

## **TRACY BOLLINGER BOUCHER '01 B.A.**

Fundraising for a meaningful cause is an important family value

**Jennifer J. Liskow '02G**  
(From: *Rivier Today*, Fall 2010)

“Day to day things are never the same. Certainly, there are challenges, but I’m doing something I’m very passionate about.” —Tracy Bollinger Boucher '01 B.A.



**T**racy Bollinger Boucher '01 B.A. says that her sociology degree from Rivier gave her a broad sense of the differences between groups of people—and an understanding of how to work effectively with those different groups. “My education gave me the ability to adjust to different people from a variety of backgrounds and the dynamics that come with that,” she says.

Tracy learned a thing or two from watching her mother as well. Mary Bollinger, Rivier’s Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations, works with a wide variety of people in her role fundraising and helping alumni forge strong connections to the College.

Tracy found the perfect fit in her job as Director of Social Services for The Community House, a non-profit organization in Hinsdale, Illinois that provides recreation and social services ranging from after school programs to counseling and outreach. Tracy oversees the Willowbrook Corner Initiative, which focuses on a specific neighborhood. “It’s a pocket of working poor, located within the boundaries of an extremely wealthy county outside of Chicago. The residents of this particular neighborhood are primarily low-income minorities in female-led households,” she says. “It’s an unincorporated area, with no municipality and no park district, which can make it difficult for the residents who have little discretionary money.” Tracy manages after school and summer programs for the children in this neighborhood. In addition, she manages the Willowbrook Corner Coalition, a group of primarily nonprofit organizations who collaborate to assist the residents of the neighborhood and fill gaps in services.

Tracy also oversees the administrative aspects of the Charlie’s Gift Autism program. Charlie’s Gift serves the immediate

and long term needs of children and families facing autism, providing recreation and speech, occupational, and behavioral therapies. “I love my job—it’s always changing and evolving. Day to day things are never the same. Certainly, there are challenges, but I’m doing something I’m very passionate about,” she says.

Another important aspect of Tracy’s job includes writing grants to ensure her programs have adequate funding. “The grant writing was probably the most difficult aspect of my job to begin with, now it just feels like second nature,” she says. And thanks to her mother’s work, she’s familiar with and appreciates other aspects of fundraising. The Community House has an annual Holiday Ball in December, one of the

organization's major fundraising events. "I'm there every year helping out—my programs directly benefit from that event," Tracy says. Though mother and daughter raise money through different avenues, fundraising for a meaningful cause is an important family value.

Besides her mother, other women have served as strong role models for Tracy as well. She says Rivier sociology professor Dr. Marjorie Marcoux-Faiia inspired her interest in pursuing sociology and learning about different cultures. "I really looked up to Dr. Faiia and admire her," Tracy says. She also admires her current boss, Theresa Forthofer, Executive Director of The Community House. "She has a clear vision driving the agency to be the best we can be, keeping us innovative and relevant."

Where does Tracy see herself five years from now? "I'd love to continue the work that I'm doing now, especially with Willowbrook Corner," she says. "It's an exciting time with lots of growth and opportunities. I enjoy seeing the impact that a small group of people can have on a large community in need," she says. ■