

Chandler Authors go from Mad to Glad

By Wendy Fallon
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In 2001, when former Chandler Regional Hospital employee Kitty Wiemelt was laid off along with 17 of her co-workers, she was devastated. While it wasn't her first lay-off, it was the last.

"By the time I was laid off for the third time, I realized that people needed hope. There simply wasn't enough out there," Wiemelt explains. "This last time, I was given a wonderful outplacement package for a company called Right Management Consultants, a consulting firm for companies and individuals that provides career transition services."

Wiemelt says the guidance provided by Right Management encouraged her to get out of bed each morning, dress for work, search for work opportunities and network. More importantly, it revealed new insights about her strengths.

"By the third lay off, I decided to do what I loved. I wasn't looking for another career just to have another career-I was looking for one I felt passionate about. And by the third time it had gotten easier," Wiemelt continues.

Inspired by the success of a laid-off friend in finding an occupation that became his ultimate passion, Wiemelt began to collect the success stories of others also impacted by "unexpected career transitions." Those stories led to the soon to be released publication of *Laid Off? Don't Stress!*

How to Get from Mad to Glad, tales from ordinary people who successfully transitioned into new careers they feel passionate about. Each individual in the book contributes their story and the insights that helped them through their transition. Chandler residents profiled in the book include Jacqueline Luk (*The Power of Service*), Kevin Wilde, (*Why I Am Richer for the Experience*), and Ed Phillips (*Termination Doesn't Make You a Failure*). The book is expected to be out after Christmas.

Not only has Wiemelt written a book about "unexpected transitions" and how to land on your feet, but she's found passion as well. She now owns Winds of Change Consulting, and is dedicated to "touching the human spirit with levity and renewed perspective." She is also a co-author of *Seizing Your Success*, more personal stories of triumph over physical, emotional, financial and business adversity.

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