

WOMAN SENSE

The Newsletter of The Women's Fund of New Hampshire

Fall 2003

46 South Main Street Concord, NH 03301
603/226-3355 • www.wfnh.org

FUNDING GUIDELINES

The Women's Fund of New Hampshire 2004 Funding Guidelines are Available Now!

Visit our Web site at www.wfnh.org to download the guidelines, or call 603/226-3355 for a copy.

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Celebrate National Philanthropy Day

When asked if she felt over qualified for the low-wage jobs she took for her book, *Nickel and Dime*, Barbara Ehrenreich's response was, "these jobs were difficult and challenging, both mentally and physically. I have a PhD in biology, but that did not make me overqualified for any of the positions I held."

Barbara Ehrenreich gave a provocative and engaging keynote address at the recent WFNH conference: **"The Value of Money, the Power of Women: Seminars for a lifetime of investing in yourself and others."** A day-long series of plenaries and workshops on financial education, this conference was tailored specifically to the needs of women of all ages and in all life stages.

Ms. Ehrenreich's talk broadened the discussion, asking us not only to look at our own financial needs and skills, but also to examine the policies and practices around us that are barriers to economic self-sufficiency, especially for women. The majority of people working in low-wage jobs in this country are adult women, and even with full-time hours, these positions generally do not offer health or other benefits. The wages are often not even enough to pay for a local rental unit to live in. Ehrenreich demonstrated the need to raise awareness of these conditions.

"I will never use the words 'unskilled labor' to describe anyone working in a low-wage job," said Ehrenreich.



Barbara Ehrenreich speaks about barriers to women's economic self-sufficiency.

"I found each job challenging — imagine keeping track of the departments and items in a Wal-Mart store when the entire inventory is reorganized on a weekly basis to keep the customers' interest," she added.

Many times, Ehrenreich explained, as an aid in a nursing home on weekends, understanding and maintaining scheduling needs and health standards; as a cleaning person, doing hard physical labor for hours at a time and not being aloud to drink even water on the job, these jobs often demanded substantial physical stamina and brain power.

"What can we do to make a change?," was a question one audience member asked. A number of representatives from women-focused organizations who were present in the audience offered

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Women's needs matter. Women's money counts.



People came from throughout New Hampshire to participate in financial education.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

suggestions for how to get more involved through their respective organizations. Ehrenreich also endorsed WFNH board chair, Jill Schiffman's suggestion to get involved with The Women's Fund as one way to make a difference.

With over 350 women and a few men participating in the luncheon plenary, the day was filled with energy, excitement and lots of educational opportunities. From the conference evaluations, it was evident that the day met or exceeded everyone's expectations!

Women came from every county in New Hampshire, representing over 50 towns; with a few participants joining us from Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts. As a result of generous donors,

nearly 80 women were able to attend the conference on full or partial scholarships. In addition to having hundreds of women who attended individually, women also came to the conference representing a broad array of financial institutions, over 30 state and nonprofit organizations, as well as educational institutions in New Hampshire.

For information on these organizations and others supporting women and girls in New Hampshire, please visit our Web site, www.wfnh.org and click on the "Links" section. There you will find direct links to organization Web sites, or other contact information if a Web site is not available. ❖

Comments from Conference Attendees

"Inspirational, practical, clear and applicable to women of any age and in any situation."

"To understand the basics and begin to speak the language is inspiring! Thank you!"

"Scholarships for the event were fabulous."

"Both plenary speakers were wonderful – entertaining but I also learned a lot of provocative things."

"Excellent speaker, vast knowledge."

"Excellent, stimulating day... today was investment 101, now we need investment 202. Thank you!"

"I'm glad I came!"



Members of Southern New Hampshire University's Business & Honors Class came to the conference to hear Barbara Ehrenreich speak about her book *Nickel and Dimed*, which is required reading for their course work.



Presenter Pat Vasbinder, a Business and Nonprofit Consultant, talks about *Money & Values: Making Your Gifts Matter* during her workshop.



A workshop participant commented that Susan MacMichael John from Financial Focus was "...able to break down complicated, technical material and make it understandable" during *Investments: Everything you Always Wanted to Know But Were Afraid To Ask*.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

New Staff Member at WFNH



Sarah Chaisson Warner, Women's Fund Program Administrator

Sarah Chaisson Warner joined the WFNH staff in July of this year as our new Program Administrator. She recently moved to Concord after several years in New York City, working with the Girls' Vacation Fund, a nonprofit

organization providing year-round educational programs to low-income NYC girls. She is a graduate of Columbia University, and is an avid women's sports fan and writer. Welcome to Sarah!

Save the Date

In case you missed the October 14, 2003 event, you have another chance to get the tools you need to make good personal finance decisions. The New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women and the Treasurer of the State of New Hampshire have joined forces to present a financial education conference for women: The Women and Money Conference. This will be a day-long event on the campus of Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, on May 14, 2004. More information will be available in January 2004 on the workshops, so stay tuned!

NH Women's Policy Institute

Congratulations to the NH Women's Policy Institute (WPI), a newly incorporated nonprofit dedicated to public policy research, development, and public education. WPI recently was awarded a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to fund the first phase of what will be the Institute's signature indicator report designed to provide an accurate picture of the economic status of women in New Hampshire. WPI hopes to develop a model that can be used by other states in terms of the types of data collected; methods

which permit wide, accessible, and affordable dissemination of the results in a timely manner; and establishment of a framework which would permit ongoing review and integration of new data in order to track changes over time. Both The Women's Fund and the NH Commission on the Status of Women will be collaborating with the WPI on this future report.

WFNH Gives Scholarships to New England Women's Political Summit

On October 26-27, over 400 women from across New England gathered at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston for the New England Women's Political Summit. Organized by the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, the goals of the summit included:

- ❖ Examining the current status of women in politics in each New England state;
- ❖ Sharing lessons and strategies to strengthen women's impact in politics; and,
- ❖ Developing targets for increased representation and influence for women in politics.

As politics is certainly a catalyst for social change, the Women's Fund was pleased to provide three scholarships to New Hampshire women to attend the summit. These participants joined over 30 New Hampshire neighbors to learn about the importance of women's participation in politics at all levels – from school board member to the Governor's Office.

Among the speakers at the event were Ruth Griffin, Executive Councilor for the Third District (NH), Kerry Healey, Lieutenant Governor (MA), Madeleine May Kunin, Former Governor of Vermont and Ambassador to Switzerland, and Marie Wilson, President of the White House Project and Ms. Foundation for Women. ❖

WFNH Receives Award from Citizens Bank

The Women's Fund was honored to receive the "Not Your Typical Statewide Partner Award" for Outstanding Community Development in New Hampshire from Citizens Bank. At an awards luncheon on October 22, the Women's Fund was highlighted for distributing over \$190,000 to more than 50 nonprofit organizations throughout the state serving women and girls. Here's what Citizens Bank had to say about the Women's Fund:



WFNH Executive Director Marianne Jones and Women's Fund Founder Barbara Zeckhausen (center) were presented with the Citizens Bank "Not Your Typical Statewide Partner Award" for Outstanding Community Development from Debby Miller, Citizens Bank SVP, Public Affairs and Community Relations (left) and Tom Metzger, Chairman, President & CEO, Citizens Bank New Hampshire (right).

"In addition to their grant program, this organization develops some phenomenal events aimed at addressing the issues that are unique to women and girls in today's society. They have brought in some of the nation's more sought after experts on money issues, philanthropy and good mental health.

The importance this organization plays in the future of our state is illustrated in their vision statement: ... to be the leader in bringing about social change that strengthens New Hampshire's communities by enabling all women and girls to reach their full potential."

Thank you to Citizens Bank for being a community partner with the Women's Fund over the past five years, and for recognizing our work throughout the state. ❖

the **value** of money

the **power** of women

Seminars for a lifetime of investing in yourself and others.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, PRESENTERS, ORGANIZERS AND VOLUNTEERS

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Luncheon Plenary Sponsored by



Fiona Stephenson, Director of Marketing – Fidelity Charitable Services; Marianne Jones, Executive Director – WFNH; and Mary Grace, Financial Representative – Fidelity Personal Investments (left to right)

Breakfast Plenary Underwritten by



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Sue Thoresen, Associate Vice
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Patricia Vasbinder, Business and
Nonprofit Consultant

Pamela York Klainer, Founder,
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Thank you to Michael Herrmann and Gibson's Bookstore of Concord for being the book seller for the day! Twenty percent (20%) of the proceeds from the sale of books at the conference were contributed back to WFNH. Thank you!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

by Jill G. Schiffman

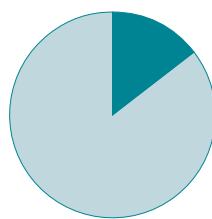
The Women's Fund of New Hampshire takes great pride in making a critical difference in the lives of women and girls in the Granite state. We do this through our commitment to social change. Social change means that we work to identify the underlying causes of social problems and provide the seed money to projects that offer long-term solutions on a lasting, permanent basis. Over the past five years, the Women's Fund has collaborated with more than 50 nonprofits throughout the state of New Hampshire, to make a difference in our communities by ensuring that each woman and girl has the opportunity to reach her full potential. Women and girls face many critical issues during their lifetime, from not having access to education, including financial education; to inadequate provision of affordable health care, including prenatal care; to facing the on-going "wage-gap" in the work place; to suffering from the consequences of inadequate housing, and even homelessness; to enduring threats to their personal safety.

While New Hampshire and New England fare well in national surveys, if we were to create a "Report Card" for New Hampshire on the circumstances of women and girls, all areas would earn a mark of "needs improvement." Women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty, wage- and workplace inequities, domestic and sexual assault, and in the poorer communities, a high rate of teen pregnancy. By changing these circumstances for women and girls, we change the lives of children, of partners, of spouses, of family and community members, regardless of gender. We strengthen our communities.



Jill G. Schiffman, Chair of the Women's Fund Board, addresses the audience at the Value of Money, the Power of Women Conference.

Each year, the Women's Fund recognizes service providers throughout the state who are working for social change and increases the impact of the projects with our grant dollars. Each year, the requests for these social change grant dollars exceed our ability to support several innovative programs. Many viable and valuable programs are denied WFNH grants simply because the requests exceed our ability to fund.



1999-2003 Request for funding from nonprofit organizations serving women and girls: \$1,114,503

1999-2003 Funding available from WFNH: \$191,000 (17% of requests)

Your donation to the Women's Fund of New Hampshire in 2003 will enable us to extend our reach into the communities of the state. We bestow a sincere thank you to those who have made a gift to the Women's Fund in 2003. If you have not yet given, your gift today will make a critical difference in the lives of our state's women and girls and in the larger New Hampshire community. You can make a difference! ❖

WFNH Mission

The Women's Fund of New Hampshire is a state-wide foundation dedicated to encouraging philanthropy among women and girls, improving the lives of women and girls through social change grantmaking, and educating the community about the potential of women and girls.

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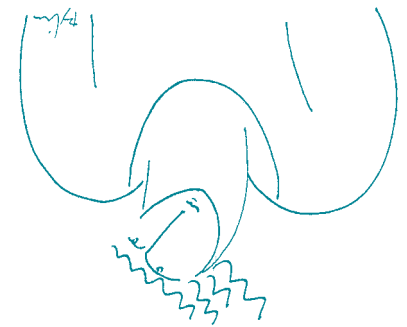
Celebrated in November, National Philanthropy Day provides an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of giving and all that it has made possible. At the Women's Fund, the philanthropic efforts of our donors have improved the lives of over 20,000 women and girls who have been served through our grants. By changing the circumstances of women and girls, we change the lives of children, of partners, of spouses, of family and community members, regardless of gender. We strengthen our communities.

By giving a woman or girl the tools to thrive, our New Hampshire communities thrive. If you believe in the promise of women and girls, consider giving a gift to the Women's Fund in honor of a girl or woman in your life.

*Please respond generously through the
envelope enclosed in this newsletter.
THANK YOU!*



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