

Get involved with the Women's Fund!

There are many ways for you to help make a difference in the lives of women and girls in our communities:

- Become a volunteer
- Join a committee
- Become a Founding 500 Member (see page 4)
- Host a small gathering of your friends and colleagues to help spread the word about the Women's Fund

A member of the Steering Committee can provide a short presentation about the fund and answer any questions – we love to share news about the Women's Fund with a few close friends!

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Amy Clinton at AClinton@unitedwaygcr.org or 456.2200 ext. 122. ●

Check out our website!

The Women's Fund of the Capital Region is located online at www.womensfundcr.org.

Save the date: Tuesday, November 6

Non-profit organizations are invited to join us on November 6 for an informative session about this year's Women's Fund Grant Cycle. A panel with local experts will discuss how collaboration has worked within their organizations. For more information, go to www.womensfundcr.org. ●



Fall 2007
Community Update

A Women's Fund Success Story

The Women's Fund of the Capital Region believes in the power of women — a case in point is Heather Prince, a small business owner in Schenectady. Heather now operates her own New York state registered family day care, a step she never could have imagined taking without the help of the St. Patrick's Home-Based Child Care Partnership. St. Patrick's was one of the first nonprofits to receive a Women's Fund grant this year. The Fund gave \$20,000 to support the Partnership's work with women who wish to set up and operate family day care businesses in their own homes.

The Partnership's training and support program is a collaboration between Catholic Charities, SEFCU, and the Child Care Council. Women participating in the program receive training in how to open and operate a NYS-licensed family day care in their homes. By doing so, they overcome one of the greatest barriers to employment in low-income communities: affordable child care. They care for their own children at home while generating income as a small business.

The St. Patrick's Partnership helped Heather through the complex and time-consuming process of becoming a NYS registered child care provider. She had long dreamed of operating her own business, but was overwhelmed by the prospect of doing it alone. Heather knew that she had the passion and experience to open a family day care (she previously had worked as a teacher at a child care center), but needed help navigating through the state licensing process and understanding the marketing and financial management aspects of owning a business. She heard about the St. Patrick's Partnership through a friend, and began attending programs and classes in 2006. She obtained her license in April 2007 and now operates her own family day care business.

"My biggest challenge was getting through the paperwork and inspections," Heather said. "The staff of St. Patrick's Partnership was very, very helpful in working through that process." She worked hand-in-hand with the staff at the Partnership to complete the NYS application form, make the required home safety modifications, and develop a business operating plan.

Women's Fund Grants Committee Chair Mary Stokes emphasized the importance of making grants to organizations like the St. Patrick's Partnership. "This program helps women become financially independent in several ways: it increases the number of available child care options for working women in poor communities, improves the quality of child care for their children, and creates opportunities for women to run their own businesses," she said.

Stokes also noted the value of collaboration in St. Patrick's program. "Our grants committee encouraged applicants to collaborate because we believe that by working together we can better address the many challenges that women face. Similarly, when women pool their resources together through the Women's Fund, they can make grants that really make a difference." ●



Help us keep in contact... and keep our expenses down.
Join our electronic mailing list at www.womensfundcr.org.



Moving Mountains Luncheon 2007

During its inaugural Moving Mountains Luncheon, the Women's Fund of the Capital Region honored three Trailblazing women and announced \$55,000 in grant awards. Held May 15, 2007 at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Colonie, the event honored **Teri Bordenave, Charlotte Buchanan, Esq., and Jeanne Neff, Ph.D.**, for their leadership in philanthropy and for inspiring others to support efforts for women and girls in the Capital Region.

The inspiring words of the three honorees added to the high-energy Moving Mountains Luncheon, attended by nearly 300 people, and emceed by Liz Bishop of media sponsor CBS 6. Also at the event, the Women's Fund handed out its first three grants:

- **St. Patrick's Home-Based Child Care Partnership**, a partnership of Catholic Charities, SEFCU, and the Capital District Child Care Council. St. Patrick's is a unique neighborhood-based initiative that emphasizes the support and training of NYS registered childcare providers.
- **Project Hope and Power**, a partnership of Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Saratoga County and the Soroptimists International of Saratoga County. Project Hope and Power is an 8-week financial literacy program for women who are domestic violence victims, or who are at risk of victimization.
- **Project S.S.A.F.E.** (Self-Sufficiency and Financial Empowerment), which partners with Unity House, Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County, and Capital Communications Federal Credit Union. Project S.S.A.F.E. is a multifaceted approach to overcoming obstacles faced by women who are victims of domestic violence. ●

Trailblazing Women of 2007

Left to Right - Jeanne Neff, Ph.D., Teri Bordenave and Charlotte Buchanan, Esq.



Nominate a Trailblazing Woman

Trailblazing Women provide leadership in philanthropy; contribute substantial time, money and vision to issues affecting women and girls; demonstrate a long standing commitment and involvement in community initiatives and act as a mentor. Please go to our website, www.womensfundcr.org, and submit your nomination by November 15th. ●

The 2007 Trailblazing Women

"When I use my strength in the service of my vision it makes no difference whether or not I am afraid."

-Audre Lorde

The three Trailblazing women of 2007 were chosen based on their strong commitment to issues that affect women and girls.

Teri Bordenave, President and CEO of Girls Incorporated of the Capital Region for 19 years, has demonstrated a commitment to the health, well-being and empowerment of thousands of girls throughout the Capital Region. Thanks to her strong leadership, Girls Incorporated of the Greater Capital Region has grown to serve over 20,000 girls in Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady and Schoharie counties. A tireless advocate for girls' rights, education and community development, Ms. Bordenave presently serves on several boards, councils and committees that seek to enhance the quality of life for her fellow community members.

Charlotte Buchanan, Esq. is a retired attorney from the law firm of McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams. She is also an expert on biomedical ethics, founder of the Albany-Tula Alliance, an organization that develops and maintains ties between the Capital Region and the City of Tula, Russia, and patroness of the arts. Ms. Buchanan has spent many years championing civic issues relating to community health, social welfare and economic development. Her unwavering commitment to the issues that matter most to her has made Charlotte a distinguished community member and civic leader.

Dr. Jeanne Neff, President of The Sage Colleges, has spent many years helping women achieve their academic and professional goals. She began her career as a scholar in the fields of poetry and women's studies, later serving as an academic administrator and CEO. Dr. Neff's dedication to the advancement of women is evidenced right here in our community. As President of The Sage Colleges, which includes Russell Sage College, she encourages all women to become women of influence, to have confidence and strength, to inspire and to lead. Currently, Dr. Neff is also the co-host of 51%, a weekly radio program on WAMC that deals with the impact women have in our society.

The Women's Fund is proud to honor their achievements. ●

What's New?

SEPHORA

Sephora Coming To Colonie Center: Grand Opening Benefit Planned For The Women's Fund

Europe's leading retail beauty chain opens in Colonie Center this fall, with a special evening to benefit the Women's Fund of the Capital Region. Sephora's unique concept features over 250 classic and emerging brands across a broad range of product categories including skincare, color, fragrance, makeup, bath & body, and haircare, in addition to their own private label. Plans are in the works for a special Women's Fund introduction to Sephora --- just in time for the holidays --- where we'll check out the brands, learn about beauty trends, seasonal looks, and new products. Please watch our website -www.womensfundcr.org - for the date and details.

If you'd like to receive an email invitation, please contact Alicia Lasch at alasc@cfc.org. ●

Our Purse Continues to Grow . . .

Susan B. Anthony once said that "every woman should have a purse of her own," a belief shared by the Women's Fund of the Capital Region. As of August 31, 2007:

- The Fund has raised more than \$120,000 from nearly 200 donors.
- We have 158 Founding 500 members.
- We have distributed \$55,000 in grants this past spring.
- We are getting close to our goal of raising \$75,000 to be available for grants by the end of our fiscal year on February 28th.

For the Women's Fund, a purse is much more than a fashion accessory—it is a tool that can clear the path to financial independence for women and opportunities for girls. ●

Are you a non-profit agency that helps women or girls?

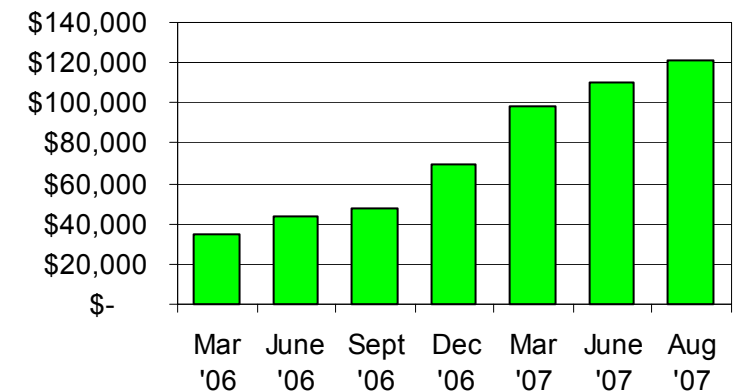
The Women's Fund's Volunteer Committee plans to post information about volunteer opportunities with such agencies on The Women's Fund web site later this fall.

If your agency has not already sent information to the Volunteer Committee, please complete a survey available on The Women's Fund web site (www.womensfundcr.org) and mail it to:

Sharyn Marchione,
Women's Fund Volunteer Committee
PO Box 1021
Schenectady, NY 12301

How is the Women's Fund doing?

Monies Raised Thru August 2007



Would you like to volunteer with a local program helping women or girls?

The programs that received funds from The Women's Fund in spring 2007 each have volunteer needs, listed below. Are you interested in helping with any of these needs? If yes, please contact the Volunteer Committee via Amy Clinton at 456-2200, ext. 122 or AClinton@unitedwayqcr.org. Based on responses, the committee will further organize these projects. Please reply by Monday, October 15.

1. Donate and help collect personal products for women living in Project Hope and Power's domestic violence shelter (such as shampoo, deodorant, pajamas, underwear, etc.)
2. Work in a group to distribute flyers about Project Hope and Power to public locations throughout Saratoga County.
3. Provide evening trainings to child care providers on general health and safety, business management and/or marketing through St. Patrick's Home-Based Child Care Partnership.
4. Work in a group to assemble curriculum kits for St. Patrick's.
5. Help with curriculum development of kits for St. Patrick's.
6. Donate and help collect health and safety items and toys for St. Patrick's.
7. Provide childcare during workshops attended by victims of domestic violence through Project S.S.A.F.E.
8. Mentor a woman who is a victim of domestic violence through the Project S.S.A.F.E. program.
9. Provide financial literacy training to victims of domestic violence through Project S.S.A.F.E.
10. Donate and help collect items for Project S.S.A.F.E. ●