



140 attend kickoff event

Thank you to everyone who attended our inaugural event on February 16 at the Century House. More than 140 people attended, and we raised \$34,000!

Keynote speaker Abigail Disney offered inspiring comments about why women-led philanthropy is vitally important for the well-being of families and communities. The energy and excitement in the room was tremendous (and contagious!) and set a positive tone for the Women's Fund. ●

What's new...

On May 9, about 50 women from the non-profit, for-profit and academic sectors participated in focus group discussions to explore the issues of economic self-sufficiency for women and maximizing opportunities for girls.

Focus group participants agreed that women struggling to become self-sufficient need more than short-term assistance — they need multi-faceted support to overcome the many barriers they face. Participants also emphasized that girls need opportunities to develop new skills and explore non-traditional career options.

How do we get there from here?

Focus group participants agreed that many of the stepping stones to economic self-sufficiency are already available in our communities, but that they are scattered and fragmented.

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Save the date: October 19, 2006

Please join us on Thursday, October 19 for lunch at the Albany Marriott to learn about the Women's Fund's first annual grantmaking program. We will also hear from Susan Wefald from the Ms. Foundation, an organization that shares our commitment to economic self-sufficiency for women. The Ms. Foundation's grantmaking program has touched the lives of thousands of women and girls in the United States. *You will be mailed an invitation for this event.* ●

Planning for the future...

To date, we have raised more than \$40,000 from nearly 100 donors. In 2006, 85% of funds raised will be granted out in 2007. Ten percent will be used to build an endowment for the Women's Fund, and 5% will be used for administrative expenses. (This includes materials expenses only, as all staff time has been volunteered.)

How can you help spread the word about the Women's Fund?

Please consider hosting a small gathering for your friends and colleagues. A member of the Steering Committee can provide a short presentation about the Fund and answer any questions.

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YES, I want to contribute to the Women's Fund!

Become a member of the Founding Five Hundred!

Individual gifts of \$500 or more

\$500+

Please list name(s) as desired on Founders roster:

I prefer name(s) not be published

Founding 500 members receive a sterling silver pin by jewelry designer Michael Dunn.

_____ name (please print)

_____ address

_____ telephone

_____ e-mail

Other amount: \$250 \$100 \$_____

I would like more information about volunteering

Method of payment:

My check is enclosed. *(Please make payable to the Community Foundation for the Capital Region or the United Way, referencing Women's Fund in the memo line.)*

Please bill me.

I will pay by credit card: *(circle one)*: Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover

Signature _____

Name on card _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Mail this form to:

**The Women's Fund of the Capital Region
PO Box 3855, Albany, NY 12203**

What's New...

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Through effective collaboration, organizations can develop cohesive and comprehensive responses to one of the Fund's two priorities:

- 1) Women: Promote sustained economic self-sufficiency for women, and provide multi-faceted guidance and support to women working toward the goal of economic self-sufficiency.
- 2) Girls: Provide opportunities for girls to experience and understand the full range of career opportunities available to them, and help girls develop and use valuable new skills and competencies.

For more details, attend the October 19 grants program kickoff (see first page). Grants will be publicly announced in spring 2007. ●

Planning for the Future

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To date, the Women's Fund has been a successful grassroots movement built on care and inspired concern for women and girls in our communities. With your help, we can grow the Fund so we can make grants that truly make a difference. More formal events are on tap for 2007, but we love to share the news about the Women's Fund with a few close friends! If interested in hosting a gathering, contact Megan Allen at megan@uwschdy.org or 372-4761, ext. 22. ●

In Memoriam — Mary Duke Becker

In July we lost one of our Founding 500 Members. Mary, a graduate of Wellesley College and University of Chicago (PhD), was 55. She was deeply involved in the Schenectady community and her church, was a member of many boards, and an active volunteer through teaching English as a second language. We are proud to have her as a founding member. She is dearly missed. ●

How can you get involved with the Women's Fund of the Capital Region?

There are many ways for you to help make a difference in the lives of women or girls right in your community:

- Become a volunteer
- Join a committee
- Become a Founding 500 Member (*see first page*)
- Attend the October 19 event (*see first page*)
- Host a small gathering (*see first page*)

If interested volunteering or joining a committee, please contact Alicia Lasch at alasc@cfcr.org or 446-9638, ext. 14.

Save the date:
Thursday,
October 19
First Annual
Grant Program Kickoff
See details inside



Help us keep in contact... and keep our expenses down.
Please visit www.womensfundcr.org and send us your e-mail address so we can keep in touch and save on mailing costs. Thank you!

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