

## Getting to know Mary Gallivan

By Jennie Buckner

In an organization full of women who lead very full lives, Mary Gallivan still stands out.

She wears an important hat at Foundation For The Carolinas, serving as Director of Centers for Giving overseeing the Center for Corporate Philanthropy and the Center for Nonprofit Sustainability. She is pursuing an Executive Masters of Business Administration at Queens University of Charlotte even as she assumes the WIF's top leadership role.

A Denver native and Duke University graduate, Mary is married to veterinary surgeon Dr. Sean Gallivan, and they share a Plaza Midwood home with their dog named Jake.



With all of that to keep her busy, how does Mary still find time to pen personal notes on stationary that she has hand crafted? It's not hard, she says, if you love what you do. "I love my job, WIF, my family, and learning. Of course, it also helps that I'm married to a saint."

**What have you enjoyed most about being a member of WIF?** Working with such smart, dedicated women! The last year was really tough in some ways, with budget cuts that had to be made, new membership dues, etc. But it was done so thoughtfully. WIF is full of people you can count on.

**What's fundamental in how you relate to others?** My philosophy is to give first. I'm not sure why, but it comes naturally to me...I don't have to be the one in control, I don't have an ego. I get joy out of helping others

be successful.

**What would people be surprised to learn about you?** A lot of people don't know that I had a brief first marriage that ended in a painful divorce. It was transformative for me to learn I didn't have to get through it all by myself. I discovered people would help me, if I allowed them to do so. It is not a sign of weakness to ask for help. It's a sign of strength. This is something I have adopted in both my personal and professional life.

**Describe a perfect Saturday for you.** It would start with sitting on our front porch, reading the newspaper. (I love reading in general!) After that, Sean and I would take a walk or bike along the greenway. Then we would have friends over for dinner, which he would cook. My husband is a fabulous cook!

**Tell us about your crafty side:** I used to make all my own greeting cards. Recently I designed nametags for a party at our home. I love packaging, wrapping, and presentation. And I love mail. I try to mail a card a week.

**What would you hope for our membership?** That they connect with one another, beyond meetings and events, to develop meaningful relationships.