

The Women's Fund

520 Columbia Drive, Suite 100
Johnson City, NY 13790
Phone (607) 772-6773
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Grant Supports Restorative Justice Training

Both boys and girls get in trouble at school, but they tend to get in trouble in different ways. “With our young men, often it’s a one-time issue, and then it’s done,” says an administrator with the Oxford Academy Central School District. But young women who are subject to discipline tend to get embroiled in the same issues over and over.

Hoping to break those cycles, the Oxford Schools and the Oxford Youth Center are teaming up on a program to teach girls healthier ways to navigate relationships and conflicts. The Women’s Fund has supported this restorative justice program with an \$8,000 grant to the Youth Center.

Through its after school



program, the Oxford Youth Center provides a supervised place where students can go in the late afternoon to enjoy organized activities, get homework help or just hang out with friends. Programs there

include Friday Fun Nights, which offer activities such as movies and dances.

The problems among girls that cause serious trouble usually

continued on back

Reserve Your Seat Today!

15th Annual Women's Fund Breakfast

Keynote speaker: Rebecca Traister

Women’s anger has often helped to catalyze movements for social justice, said Rebecca Traister in a recent interview with Trevor Noah on The Daily Show. “But we are not very often told the story of their anger as having been righteous.”

Hear Rebecca’s ideas on the power of women’s anger, and more, at the 15th Annual Women’s Fund Breakfast, Thursday, June 13 at the McKinley in Endicott.

A writer at large for *New York* magazine and a contributing editor at *Elle*, Rebecca has also written for *The New Republic*, *Salon*, *The Nation*, *The New York Observer*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Vogue*, *Glamour*, and *Marie Claire*. Her first book, *Big Girls Don't Cry*, won the Ernesta Drinker Ballard Book Prize in 2012. She published *All the Single Ladies* in 2016, and *Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women's Anger* in 2018.

Tickets to the program, including a full breakfast, are \$45 per person. There’s also a \$60 VIP option, which includes a book signing (we’ll have books for sale that day) and a meet-and-greet with Rebecca.

Many thanks to our signature sponsor for the breakfast, M&T Bank! And thanks to our other early bird sponsors, Coughlin & Gerhart LLP; Democratic Women of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes; Excellus BlueCross BlueShield; Fischer Group at Graystone Consulting—Marc Fischer and John Bordages; Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP; Levene Gouldin & Thompson LLP; NBT Bank; SUNY Broome Women’s Institute; Sentry Alarms; and Visions Federal Credit Union.

Thursday, June 13, 2019

The McKinley, 29 McKinley Ave, Endicott

Sign-in begins at 7:30 a.m. Breakfast buffet starts at 7:45 a.m.

Call 607-772-6773 by June 1, 2019 to reserve your seat.

Visa/MC accepted by phone or online www.donorswhocare.org

Restorative Justice Training *continued from page 1*

involve relationships, says the administrator. And they're magnified by social media. Consider what happens when a girl insults another girl in person or on line. "It gets brought into school. They're screaming at each other, arguing, saying hurtful things," she says. Maybe a group decides to ostracize one of the girls involved. Maybe there are threats, or things get physical.

When the school steps in, depending on the severity and whether it's a first or repeat offense, the discipline might involve detention, or in-school or out-of-school suspension. Unfortunately, those measures rarely solve the problem. "In three or five days, a student who's been put in out-of-school suspension ends up back in school, and that issue is still there," the administrator says. And other students keep heating things up with cyberbullying and gossip.

Adults at the Oxford Schools and the Youth Center want to defuse those conflicts, or avert them altogether, by teaching girls techniques called restorative practices. They want to show girls how to use specific strategies to work out their problems, and how to discuss their differences in a healthy, respectful way.

The program will focus on middle school girls, with plans to get about 30 of them involved in sessions to be held after school at the Oxford Youth Center. Plans call for 10 three-week sessions, each involving eight to 10 girls.

The main goal of the program is to show girls how to manage their relationships so that conflicts don't arise in the first place. "We're having those conversations ahead of time," the administrator says. "What does a healthy relationship look like? What are you going to hear when people are choosing kindness? Or when there is an issue, how do you handle it? How do you speak to others, how do you address others, how do you ask for help?"

Of course, some disagreements will inevitably turn into disputes. So the program will also show students how to settle those conflicts constructively.

The partners are using the Women's Fund grant to buy course materials and train the people who will run the program. These include adult educators and several girls who

participate at the Youth Center. "Some of our female youth who have demonstrated an interest will be trained in various types of restorative practices such as peer juries, the circle

process, preventative and post-conflict resolution programs and peer mediation," the administrator says.

Part of the strategy is to build trusting relationships between students and workshop leaders. "If a student has a connection with an adult, they're more likely to say something, to

confide in us," the administrator says. "They're more likely to tell us, 'This is what's going on. I don't know how to fix this.'"

Ideally, the girls will also learn how to help one another. For example, if two girls start trading insults, a third girl might step in to calm things down.

"I talk with our young ladies a lot about building a sphere of influence, those things around us that are going to support healthy decision making skills, build self-esteem and strengthen social support," the administrator says. "That's a huge piece of what we're trying to focus on."

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Welcome to New Leadership Committee Members and a Fond Farewell to Old Friends

Welcome!

Angela C. Riley, Pharm.D, CGP is the executive director and assistant dean of Experiential Education at the Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Angela obtained her B.S. in Pharmacy from Texas Southern University and later followed with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Northwestern University-Chicago College of Pharmacy.

Prior to joining Binghamton, Angela was the director of Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences at Chicago State University College of Pharmacy. She is certified as a

geriatric pharmacy specialist with additional professional experience in community and hospital settings.

Her clinical interests include geriatric pharmacotherapy, long term care, and health promotion and education. Actively involved in global pharmacy initiatives, Angela plans to coordinate annual student outreach activities.

Angela serves as the faculty advisor for both the Student National Pharmaceutical Association and the Charles Drew Minority Pre-Health Society. She is also a member of several organizations, including Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) Leadership Society, the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP), and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she currently serves as the president of the Apalachin Alumnae Chapter.

Colleen Wagner is the executive assistant to Broome County Executive Jason Garnar and serves as the

coordinator for Runaway and Homeless Youth. Colleen was born and raised in Binghamton. She holds an A.S. in Human Services from SUNY Broome. Her passion for serving those less fortunate has given her the opportunity to serve as the Youth Bureau director for the City of Binghamton and as a case manager for the Teen Transitional

Living Program at Catholic Charities of Broome County. Working in direct services has given her a perspective on and appreciation for the challenges many of our community residents face on a day-to-day basis.

Colleen's past and current community

affiliations include the Broome County Youth Bureau Advisor Board (member), Safe Streets (member), Workforce Development Youth Council (past), NYS Association of Youth Bureaus (past), Children and Youth Services Council (past), Human Rights Commission (past) and the Broome County Democratic Party (committee member).

Farewell!

After their six long years of commitment to the Women's Fund, and therefore to all the women and girls we serve in the region, we say goodbye and thanks to the chair of the Leadership Committee, **Betty Goodwin**, and to Committee member **Merri Pell-Preus**. We also thank **Amy Szostak** for her work on the Leadership Committee. We deeply appreciate their dedication to our mission and their hard work on behalf of the Fund!



ANGELA C. RILEY



COLLEEN WAGNER