



A FUND OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Fall / Winter 2005

WOMEN IN THE ARTS

On November 6th, **“Women in the Arts”**, a show featuring original art work by over two-dozen of the area’s most talented women artists, will open at Rogers Gallery in Mattapoisett. The opening reception will be held from 2:00 to 5:00 PM and the show will run through November 19th. The wide variety of styles and media, some of which include painting and ceramics, jewelry and fabric, will make this exhibit extensive in its offerings. The exhibit will serve as a fundraiser for the Women’s Fund, a special fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts.

"As a gallery owner and as a woman," said Louise Rogers, who opened her gallery twenty-seven years ago, "I welcome the opportunity to assist the Women’s Fund with its mission to support diverse regional programs aimed at enriching the lives of girls and women. The Women’s Fund provides a wonderful opportunity for women to give back to other women by

way of financial support, lending their expertise and volunteering their time.” Through the years Rogers Gallery has hosted many benefit exhibitions, for various area non-profits. The gallery donates a portion of the proceeds of every sale to the cause.

“The exhibit will showcase and support women artists as well as the arts, enhancing the community as well as assisting the Women’s Fund.”

“We felt honored when Rogers Gallery offered to organize this multi-artist show," said Kate Fentress, Coordinator of the Women’s Fund. "The exhibit will showcase and support women artists as well as the arts, enhancing the community as well as assisting the Women’s Fund.”

Take a friend to see the work of these talented women and buy some art to enjoy and help other women to achieve in their lives too. Rogers Gallery is located on Route 6 in Mattapoisett and is open Mon-Sat 9:30-5:00. (For further information call 508-758-3641) To learn more about the Women’s Fund, contact Kate Fentress at 508-996-8253 or visit cfsema.org/womensfund.

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W O M E N ' S F U N D F O C U S

ADVOCACY	EDUCATION
CIVIL AND REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM	HEALTH
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	VIOLENCE PREVENTION
ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE	



Kate Fentress
Coordinator

FROM OUR COORDINATOR

HELLO EVERYONE!

The Women’s Fund has gone from being a dream in our founder’s heart to having a modest endowment, a vibrant mission, and an active organization. We are fortunate to be staffed by a group of talented volunteers willing to make room in their busy lives to help other women. Here is a brief review of what we have accomplished so far. Read on to learn more about several of these efforts:

Secured significant operating funds allowing us to support more collaborations and programs focused on local women and girls.

Awarded our first “Action Awards” (see article on page 3).

Held three successful networking evenings with over 350 women participating.

Developed a logo to create a unique “brand” identity and launched a website, www.cfsema.org/womensfund, where you can learn more about the Women’s Fund.

Established “CareerGear,” in collaboration with New Bedford Child & Family Services, to provide appropriate clothing and support to low-income women entering the workplace. (read more on page 3)

Engaged the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth to help in researching the status of women in Bristol County.

Perhaps we are at the end of the beginning and at the start of phase two—marked by opportunities for collaboration, a stronger identity, and an expanding network of supporters. Together we will help transform this community. We value your assistance in any form you are able to offer.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A big thank you to all those who gave a gift in someone’s honor for Mother’s Day (a list of honorees can be found on our website www.cfsema.org/womensfund). We had responses from twice as many people as last year and raised \$10,000. We will use the money to help fund “CareerGear” (see article page 3).

Our Advisory Council has committed more than \$110,000 towards operations over the coming years. For a new non-profit this 100% vote of confidence is a huge asset as we reach out to our community of supporters to help us with pro-

jects as well as with our long-term goal of building a sustaining endowment.

We are pledged to initiate at least one Giving Circle this fall. A Giving Circles is a small group of like-minded individuals focused on a particular project to benefit women or girls. Joining or forming a Giving Circle provides you with a hands-on opportunity to explore and collaborate with others who share the same desire to make focused social investments with impact. Participating in a giving circle is also fun! Read more about Giving Circles at:

<http://www.givingforum.org/givingcircles/> and <http://givingnewengland.org>.

We support Leadership SouthCoast! We are proud to announce that Women’s Fund Coordinator Kate Fentress will participate in this year-long program. Now in its second year, Leadership SouthCoast’s mission is to provide our region with an ongoing source of diverse leaders prepared and committed to serve as catalysts and sustainers of positive change for the quality of life on the SouthCoast of Massachusetts.

MISSION

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

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CAREER GEAR

The Women's Fund of Southeastern Massachusetts is partnering with New Bedford Child and Family Services to establish "CareerGear", a program that will help low-income women transition into the workforce.

CareerGear will provide interview and work clothing to women who are referred by homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters and job training programs.

Each referred client will receive up to three outfits free of charge

through Hetty's Thrift Shop located at New Bedford Child and Family Services. This component of the program is underway.

Other client services planned for the future include free hairstyling and wardrobe consultation by local professionals. This collaboration is an opportunity for the Women's Fund to be a resource in our community, meeting a pressing need for women seeking a job as a step towards financial independence.

CareerGear will depend on the

commitment and support of individuals, companies and organizations through financial and clothing donations. We hope you will join us in the very near future in assisting women gain economic independence and a brighter future.

Although we are not yet able to accept clothing donations, watch for more information and updates on this program on our website and in the news as we develop our client base and the systems to make use of community support.

ACTION AWARDS

In June, the Women's Fund announced the recipients of its first annual Action Awards. The awards are small, flexible grants available to groups and individuals sponsored by area social service agencies. Our priority, this year, was to fund grants that supported educational endeavors. Because this was the pilot year for the program, a limited number of agencies were invited to submit nominations for the Awards. It is the hope of the Women's Fund that, in the future, the application

process will be open to all agencies in our area. This year's Action Award recipients are:

A foreign-born college student who moved to the area as a child and whose family suffered serious abuse by a family member, currently in prison. \$650 was awarded to help her pay for books and transportation home to see her family several times during the school year.

Benares Finan-Eshelman of Brick by Brick. \$500 was awarded so she can run a summer course for low-income teenage

girls dealing with the history of women, quilts and quilt making.

Tara Mahoney, nominated by the YWCA to run the *Girl's Giving and Growing Program* which teaches economic empowerment skills to low-income, middle school girls. A matching grant of \$300 will be awarded once the girls raise that amount towards an end-of-term field trip

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Kate Fentress

Coordinator

Louise Anthony

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Sharon Levesque

Cyndi Loomer

Jean MacCormack

Carolee Matsumoto

Nancy McFadden

Ann Parson

Susan Perry

Cathy Roberts

Linda Steinman

Lara Stone

W O M E N
c r e a t i n g
C H A N G E
t o g e t h e r

THANK YOU

FOR SUPPORTING OUR AHA NIGHT
NETWORKING EVENT:

Watch Captain | www.watchcaptain.com

Burr Brother's Boat Yard | www.burrbros.com

FOR HOSTING OUR 3 NETWORKING
EVENINGS AND HELPING WITH OUR
MOTHER'S DAY APPEAL:

Culinary Institute of America

FOR DONATING 10% OF PROCEEDS
FROM ANY MASSAGE CLIENT WHO
MENTIONS THE WOMEN'S FUND:

Cindy Keene | Seaside Massage | 508.415.3739

FOR DONATING CORPORATE BRANDING,
DESIGN & LAYOUT SERVICES:

Mail Box Services | 508.758.9700

www.mattapoissettmailboxes.com

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

MAYORAL CANDIDATES DEBATE

September 27th | 3 to 6pm | Whaling Museum

PRIMARY ELECTION IN NEW BEDFORD

October 4th

POST-PRIMARY MAYORAL CANDIDATES DEBATE

October 25th | 7pm | Zeiterion

"WOMEN IN THE ARTS" OPENING RECEPTION

November 6th | 2 to 5pm | Rogers Gallery (Mattapoissett)

NEW BEDFORD MUNICIPAL ELECTION

November 8th

OUR WEBSITE

Our website has been up and running since the spring. So far, we have included general information, announcements of events, news and ways to get involved with the Fund. In the future we will be adding links and information about services and resources for women and girls as well as interesting statistics. Get involved! Visit our website and suggest links you would like to have us include: www.cfsema.org/womensfund.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL

Send us your email address! This will enable us to communicate inexpensively and in a timely fashion with more of you. The emails go out to 'undisclosed recipients' so you don't need to worry about your email address getting circulated.

Please send your email address to Kate Fentress at kfentress@cfsema.org. Thank you.