

Writing Her Story: Inspirational Hoosier Women

Anne Jacoby



Anne Jacoby emanates personal strength and empowerment. From a young age she learned the value of dignity, respect, rights and limitations. When she was five years old, her father was in a car accident that left him paralyzed in a time prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“He set the framework that we really do have control over our own destiny and we can go as far as we want.” That experience set the framework for the rest of her life.

Anne’s mother subsequently went back to school to become a teacher and took on a professional role when there weren’t a lot of professional women. “As I get older I really look back on my mom and say wow – you were a role model for women.” Her experience and her family taught her not to stereotype roles according to gender and to instead look at what roles fit that person’s needs and desires.

Anne went onto become a very accomplished professional woman herself. Most recently she was the assistant vice president of Community Services at Vincennes University and executive director of the Area 13 Agency on Aging. She reflects on her time as an executive director with nostalgia, “I was really paid for a passion I have...our bosses were the people we were serving, not the people paying our paychecks.”

With all of the achievements in her life, Anne professes that her greatest accomplishment has been her daughters. “It will always be our daughters. That we were able to raise them to be individuals, to stand on their own two feet, [and to] not look at mistakes as mistakes, but as opportunities for learning.”

Anne loved her professional life, but knew that it was time for her next adventure. She is now retired, but still lives a life of purpose and feels strongly about making Indiana a better place to live, work, and raise a family. She is currently serving as treasurer for the Indiana Commission

for Women (ICW) and is passionate about making tomorrow better than today.

In her role as a commissioner for ICW, she is hopeful about the future. “We might be small in the scope of the world, but we are mighty and we are mighty because there are still needs out there that we need to address and we are going to stay true to our mission and values.” While she recognizes that some may feel frustrated that we aren’t moving as fast as they think we can or should, we are still making progress. She is quick to point out that “The progress we’ve made is strong and stable and it’s mission driven.”

Anne hopes that one day we will be able to live in a world where life is viewed through the needs of

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individuals and that we no longer categorize things according to gender, race, or disability.

She would like to see an environment where there is no longer a glass ceiling, there is equitable pay, and where policies in the workplace are gender neutral.

She knows that there are times in life that require that you go out on a limb, to be strong, and to be willing to express what may not always be a popular viewpoint. She encourages women to do just that. “We should be telling our elected officials what we want. It shouldn’t be what the hierarchy is saying we want...Women need to have a voice.”



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

- Voicing your opinion
- Serving as an advocate for women
- Pursuing higher education
- 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.

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