

# The Women's Fund

of the Community Foundation for South Central New York

September 2010

## Force of Women's Philanthropy Continues to Grow

Would you trust a woman doctor? Would you accept a woman as your boss? Who could possibly consider a woman as a candidate for president?

It's getting hard to remember when serious people debated such questions. In just a few decades, views on the role of women have undergone a revolution. But for many, beliefs about the role that women play in philanthropy haven't really changed.

Don't men control most of the wealth? So don't men provide most of the financial gifts that really make a difference?

Actually, women create and control a good deal of the wealth in the U.S., and their power to put that money to work has grown tremendously. In 2004, the latest year for which it published such data, the Internal

Revenue Service found that 43 percent of the top wealth holders in the U.S were women. In 2008, according to the Center for Women's Business Research, women owned 10.1 million companies, generating about \$2 trillion in sales. In 2009, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that women held more than half of all of the nation's management, professional and related positions.

Even when they don't generate a family's assets on their own, women often decide how those assets will be used. An estimated \$41 trillion will pass from one generation to another in the next 50 years. Because women tend to live longer than men, women

will determine how to allocate much of that money.

Increasingly, women are using the money they control to fund the work of nonprofit organizations. Twenty-four percent of women make charitable gifts through their wills or estates, compared with 13 percent of men. Sondra Shaw-Hardy and Martha A. Taylor, authors of *Reinventing Fundraising: Realizing the Potential of Women's Philanthropy*, point out that single women are much

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### 2010 WF Breakfast Shines a Light on Women Helping Women

"Women show each other how it's done," said author and advice columnist Amy Dickinson, speaking to a sellout crowd at the Women's Fund Annual Breakfast on June 2. Dickinson, who donated her time to the event, kept her 230 listeners in the Binghamton Club ballroom laughing at her stories. But she also used her personal experience to illustrate the myriad ways in which women give support to other women.

That point became even clearer as the audience heard from representatives of the three nonprofit groups that received grants from the Women's Fund in 2009. Guests learned about the current status of the Fund, which has raised \$300,000 since its beginnings in 2002. They also got an update on the **Five in 5 Drive**, which aims to raise \$500,000 for the endowment by the end of 2012. To date, **Five in 5** has received \$3,300 in new donations and pledges as a result of this year's Annual Breakfast.

Thank you to all those who attended, and special thanks to the volunteer members of the Women's Fund's Special Events and Leadership committees, who worked hard to produce an inspiring and flawlessly-organized event.

### Women's Fund Leadership

Lisanne Bobby, *Chair*  
Faith Sigler, *Vice Chair*  
Sally Akel  
Linda Biemer  
Heather M. Cornell, Esq.  
Lauren A. Kiley, Esq.

Betsy Koffman  
Catherine Maliwacki  
Suzanne McLeod  
Suh Neubauer  
Jennifer Schorr  
Towhee Shupka

Sue Stephens  
Dr. Pamela Summers  
Natalie Thompson  
Jackie Visser  
Maureen Wilson  
Jane L. Zuckerman

# Grant Helps Formerly Incarcerated Women Reclaim a Role in their Children's Lives

Several formerly incarcerated women are starting to get their lives back and reconnect with their children, thanks to a \$2,250 grant from the Women's Fund.

The grant has allowed Family Enrichment Network to create "Looking Back and

Moving Forward," a program for mothers in Broome and Tioga Counties who have served time in prison. Women in the program meet twice a month to discuss topics such as how to re-bond with children who have been living with another caretaker, how to

deal with children's feelings of abandonment and how women who want to do so might develop new parenting styles.

The women also get individual assistance from program coordinator Rozann Greco, who helps them find services they need and advocates for them if they run into obstacles while getting their lives back on track.

One woman in the program isn't allowed to have any contact with her children, as a condition of her parole. With encouragement from Greco, this woman has been writing letters addressed to her children.

Although the children won't see the letters until their mother completes her parole, writing gives the woman a chance to record and process her feelings, says Deborah Faulks, family

support services director at the Family Enrichment Network. "Then at some point the children will have a chance to read it and see that, even though Mom wasn't able to talk with them, it didn't mean that she didn't care. She was trying to stay connected."

Because it provides a non-judgmental setting for talking with other women in similar situations, "Looking Back and Moving Forward" makes a big difference for participants, says Faulks. "It gives these women a chance to be normalized as mothers and feel that they're still valuable people," she adds. "And they still have a role in their children's lives."



Rozann Greco, program coordinator at Family Enrichment Network.

## Women's Philanthropy

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more likely than single men to make philanthropic gifts. Both married men and married women are more apt to make gifts—and larger gifts—than single men. Could it be that when a man and woman marry, the woman's interest in philanthropy often inspires her husband?

Besides giving generously, many women today become actively involved in the management aspects of philanthropy. According to the research organization GuideStar, today there are nearly 100 charitable funds that were established by and are run entirely by women. That compares with only five such funds in 1979. On a broader scale, nearly half of all foundations in the U.S. are headed by woman executives, and 70 percent of program officers are women.

Women have made some large and well-pub-

licized charitable gifts in recent years. Ruth Lilly, an heiress to the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical fortune, gave \$100 million to *Poetry* magazine. Joan Kroc, widow of McDonalds founder Ray Kroc, bequeathed \$1.5 billion to the Salvation Army and \$200 million to National Public Radio. Ann Lurie of Chicago used her family foundation to give \$100 million to the Children's Memorial Hospital.

Those examples spotlight women with significant wealth. But any woman can use her interest in philanthropy to make a lasting difference. That's especially true when women work together. The Women's Fund is built on gifts of \$25 and more. It's living proof that anyone can be a philanthropist, as gifts of all sizes add up to create a powerful force for good. The key is to find your passion and invest in your vision.

### GOAL UPDATE

## Five in 5 Drive

**Total WF assets  
as of August 3, 2010:  
\$270,993**

**Goal:  
\$500,000 for the WF  
by Dec. 2012**

**Dollars received  
toward the goal  
(donations and pledge  
payments):  
\$108,445**

**Outstanding Pledges:  
\$20,090**

**Total monies and  
pledges received:  
\$128,535**