

## How Can I Help? Handy Hints and Tips for WiSH Supporters

We are often asked “what can I do to help?” and our answer is always “as much or as little as you want”. Every bit of effort helps raise the profile of women who shoot and hunt, and increases awareness of our goals and objectives. Here are some ideas to get you started. This list is by no means complete - pick and choose, use your imagination, and come up with ideas that are right for you and your individual situation!

### Talk to others about your involvement with shooting/hunting

Remember that there are a lot of stereotypes about firearm owners, and myths about women and firearms. By countering these in a positive way, you are taking direct, practical action. This may be face to face contact, or via technology (for example, internet groups).

### Write a letter to the editor

Letters to the Editor are one of the most read and talked-about parts of the paper. It doesn't matter if it's a local, state, or national paper. See our 'How To Get Your Letter Published' sheet for advice.

### Call talkback radio

If you want to contribute, go ahead and call in even if you've never spoken on radio before. Think about what you want to say beforehand, and how to get your message across clearly and simply. Stick with one or two points, there will be other times when you can highlight other issues. Always stay calm – no matter what. It's fine to disagree with another caller (or the presenter), but keep it polite..

### Organise an event – big or small

This could be a morning tea to support a good cause, or a donation of blankets from a group of friends to a women's shelter. Why not a 'charity shoot', with range fees going to a worthy recipient, or a working bee to help the local community? Depending on who you know and what your interests are, think about things like art shows, book launches, shows and festivals, and how you can use these to raise public awareness of an issue.

### Engage with the media

If you hold a special event, think about inviting media – local papers are always looking for interesting stories. Sometimes a well thought-out phone call is all it takes. Introduce yourself, give a

brief summary of why you're calling, and ask who you should speak to. Remember to keep it to the point – journalists are often rushed for time.

### Volunteer

Every pair of hands makes a difference. If you have special skills, training, or interests, let others know. For example, if you are a keen photographer, why not offer photos to add colour to a newsletter or website? If you own a business, how can that help?

### Talk to politicians

Don't be afraid to talk to politicians and other key decision-makers. Select a relevant issue that interests you, do your background research, and then ask for a meeting. Keep it short, factual, and polite, and you could end up with a new supporter. Refer to our 'Contacting Politicians' help sheet for more suggestions.

### Get active in your community

Think about giving a short talk on a topic you are knowledgeable about. Would a local conservation group like to learn how hunters can help with their efforts? Would a nearby school or community group be interested in hearing about women taking part in competitive shooting and building their skills and confidence along the way?

### Make contacts

Everyone knows someone – who do you know, and who/what do they know? Do you know someone who can design posters to advertise your event? Who has a community radio show and may talk about relevant issues? Who works in government and can put you in touch with others?

### Spread the word about WiSH

Let others know about us and what we do. Word of mouth is often the best publicity.