

## Check out our new website!

Now you can get all of the information you need about the Women's Fund of the Capital Region at [www.womensfundcr.org](http://www.womensfundcr.org).

### Why A Women's Fund in the Capital Region?

- 1) Percentage of female-headed households living in poverty in 2003
  - Albany – 24.2%
  - Rensselaer – 22.5%
  - Saratoga – 17.5%
  - Schenectady – 20.8%
- 2) The 2004 Poverty Threshold for households containing one adult and one child is \$13,020 annual income. However, according to the Self-Sufficiency Standard of NY, that same family would need almost double that in the Capital Region.
- 3) Financial independence enables women to choose where and how they want to live, how they wish to raise their families, how they wish to achieve educational and personal growth, and safe from domestic violence.

### Did you know that . . .

- The Women's Fund of the Capital Region launched in February 2006?
- The Fund is a groundbreaking collaboration of The Community Foundation of the Capital Region, United Way of Northeastern New York, and United Way of Schenectady County?
- The Fund's focus is to promote financial independence for women and opportunities for girls?
- Our first grants will be awarded this spring?
- The Fund allocates 85% to grant making, 10% to endowment and only 5% to administrative expenses?
- There are over 100 Women's Funds across the country and internationally?
- Women control 51.3% of the wealth in our country?
- Less than 6% of charity donations went to programs that specifically serve the needs of women and girls?
- YOU can join with other women in the greater Capital Region to become a member of the Women's Fund of the Capital Region? Spread the word! ●

### How can you get involved with the Women's Fund of the Capital Region?

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 pg. 3)
- 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 Megan Allen at [megan@uwschdy.org](mailto:megan@uwschdy.org) or 372-4761 x 22. ●

### Save the date: May 15, 2007

Please join us on May 15th for our first annual Moving Mountains Awards luncheon at the Desmond as we announce the 2007 grant awards and celebrate the achievements of our three Trailblazing Women of 2007: Teri Bordenave, Charlotte Buchanan, and Jeanne Neff. We hope you can join us! *You will be mailed an invitation to this event.* ●



Winter 2007  
Community Update

### Nearly 200 Attend Grant Program Kickoff

On October 19, 2006 we held our first annual *Moving Mountains Grant Program Kickoff* event. Following the luncheon, there was a Q&A Session for potential grant applicants to learn about our grant process. Our speakers were Susan Wefald, VP of Program for the Ms. Foundation for Women and Ai-jen Poo, Lead Organizer for Domestic Workers United. Elaine Houston, News Anchor, WNYT emceed this event. Our inspiring speakers energized us to do all we can to make financial independence a reality for all women in the Capital Region. The event raised almost \$15,000. ●

### What's New?

The Grants and Education Committee has developed guidelines and an application for our first grant cycle. The grant program focuses on collaboration: applicants are encouraged to collaborate to develop comprehensive responses to the challenges faced by women and children. See the box above for more information.

### We're on the Web!

Our website went through a complete makeover (courtesy of a great group of women volunteers!) and is now up and running. Please visit [www.womensfundcr.org](http://www.womensfundcr.org) to get the latest news and learn more about our upcoming events. We have many volunteers joining our ranks as members of newly-formed committees. There is always a place for YOU with the Women's Fund, so please visit the website to learn more about our work or to make a contribution.

### 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 January 31, 2007, our Fund has raised over \$80,000 from nearly 160 donors. Of these donors, 130 are Founding 500 members. At this point, we have over \$65,000 to donate for grants this spring. With your help, we can reach our goal of \$100,000 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.

### Trailblazing Women

Our first annual Moving Mountains Awards luncheon is May 15, 2007 at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center. Please join us as we announce the 2007 grant awards and celebrate our three Trailblazing Women of 2007: Teri Bordenave, Charlotte Buchanan & Jeanne Neff. ●

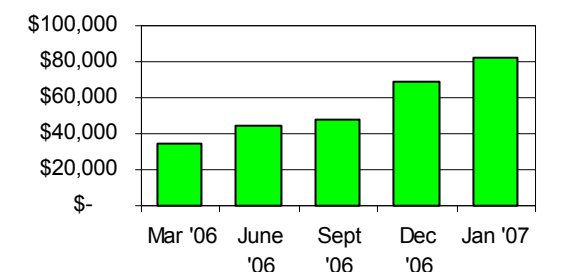
### Important information on our First Grant Cycle

- Places high priority on encouraging organizations to work collaboratively to overcome the challenges of:
  - financial independence for women or
  - opportunities for girls.
- Lead applicant must be a 501(c)(3) organization
- Deadline for grant proposals was January 22, 2007
- Funding decision will be mailed by March 9<sup>th</sup>
- Grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000

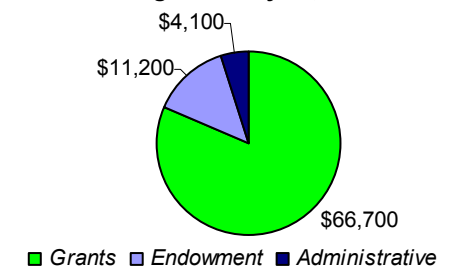
Any further questions, please contact Jackie Mahoney at [jmahoney@cfcr.org](mailto:jmahoney@cfcr.org) or visit our website. ●

### How is the Women's Fund doing?

Monies Raised Thru Jan 2007



Allocation of Monies Raised Through January 31, 2007



Help us keep in contact... and keep our expenses down.  
Join our mailing list at [www.womensfundcr.org](http://www.womensfundcr.org).



## The Founding 500

### Summit Society

A gift of \$10,000 or higher  
Deborah Ryan

### High Peaks Partners

A gift between \$1,000 and \$4,999  
Deborah Y. Kopp  
Norma Meacham  
Amy Welsh

### The Founding Five Hundred

A gift of \$500

A & E Consulting  
Ellin D. Alexander  
Megan Allen  
Sheila A. Ambrose  
Mary L. Anderson  
Laurie J. Bachelder  
Deb Balliet  
Lauri Baram  
Maria Scott Barbieri  
Judith A. Barnes  
Carole Biegen  
Karen Bilowith  
Susan Birkhead  
L. Ann Bish  
Susan L. Blabey  
Sarah M. Boggess  
Teri Bordenave  
Charlotte S. Buchanan  
Connie Cahill Sise  
Diane Cameron  
Diane L. Champion  
Charles Carletta  
Claudia Carroll  
Nancy E. Carey Cassidy  
Leslie A. Cheu  
Elizabeth Coco  
Mary Ann Cooper  
Lorraine D'Aleo  
Denise Desmond  
Diane Deveines, MD  
Mary Druke Becker\*  
Kate Dudding  
Leslie Ellis  
Mary Anne Faro  
Lorraine Ferguson  
Martha H. Fleming  
Ann Marie Franke  
E. Kristen Frederick  
Dr. Janet E. Gargiulo  
Sue Gertz

Maggie Gillis  
Lisa Giruzzi  
Joan Gould  
Jeanie Guity  
Denise L. Harlow  
Karen E. Harris  
Joan Heffler  
Analine S. Hicks  
Nancy E. Hoffman  
Elizabeth M. Hood  
Susan Haigh Houpt  
Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson  
Dr. Inge Jacobs  
Honorable Kathleen M. Jimino  
Karen B. Johnson  
Kane & Lekaxis  
Julie Michaels Keegan, Esq.  
Ellie Kittle-Ingalsbe  
Kathy Lanni  
Alicia D. Lasch  
Diane LaVigna-Wixted  
Lynn Lisy-Macan  
Terri Little  
Kay E. MacLaury  
Jennifer L. MacPhee  
Ruth H. Mahoney  
Sharyn L. Marchione  
Caroline Mason  
Donna McAndrews  
Isabelle McAndrews  
Louise McColgin  
Dianne Meckler  
Christine Miles  
Stacey A. Millman  
Diane Muccigrosso  
Beth Mothersbaugh  
Jeanne H. Neff  
Allison Newman  
Nancy O'Keeffe  
Donna O'Leary

Mary Lou O'Toole  
Deborah Onslow  
Theresa Page  
Lauren Payne  
Katherine D. Pelham  
Marilyn A. Pendergast  
Cindy Phillippe  
Anne P. Phillips  
Carol C. Possin, PhD  
Vera Prosper, PhD  
Barbara J. Pryor  
Mel Quinlan  
Anne Reynolds Copps  
Linda D. Richardson  
A.C. Riley  
Lisa A. Roberts  
Gloria H. Rodgers  
Kathleen Rooney  
Raona Roy  
Sheilah R. Sable  
Pamela Sawchuk Brown  
Sarah J. Schermerhorn  
Mary A. Shaheen  
Jean K. Sheviak  
Sue Kidd Shipe, PhD  
Gladys G. Siegel  
Sharon D. Siegel  
Suzann L. Smart  
Marcia M. Steiner  
Mary E. Stokes  
Barbara Lee Strangfeld  
Trudi Thun  
Joanne Tobiessen  
Diane S. True  
Susan D. Van Raalte  
Jaruloch K. Whitehead  
Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas  
Kathy Schofield Zdeb

### Special Gifts

Lucy Larner in honor of her mother, Shirley Larner  
Mary Seeley in memory of her mother, Eleanor Seeley  
Janet D. Vine in memory of her mother, Dora M. Vine

### Matching Gifts

Bank of America

Five members are not listed as they wish to remain anonymous.

\*deceased

## **How to become a Founding 500 Member**

If you'd like to make a tremendous difference in the lives of Capital Region women, join the *Founding Five Hundred*.

You can contribute in a number of ways.

- 1) On our website - [www.womensfundcr.org](http://www.womensfundcr.org). Click on "Make a donation" and follow the instructions.
- 2) Call any of our three founding organizations and ask for information on how to donate.
- 3) Come to the Moving Mountains luncheon in May to make your gift. Information on this event is in this newsletter.
- 4) Simply fill out the form in this newsletter and mail it back. *Thank you for your commitment!*

## Why the Women's Fund?

### Three Women's Stories

**Kathy Lanni** is passionate about the Women's Fund. When she first heard about the fund, she immediately wrote a check to become a Founding Five Hundred member. "I was moved to give because of the number of women living below the poverty level who will be helped by the fund."

As an entrepreneur and co-owner of *Regalo, A Gift Experience*, Lanni has donated to other initiatives supporting women. What appealed most to Lanni about the Women's Fund is that it doesn't just address the problem of women's poverty, it gives money to fund the tools women need to obtain financial stability. To Lanni, the Women's Fund is the means for her to give a donation and put it to immediate, practical, measurable, and quantifiable use.

Women at retirement age today often don't have the means to retire and may find themselves at the poverty level without skills, often due to divorce. To Lanni, financial independence is a basic means of survival for women. "The Women's Fund can help give these women the tools for economic independence."

As the mother of two daughters in college, Lanni's donation as a Founding Five Hundred member is even more important to her. "You have to go beyond yourself and have a passion for what you do and where you put your money," Lanni explains. Her passion is empowering women. "Give women education and opportunity and they are empowered. I believe the Women's Fund is the means to do this." ●

**Deb Ryan** was attracted to the Women's Fund because of the fund's focus on economic self sufficiency for women. "Other excellent organizations work on pieces of this puzzle, but the Women's Fund is unique in that women are the only focus. The fund also focuses on the Capital Region. It's women of this community giving time, treasure and talent to make this community a better place for other women".

This concept of women helping women, convinced Ryan to become the founding chair of the Women's Fund. At the time, Ryan was the CEO of IA Systems, and she believed that as Tech Valley grew, the potential was there for women to share in the economic fruits of this growth. She also saw the commitment of the three founding organizations to self sufficiency for women, and felt all was in place to make the fund a success. Now in retirement, Ryan continues to be a major supporter of the fund and the Capital Region. ●

**Amy Welsh** had just moved to the Capital Region when she read an article in the Times Union about the Women's Fund. She immediately called United Way of Schenectady County and asked how she could get involved. Welsh grew up as one of 4 children of a single mother and knows how difficult it can be financially. Her mother insisted she get an education and worked to give her advantages that others in this situation might not have.

Now, as a CFO of a local energy company, Welsh has employees who are single mothers. She sees the cycle of financial hardship, lack of opportunity and burden of child care continue. Determined to help, Welsh signed up as a Founding Five Hundred member. "Other funds may help with domestic violence or a particular issue, but this fund is all encompassing, helping women help themselves toward economic stability. The statistics are overwhelming that women are being underserved and the Women's Fund is the way to address this."

The focus on collaboration is most important to Welsh. "The grant application requires that the applicant use the funding in collaboration with other non-profits or corporations. In this way women are benefiting from multi-sources and it builds community." Welsh's commitment to the fund is personal. "I'm in it for the long term." ●

### **YES, I want to contribute to the Women's Fund!**

#### **Become a member of the Founding Five Hundred!**

*Individual gifts of \$500 or more*

\$500+

Please list name(s) as desired on Founders roster:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Founding 500 members receive a sterling silver pin  
by jewelry designer Michael Dunn.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*name (please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*telephone*                      *e-mail*

I prefer to remain anonymous.

If this box is not checked, donors names will be published in Women's Funds materials and on the website.

Other amount:  \$250  \$100  \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information about volunteering

#### **Method of payment:**

My check is enclosed. *(Please make payable to the Community Foundation for the Capital Region or the United Way, referencing Women's Fund in the memo line.)*

Please bill me.

I will pay by credit card: (*circle one*): Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Mail this form to:**

**The Women's Fund of the Capital Region  
PO Box 3855, Albany, NY 12203**