



A FUND OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Spring—2006

*Benefit Concert
Hanneke Cassel
March 11, 2006
Join us to support
the Women's Fund
(details on page 3)*

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GIVING CIRCLES

Get together with friends and make a difference

Are you a member of a book club, garden club or sewing circle?

Do you regularly walk or exercise with a group?

Do you get together for coffee or tea with friends?

Do you think about giving back to the community but don't have time?

If you are like a lot of women you want to help but don't feel you have enough money to make a difference. Then when you do give, you're not sure if the money is spent wisely. With Giving Circles you and your friends control how the money is spent. You see your dollars making a difference right here in our community.

Here are some examples of what can be accomplished with Giving Circles:

- \$40 buys scrubs for a newly Certified Nursing Assistant.
- \$65 will fund a GED (Graduate Equivalent Degree) test for a young women who was unable to complete high school.
- 8 friends donating the cost of a weekly cup of coffee could provide a year's supplies for a therapeutic art program benefiting battered women and children.
- 3 friends setting aside \$2 a week for a year will fund an Emergency Medical Technician exam for a local high school student.

How can you start a Giving Circle? If you or your group are interested, call or email us. We will provide ideas and help you choose a project and level of funding. You will receive updates on the results of your contribution. For more information visit our web site: www.cfsema.org/womensfund

CAREER GEAR IS WORKING

It's often small obstacles such as lack of transportation or appropriate professional clothing that can hold women back from gaining economic independence.

In our last newsletter we announced the launch of CareerGear, a program designed to help women transition into the workforce. Since then, the collaboration with Child & Family Services has pro-

vided business attire for over 35 women through Hetty's Thrift Shoppe.

This spring CareerGear is offering monthly classes at the Career Center and LifeStream's Employment & Training Division in interview skills as well as tips on how to make a good first impression and create a professional image.

Local social service agencies, beauty academies

and the Coalition Against Poverty are working with us to help foster this program's continued success. We need your clothing donations to fill the racks at Hetty's Thrift Shoppe. Check our web site for a current wish list.

We also need volunteers to help us run the monthly classes as the program grows. If you or your organization would like to help, please call us.



Kate Fentress
Coordinator

FROM OUR COORDINATOR

Greetings!

As the work done by our volunteers expands I continue to be awed by their enthusiasm in moving the Women's Fund forward. Whether creating the application process for Action Awards or designing our web site, these women bring expertise from many fields to our work. 2006 will be a year of building on last year's accomplishments and developing new initiatives to address the challenges of providing adequate job training, preventing violence against women and spreading awareness of the Women's Fund in surrounding communities.

I am particularly excited about establishing an ongoing public policy committee this year. After attending the *State of Women and Girls* program at the State House on January 25th, I was reminded that mobilizing women to advocate for their rights is

essential. We must begin to gather solid data from our region to help legislators understand our needs. It is the only way we have some hope of restoring funding in key areas, such as teen pregnancy prevention, housing assistance for the working poor, education and a host of other areas that impact the social fabric of this community.

Don't forget our 4th Annual Mother's Day Appeal. Look for more information about the many restaurants assisting us this year. They will showcase the Women's Fund materials on Mother's Day, educating a new audience about what we do. They will also make a contribution to our fund. Enjoy a great meal, support a local business and know you are investing in the power of women. *Bon appetit!*

With your continued support we will become a stronger voice for women in Southeastern Massachusetts. Thank you for any assistance you can offer.

FUND RAISING PROGRESS

Our first Annual Appeal last October raised close to \$16,000 in gifts to support the activities of the Women's Fund. We heard from many new donors which is always gratifying to a growing organization. Thank you to all who responded so generously.

- Honor a significant woman in your life through a donation at Mother's Day
- Give your time to help with an event or with CareerGear
- Contribute to the Annual Appeal
- Build our endowment which helps to fund our Action Awards
- Donate to a special project or charity through the Women's Fund

We recognize that some women might prefer to make a more direct connection with their charitable dollars. We are aware of many agencies and projects affecting women and girls in need. We would be happy to connect you to them and broaden the scope of our efforts at the same time.

There are several ways to give to the Women's Fund:

MISSION

To support programs that develop, promote and protect the mind, body, spirit and choices of women and girls.

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WWW.CFSEMA.ORG/WOMENSFUND

ACTION AWARDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Due to the success of the 2005 Action Awards the Women's Fund is inviting more agencies to nominate recipients for 2006 and is planning to grant a greater number of awards than last year.

This year we are soliciting applications from agencies with annual budgets of \$200,000 or less. Creative collaborations are encouraged. This approach reflects our belief in innovative partnerships.

The results of our pilot year were very rewarding:

- A college student nominated by Stanley Street

Treatment and Resources, Inc. was provided with money to pay for books and transportation. She is a member of the National Honor Society and was recently promoted to Secretary of her Student Senate.

- The YWCA Girls Giving and Growing Program introduced 20 girls to the basics of managing money. Their grant paid for a field trip to the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston, which included a tour and presentation of the pros and cons of saving and investing money.
- "Sewing Your Story", Brick by Brick's six-week quilting class taught the history of quilt making to 8 teenage girls. They con-

verted their personal stories into quilt designs and ended their class with a field trip to the Gees Bend quilt exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts.



The 2006 nomination and application process is currently underway. The results will be announced in May and they will be posted on our web site.

"WOMEN IN THE ARTS" SHOW A HIT

The fall art show, "Women in the Arts" graciously hosted by Rogers Gallery in Mattapoisett was a great success! Visitors reported that this was a very strong show with a variety of exceptional fine crafts and paintings by regional artists. Sales reached nearly \$14,000, of which the Women's Fund received \$3,000. We hope this is the first of a series showcasing the creative richness of the SouthCoast.

Laura Anderson
Sarah Benham
Rebecca Budgell
Johanna Chase
Deborah Coolidge
Joan DeRuggeris
Sue Duquette
Eck Follen
Elizabeth Howland
Genevieve Hunt
Donna Huse
Yvonne Leonard
Gayle Mandile
Dora Milliken

Participating Artists

Sarah Morse
Elin Noble
Emi Ozawa
Renia Platt
Amy Schusser
Joyce Utting Schutter
Nancy Train Smith
Nan Starr
Nicole St. Pierre
Patricia Coomey Thornton
Ellen Lewis Watson
Alison Wells
Carol Way Wood

HANNEKE CASSEL BENEFIT CONCERT

The Boston Globe described Hanneke's performance as:

"Exuberant and rhythmic, somehow both wild and innocent, delivered with captivating melodic clarity and an irresistible playfulness."

Benefit for the Women's Fund and Team Congo/American Cancer Society's Relay for life on:

MARCH 11, 8 PM

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SOUTH DARTMOUTH

ADVANCE TICKET PURCHASE

REQUIRED—\$25 PER PERSON

508-993-6676

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Kate Fentress

Coordinator

Louise Anthony

Christina Bascom

Wendy Bauer

Paula Benedetti

Carolyn Burnham

Priscilla Ditchfield

Rachael Kolb

Nancy Kurtz

Sharon Levesque

Jean MacCormack

Carolee Matsumoto

Nancy McFadden

Ann Parson

Susan Perry

Cathy Roberts

Linda Steinman

Lara Stone

W O M E N
creating
C H A N G E
together



SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S FUND



BENEFIT CONCERT
HANNEKE CASSEL
MARCH 11, 2006

Award winning fiddler/
violinist will perform
her own compositions.

*See page 3 for
details*

THANK YOU!

FOR EDITING THE NEWSLETTER

Genevieve Hunt

FOR WORK ON "WOMEN IN THE ARTS"

Pat Daughton
Eck Follen
Pat Kellogg
Carol Mello
Louise & Ben Rogers
Grape Moments
Shipyard Galley
Spirits in Marion

FOR HELP WITH CAREERGEAR

Karen Costa
Michelle Hantman
Nan Johnson
Terri Kavanaugh
Child & Family Services
Hetty's Thrift Shoppe
LaBaron Hairdressing
Academy
LifeStream
Rob Roy Academy
Career Center

FOR HELP WITH THE MAYORAL DEBATE & WOMEN'S ISSUES FORUM

Monica Allen
Lee Blake
Diane Bolton
Gail Fortes
Pamela Mcleod Lima
Rebecca McCullough
Marcella Nelson
Lynn Poyant
Kay Reis
Corinn Williams
The Standard-Times

Public Access TV -
Tom Sexton
Zeiterion Theater -
Katherine Knowles

FOR WORK ON GIVING CIRCLES

Tracy Carreiro
Janet Egan
Cindy Keene

FOR HELP WITH THE WEB AND PRESENTATIONS

Harriet Linskey

C A L E N D A R O F E V E N T S

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

MARCH 8, 2006—INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 4TH & 5TH — "PERFORMING ACTIVISM:
SAFE WOMANHOOD IN AN UNSAFE WORLD"

DR. AFAP MELIES, DEAN OF NURSING, UNIV. OF PA
UMASS DARTMOUTH

MARCH 11—HANNEKE CASSEL CONCERT
8 PM - CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
SOUTH DARTMOUTH TO BENEFIT THE WOMEN'S FUND

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

MAY 4-5—GIRLS AT RISK CONFERENCE
UMASS DARTMOUTH

MAY 23—SUCCESSFUL WOMEN IN MATH AND SCI-
ENCE (SWIMS) CONFERENCE, UMass DARTMOUTH