

# WomanSense

Women's Fund of New Hampshire Newsletter

## 2008 Fall Grants Awarded

The Women's Fund awarded over \$60,000 in its second grantmaking session in 2008. A committee of representatives from around the state considered requests from organizations serving women and girls through a wide range of programs. During this grant session the Women's Fund received double the number of applications from prior years, with requests totaling over \$300,000.

### *Your investment at work:*

#### **A Safe Place - Seacoast Task Force on Family Violence**

Portsmouth, NH - \$5,000

To support "After Domestic Violence: A Mother and Child Recovery Program," which addresses the effects on children who have witnessed domestic violence at home.

#### **Arts in Reach**

Dover, NH - \$5,000

To support the transition from the Founding Director to the new Executive Director.

#### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Manchester Manchester, NH - \$5,000**

To support the "Girl Empowerment One-to-One Mentoring Program," in order to increase the number of girls who receive mentoring.



#### **Boys & Girls Club of the Lakes Region Laconia, NH - \$5,000**

To support "Stepping Stones to Parenthood," a program which educates teen parents about the proper care and nurturing of their children from prenatal care up to age six.

### *From the Director* **Marianne M. Jones**



*Photo - Nancy G. Horton*

As the Women's Fund of NH closes in on completing the first decade of building our organization and financial resources, the Board and staff embarked on a long-range strategic planning year in 2008 to position us to serve the community during challenging times. While the Women's Fund has made significant strides in establishing an endowment, building a base of programs and a constituency throughout the state, the long-term growth and sustainability of the foundation relies on the next five years of strategic growth. In order to truly reach out into the communities of the state, increase our resources to support vital efforts to improve the lives of women and girls, build awareness of the on-going and emerging issues our communities face, we need to continue to strategically build our capacity. The greatest tool we have to ensure success is the creation and implementation of the next comprehensive, long-range plan, the Women's Fund 2012 Strategic Plan. Recent studies published by the UNH-Carsey Institute, the NH

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## From the Director

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Women's Policy Institute, and the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence continue to demonstrate that women and girls in New Hampshire are still more likely than men to be homeless, to live in poverty, to be unemployed or underemployed, to earn less in wages and be deprived of workplace advancement, to be the victims of domestic and sexual violence, and to suffer from inadequate access to affordable housing, child care and healthcare.

Over the next five years, the Women's Fund has the potential to play a leadership role in understanding these issues by increased support of research and the dissemination of key reports and findings; building a more strategic grant program; and creating expanded financial resources and human capital through engaging a broader constituency of volunteers, donors, community and opinion leaders in the corporate, public and nonprofit arenas. Creating the "road map," the Women's Fund 2012 Strategic Plan, will be essential to achieve this success. The plan will be completed and available for dissemination in early January 2009.

It is an amazing time in many ways for women and leadership - in particular in the political and economic arenas of our country. While on the one hand we are seeing an economy in recession, on the other hand, women represent a record 43% of wealth holders with assets greater than \$1.5 million (still) in the nation. In NH alone we elected more women to public office than ever before. We are the only state legislature in the nation where women make up the majority of the State Senate. New Hampshire also elected Jeanne Shaheen to go to the US Senate, the first woman in NH to be elected US Senator. After not having elected a woman to represent NH in the US Congress, now 50% of our delegation is female —including Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter (NH US House District 1). With these elections, both the United States Senate and House of Representatives are now 17% female. A first for this nation. There are generations of young people who now have many more role models demonstrating the power of women's leadership.

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## Resources for challenging times

Do you know of someone who needs assistance?

**New Hampshire's new 2-1-1 hotline is here to help.**

**2-1-1** is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers, at no cost, to information about critical health and human services available in their community.

Residents in New Hampshire can **contact 2-1-1** NH toll-free by dialing **2-1-1** in state or **1-866-444-4211** from out of state.

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**Women's Fund**  
of New Hampshire

**TEN**  
**YEARS**

What a remarkable ten years it has been since Molly Potter Scheu and Barb Zeckhausen imagined the start of the Women's Fund of New Hampshire. The Women's Fund has grown into an important resource for New Hampshire's women and girls and is poised to significantly impact our communities in its second decade. Throughout 2009, we will celebrate the accomplishments and launch the new era with events and activities all around the state.

**Our statewide anniversary party will be held on April 4th at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester.**

Please mark your calendars now for an exciting evening of friends, food and fun. More news will be coming soon about regional activities in your neighborhood and dynamic speakers events planned for the fall. Visit our website: [www.wfnh.org](http://www.wfnh.org) for updates.

Harriet Resnicoff developed her passion for women's rights watching her mother struggle after the death of her husband, Harriet's father, of rheumatic heart disease at 42. It was 1948, not a time for daring actions by single moms, but Harriet's mother, with only a high school degree, went to work, learned how to drive a car and managed to survive. "I realized what a chore that was," said Harriet nearly 60 years later. "My sense of empowering women goes back to that."

So she's taking piano lessons. That's the way she is. She does things. "I want to continue to travel and to enjoy an active life, both physically and mentally," she said. "I want to keep moving."

For example, when her three children were grown, or nearly grown, she went back to college, supplementing a 2-year college degree from her native Buffalo with a B.A. from Notre

And, all along the way, her adult experiences reinforced her childhood instincts of support for women and girls. "I became very much aware of the obstacles women face – the glass ceilings, single parenting, everything," she said.

When early Women's Fund backers Ann McLane Kuster and Kathy Barger invited her to an initial meeting of the founders, Resnicoff accepted – and pledged essential help, money. In an innovative fund-raising tool, she made the Women's Fund a beneficiary on her

## Women's Fund Founder Harriet Resnicoff by Shirley Elder

Resnicoff today is far better educated than her mother, and able to reach out to others personally, professionally, financially and, she notes with some pride, through therapy-dog work with her specially trained golden retriever, Molly. They make regular visits to school children and hospital patients.

In retirement, Resnicoff does all traditional things like knitting and travel, even skiing and snow-shoeing, but she also sits on a number of non-profit boards, and is nurturing an old ambition – to play the piano. "I love it!" she said of her piano lessons at the Concord Community School. "I admired a dear aunt who was an accomplished pianist, and I was determined to learn to play ... Why? I just want to make beautiful music."

Dame College in 1989 and a master's degree in social work three years later from Boston University. With that, she was propelled into a new and successful career as a private counselor.

life insurance, and then signed up to serve as a member of the first board of directors.

Resnicoff was not a bit reluctant. "I think the Women's Fund stands for all the values I have and the enthusiasm to provide opportunities for women," she said, noting the impact of perhaps the most important Women's Fund activity, giving away money. She said she likes to see grants go to tangible things like school-books, women's shelters, housing aid and financial advice.

When some suggest the Women's Fund may overlap with other efforts to help women, she explains: "Each non-profit has its own strengths and its own set of goals. The Women's Fund offers a nucleus to reach out to other non-profits on behalf of women and girls. Boys too. This is a way to make a difference."

*Photo by Truda Bloom*



# *A Heartfelt Thank You to our Recipe for Change Partners*

The Women's Fund's Recipe of Change Auction raises funds to support our on going work throughout the state. We extend a special thank you to the businesses and individuals listed here - each contributed to our November 18, 2008 auction at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord.

## **Sponsors:**

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## **Corporate and Foundation Support**

The work of the Women's Fund is supported by hundreds of generous individual donors and numerous corporations and foundations. These forward-thinking institutions demonstrate a commitment to New Hampshire's communities through grants, sponsorships and volunteerism. For support of our programs and activities in 2008 we extend a special thank you to:



New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, The Corporate Fund, the Women's Funding Network, Byrne Foundation, General William Mayer Foundation, Greenspan Foundation, and Stonyfield Farms.

# 2008 Fall Grants Awarded

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## Circle Program

Plymouth, NH - \$5,000

To support "Circle Program Mentoring," to recruit, train, and support volunteer adult women mentors .

## Dress For Success New Hampshire

Concord, NH - \$2,000

To provide operating support for a new salaried Executive Director.

## Girls on the Run

Exeter, NH - \$1,500

To support the "Girls on the Run Increased Awareness and Scholarship Campaign," to promote and expand this program to elementary aged girls in the Portsmouth school district.

## Marguerite's Place

Nashua, NH - \$4,000

To support ongoing services and day care programs for homeless women and their children.

## Nashua Pastoral Care Center

Nashua, NH - \$5,000

To support assistance for young, homeless mothers making permanent life changes that will result in self-sufficiency.



## NH Task Force on Women and Recovery

Manchester, NH - \$2,000

To support educational dissemination to the public, parents, at-risk high school and middle school girls, college youth, juvenile and adult criminal justice workers, mental health and substance abuse workers, policy makers and others.

## Rubia, Inc.

Warner, NH - \$5,000

To support the program, "Sewing Confidence among Refugee Women," to establish a sewing center where recently resettled African refugee women will be trained in small business enterprise.



(Above) A day at Marguerite's Place

## Sexual Assault Support Services

Portsmouth, NH - \$4,000

To support the "Sexual Violence Education and Awareness Program," a comprehensive program that provides Sexual Violence Education and Awareness Programs to students in grades K-12.

(Left) A family at Nashua Pastoral Care Center

## The Family Center of Greater Peterborough

Peterborough, NH - \$5,000

To support the program "For Parents and Their Babies, For Parents Age 25 and Under, For Parents Age 26 and Over," offering support groups for parents and their babies.

## The New Hampshire Women's Policy Institute

Concord, NH - \$5,000

To support "Understanding Barriers to Care for Near-Elderly Women in NH," providing new information on the barriers faced by near-elderly (ages 55-64) women in accessing and paying for health care, and the impact that has on economic security for this population.



## Voices Against Violence

Plymouth, NH - \$4,739

To support the program, "Pattern Changing," which provides psycho-educational support groups for abused women.

For info about our 2009 Grant Application deadlines, please go to [www.wfnh.org](http://www.wfnh.org).

## Thank You

We at the Women's Fund wish to thank the members of this year's grantmaking committee for their contribution of time and expertise.



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## **Visionaries**

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Barbara Zeckhausen

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*Now is the time to make a difference!*

Your gift will enable the Women's Fund to continue promoting solutions that help women and girls face the challenges of today's economy.

Use the enclosed envelope to donate today or visit our website [www.wfnh.org](http://www.wfnh.org) to make a gift online or for more information on planned giving and donor programs. Planned giving opportunities include making the Women's Fund a beneficiary in your will, establishing a charitable remainder trust, designating the Women's Fund as beneficiary of a life insurance policy and initiating a life income agreement. Contact your financial advisor for more information.