

## Women Moving Millions: Bold Resources to Fund Robust and Lasting Change

Launched in partnership with the Women's Funding Network and visionary philanthropists Helen LaKelly Hunt and Swanee Hunt, Women Moving Millions is a historic campaign that shatters the glass ceiling in philanthropy by and for women by raising gifts of a million dollars and above. By investing tremendous resources in a social justice agenda, Women Moving Millions is changing the world by providing substantial financial resources for women-led programs benefiting communities all over the globe.

Even before the launch of the Women Moving Millions campaign, the 150 women's funds of the Women's Funding Network were leading the way in building solutions in every critical area from combating poverty to achieving advances in healthcare, education and human rights. Below are some examples of the work women's funds are currently engaged in – work that will be amplified and scaled up with the influx of this new major funding.

### Across the United States:

- **Ms. Foundation for Women** invested \$50,000 in a consortium of 11 state groups working to expand access to paid sick days and family leave. They spurred the passage of a Milwaukee ordinance allowing workers to earn one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked.
- The **Women's Sports Foundation** provides more than 14,000 girls and women across 30 states with educational resources and scholarships. They also conduct research on leadership development and opportunities for women and girls. Their impact includes:
  - The GoGirlGo! Program that works to improve the health of sedentary girls and to keep girls involved in physical activity.
  - The Girls First weeklong sports camp in New Orleans that provides 90 girls between 6 and 12 an opportunity to learn about team and individual sports, nutrition and health education.
  - The Ashland Area Girls Softball Association in an impoverished area of Pennsylvania that encourages young women and girls to choose team sports over risky behavior.

### In the Southeast United States:

- The **Atlanta Women's Foundation** has spent the last decade bringing attention to the scourge of child-trafficking in its community. The Foundation and its community coalition worked with lawmakers to create legislation protecting girls and increase the penalties for perpetrators.
- The **Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham** is working to stem domestic violence in its community by changing the legal system. Birmingham now has a powerful triad of judges bolstered by peer learning and dedicated to hearing most abuse cases for the entire state. A dedicated advocate helps survivors and their families maneuver the legal system.

### In the Northeast United States:

- **Washington Area Women's Foundation's** Stepping Stones initiative builds the long-term economic security and financial independence of low-income families headed by women in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Stepping Stones has:
  - led more than 5,000 women to increase their collective assets by more than \$19.5 million;
  - placed nearly 600 women in living wage jobs, increasing their incomes by \$2.3 million;
  - and assisted 220 women in purchasing homes.

The Foundation also successfully pushed to increase the minimum wage in D.C.

- The **New York Women's Foundation** distributed nearly \$3 million in grants to 61 organizations in New York City in 2008. Investments to improve the economic status of women have resulted in:
  - 600+ women screened and assessed for job placements;
  - 435+ women enrolled in job search, ESL classes and other job readiness activities;
  - 300+ women completed adult employment programs;
  - And 130+ women placed in jobs.In addition, the Foundation conducts research on the needs of low-income women and girls that provides critical information for other funders and for policy makers.

#### **In the Midwest, Southwest and Rockies Regions of the United States:**

- The **Women's Foundation of Colorado** has invested more than \$9 million and worked with more than 180 agencies in 75 communities to increase opportunities for women and girls. They helped pass a wage transparency act protecting employees who share salary information with their co-workers – key to ending pay discrimination as women often do not know they are being paid less than co-workers. Their research provides data to support policy changes and also enables tracking and evaluation of problems.
- The **Women's Fund of Central Ohio** is tackling the effects of the home mortgage crisis in the heart of the U.S. By counseling women homeowners – many of them heads of single-parent families – they are helping women keep their home by determining hardship, prioritizing debts, explaining potential workout options, and contacting loan servicers to negotiate a loan workout.
- The **Dallas Women's Foundation** is improving lives of new immigrants and low-income people in the rapidly growing Dallas region. They fund programs that assist new immigrants with the knowledge on becoming a citizen; train women to navigate the public school system, municipal government, the tax system, health insurance, employment and other important civic responsibilities. The Foundation also works to educate donors on important social problems in the community and creates lasting partnerships with donors and community organizations.
- The **Women's Foundation of Minnesota** fosters the economic development and growth of girls throughout the state by educating them about negotiating fair wages, overcoming poor body image and self-esteem, avoiding teen pregnancy, ending violence against girls and building leadership in academics and athletics. An independent evaluation of their girlsBEST program found that 96 percent of participating girls plan to graduate from high school, and 94 percent of girls believe that they will attend college.

#### **In the Western Region of the United States:**

- The **Women's Funding Alliance** in Seattle supports organizations enriching the lives of women, including empowering women in the Kitsap Peninsula to start businesses, providing cancer screening to Native American and African-American women living in rural Washington, and supporting math and science education for inner-city girls. They also influence policies impacting women, such as the ability of survivors of violence to collect unemployment if they have to leave their job because of domestic abuse.
- The **Women's Foundation of California** invested more than \$1.6 million in more than 115 organizations in 2008. One organization, Economics for Women, provided financial literacy skills to 60 young mothers ages 16-22 at a transitional housing complex. Of the participants, 89% transitioned successfully to independent living. The Foundation also trains women to shape state policies and implement laws affecting the wellbeing of women and girls. The program has successfully lobbied for the passage of the following state laws:
  - SB 1569 - Human Services Eligibility (Kuehl) Extends eligibility of certain state and local benefits, to qualified noncitizen victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes.

- AB 2695 - Domestic Violence (Goldberg) Enhances workplace safety by permitting employers to obtain protective orders for the entire worksite when an employee experiences violence or a credible threat of violence in the workplace.
- SB 484 - Safe Cosmetics (Migden) Requires cosmetics manufacturers to disclose to the Department of Health Services a list of ingredients in their products that are chemicals that have been identified to cause cancer or reproductive harm.
- AB 1179 - Violent Video Games (Yee) Prohibits the sale or rental of violent video games to minors.
- The **Foundation for Women in San Diego** currently works in 7 counties in Liberia and serves over 500 women by establishing sustainable microcredit programs. First loans are usually in the \$100 range and enable the women to start small enterprises and participate in a cohort of fellow borrowers. The repayment rate is 95%. Every woman in the program has at least 6 family members who are impacted, significantly improving the education and health status of whole families.

#### Worldwide:

- The **Canadian Women's Foundation** has helped more than 1,500 women thrive by funding life-changing economic livelihood programs that have resulted in the following gains:
  - 41% increased their saving;
  - 64% percent increased financial control and literacy;
  - 60% reduced or eliminated debt;
  - And more than 30% went on to take a leadership role in their communities.Foundation programs focused on ending domestic violence serve about 10,000 women per year. Their Girls Fund supports empowerment and leadership programs for girls aged 9 to 13, helping them move successfully through adolescence and into adulthood. The Fund has already impacted 1,200 girls in 10 communities.
- The **Global Fund for Women** awarded over \$8,000,000 in grants to 639 organizations worldwide in 2008. These grants have supported economic empowerment, health, education and environmental justice programs across the globe, including:
  - Providing health education to 25,000 women and children and training over 7,000 women school teachers in Afghanistan every year, thereby reaching 300,000 students;
  - Convening 1,000 women from 10 countries in Asia to organize around working conditions and rights of women in the farming sector and gain insights in the intersects between women's rights and economic self-sufficiency, food price regulation, fertilizer and pesticide use.
- **V-Day** works in 120 countries to raise awareness of the problem of violence against women and girls. In the past 10 years since their founding, they have raised more than \$60 million and supported 10,000 organizations. Some of their achievements include:
  - Raising more than \$250,000 to not only open schools and orphanages in Afghanistan, but also host a leadership summit for over 100 Afghan women to develop leadership skills.
  - Raising awareness of and bringing justice to "comfort women" who were held captive by Japanese forces during World War II.
- The **African Women's Development Fund** is working to elevate, protect and restore women's rights as a way to build long-term security. In 2008, AWDF disbursed over \$3.7 million to 192 women's groups in 23 African countries. To date they have provided over \$10 million to 816 women's rights organizations in 41 African countries. Below is a sample of the work they do:
  - About 40 women in a conflict-prone area of Ghana are provided agricultural training and support that allows them to support 350 members of their extended families.
  - In Swaziland 441 HIV+ people are provided with monthly medical and psychosocial support.