

Vision

The Women's Fund of New Hampshire will 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.

Mission

The Women's Fund of New Hampshire is a statewide 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.

Guiding Principles and Values

We are responsible **stewards** of philanthropic resources.

We strive to hear and **include all voices** that speak for women and girls.

We continue to **listen and learn**.

We are **collaborative** and work to leverage resources.



A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

by Jill G. Schiffman

At the Women's Fund of New Hampshire, we take great pride in making a critical difference in the lives of the women and girls of our state. And we realize the best avenue for improving the lives of women and girls on a permanent basis is through *social change*.

You are going to be hearing a lot about social change from the Women's Fund: social change philanthropy, social change grantmaking and social change partnerships, for example.

At our 2002 fall retreat, the Board reviewed, revised and reaffirmed our mission, vision and guiding principles and values. In doing this, we recognized the need to re-emphasize our commitment to social change and to view all that we do through a social change lens.

What do we mean by social change?

Social change identifies the underlying causes of social problems and provides long-term solutions to change these conditions on a lasting, permanent basis. In short, instead of creating a temporary solution in an attempt to fix a social problem, the root cause of the social problem is identified and eliminated.

Social change flows from identifying the actual problems through well-designed research, creating corrective solutions, spearheading public education, and inspired collaboration across the potential divisions of race, gender and class. To use a medical analogy, we are not content with simply alleviating the visible symptoms of a problem. Through our partnerships with our grantees and community leaders, we want to identify and cure the cause of the problem.



Jill G. Schiffman Chair, Board of Directors

How can social change be achieved in New Hampshire?

As a foundation with a social change agenda, it is our mission to provide resources to those organizations in the state that are activating social change for New Hampshire's women and girls. Our role in the social change matrix is to bring attention to these institutions – our grantee partners and others – and to facilitate the exchange of ideas among these organizations. In doing so, we are enabling social change to be performed by the experts – our grantee partners who are addressing the needs of women and girls on a daily basis.

At the Women's Fund of New Hampshire, we believe **partnership** is a key component to achieving social change. Through our annual Grantee Partner and Donor Celebration, our grantee partners are afforded the opportunity to meet one another, learn best practices and develop collaborations that strengthen the programming available. We will continue to encourage these innovative partnerships among our grantee partners, as well as foster partnerships among our donor partners.

We cannot achieve social change by ourselves. This kind of profound societal change is only possible with significant and meaningful support from you – our donors. Your action, through giving generously, is essential for social change. More importantly, when you give with social change in mind, your investment can positively affect generations to come.

The Women's Fund of New Hampshire is committed to facilitating *social change* in partnership with our grantees, our donors, community leaders and our network of support and community resources. We invite you to join us as we continue to carry out our vision of *enabling all women and girls to reach their full potential*. *

“Something which we think is impossible now is not impossible in another decade.”

Constance Baker Motley

First African-American Woman to become a U.S. Federal Judge