:**

- Increase the graduation rate among female single parents who pursue alternative education.
- Prepare each female single parent to join the workforce through vocational training and/or completion of postsecondary education.

**Project Possible Coordinators:**

Ms. Rosalie Buckner, Ms. Franceania Jenkins and Ms. Audrey Nock

**For More Information Please Contact:**

Ms. Franceania (Fran) Jenkins at (610) 564-4433

**Philadelphia Conference Branch WMS Officers:**

President .............................................Ms. Connie M. Smith
First Vice President .................................Ms. Arlene Turner
Second Vice President ..............................Ms. Phyliss Ruffin
Third Vice President ...............................Ms. Mildred Gilyard
Recording Secretary ...............................Ms. Rosemary Manley
Asst. Recording Secretary .........................Ms. Yvette Mattaway
Corresponding Secretary ..........................Ms. Natoya Travers
Treasurer ..............................................Ms. Elizabeth Boone
Historiographer/Statistician ........................Ms. Elberta Joe
YPD Director .......................................Ms. Susan Butler
PME Director .................................Ms. Ressola McCollum
Parliamentarian .................................Ms. Rosalie Buckner
Worship Director ...............................Ms. Julia Robinson
Member-at-Large ...............................Ms. Shenita Mansfield
Name of Initiative:
Project: “The H.O.P.E. Enterprise” (Helping Others, Promoting Excellence)

Project Description or Mission:
The H.O.P.E. Enterprise seeks to eradicate gender-based inequality by assisting victims of domestic violence.

Project Purpose or Need:
Domestic violence is an epidemic that affects members of every community, regardless of age, race, economic status, religious affiliation or nationality. An estimated 85% of domestic-violence victims are women. One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Domestic violence deprives women from living safe, healthy lives and from tapping into their full potential to contribute to their families, communities and economies. This results in societal dysfunctions, such as broken families, the perpetual misbehavior of children and weakened communities.

The H.O.P.E. Enterprise will collaborate with domestic-violence shelters located within the geographical boundaries of the Western New York Conference Branch Women’s Missionary Society. Program services include four key areas:
2. Resources: Provide transitional resources.
3. Follow-up Services: Provide mentoring and spiritual support.

Target Population:
The H.O.P.E. Enterprise will target women victimized by domestic violence who are seeking a safe haven and assistance through domestic-violence shelters located within the geographical boundaries of the Western New York Conference Branch Women’s Missionary Society.

Western New York Conference Branch Women’s Missionary Society

Matthew 19:26 (ESV)
Expected Accomplishments:
After participation in the program, women will be equipped with life skills and resources they need to become self-sufficient.
To assist in achieving its goals, The H.O.P.E Enterprise has formed invaluable partnerships with the New York State Domestic Violence Coalition and the Congressional Office of The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter, original co-author of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and member of a coalition that fought for the passage of the VAWA Reauthorization of 2013.

Project Possible Coordinators:
Sis. Emma Dixon and Sis. Cynthia Herriott-Sullivan

For More Information Please Contact:
Sis. Emma Dixon at mathstar49@hotmail.com or Sis. Cynthia Herriott-Sullivan at cherri4849@aol.com

Western New York Conference Branch WMS Officers:
President ............................................. Sis. Charmaine Cohen-Johnson
First Vice President ................................. Rev. Jeanette Johnson
Second Vice President ............................. Sis. Fatima Johnson
Third Vice President ............................... Sis. Valeria Thomas
Recording Secretary ................................ Sis. Elaine Bess
Treasurer .................................................. Sis. Bertha Webb
YPD Director .......................................... Sis. Paula Young
PME Director .......................................... Rev. Lois Cobb
Parliamentarian ...................................... Sis. Caroline Hoffman-Veasey
Worship Director ..................................... Sis. Angela McDowell
Member at-Large ..................................... Sis. Sonia Croxie
Project Possible – A Work in Progress

Much has been accomplished since the task of translating the vision for Project Possible into reality began early in 2013. But much more needs to be done before we can declare victory in this glorious venture.

There is no time to rest. Project Possible remains a work in progress, as outlined below:

Phase II: 2013-2014 – Implement Conference Branch Initiatives

Each Conference Branch is to be commended for developing a much-needed project as the focus of its domestic initiative. We now must move from the theoretical to the practical. We now must take what is on paper and bring it to fruition. The immediate implementation of these initiatives is essential. Women and children, as well as senior citizens and teens, who have been bruised and battered by the vicissitudes of life are awaiting our assistance, our support, our outreach, our love. We can’t let them down.

All Conference Branches should proceed with their implementation strategies, under the direction of the Project Possible District Manager, in conjunction with the Project Possible Conference Branch Coordinators. Now is the time to get the missionaries in your Conference Branch involved and to establish partnerships with organizations and individuals who can help implement your project.

Phase III: 2013-2014 – Establish Advisory Council

We soon will establish a Project Possible Advisory Council. The Council will consist of women who have demonstrated a concern for the work of the WMS (even though they may not be WMS members), who have an affinity for women’s social-justice issues, who are involved in community organizations and who possess the required gifts and professional skills to be advisors for this important work. The Council will craft the focus of Project Possible at the District level. Plans will be presented at either the 2014 Fall Convocation or 2015 Founder’s Day.


We have established and are in the process of implementing our domestic initiatives at the Conference and District levels, by working to make things possible in our local communities and cities. Once our domestic agenda has been achieved, we will be ready to transition to our international focus. Because we will have established a solid, domestic foundation, we will be in a position to determine where to expend our energies to tackle the gender-inequality concerns facing women of color worldwide.
ERADICATING GENDER INEQUALITY AMONG WOMEN OF COLOR WORLDWIDE

An Initiative of the First Episcopal District Women’s Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church

BISHOP GREGORY G. M. INGRAM
Presiding Prelate

REV. DR. JESSICA KENDALL INGRAM
Episcopal Supervisor

MRS. JEWEL D. MCASHAN
District WMS President

MS. L. LYNN ROCHESTER
District YPD Director

MRS. MARGARET (PEG) V. DAVIS
Project Possible District Manager

“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”
Matthew 19:26 (ESV)