

# WOMEN'S FUND OF SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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## Women Creating Change Together

*"The mission of the Women's Fund is to support programs that develop, promote and protect the mind, body, spirit and choices of women and girls."*



As I hope will be evident from the contents of this newsletter, the Women's Fund is on a roll! We hired Kate Fentress in June as a "part time coordinator" – don't believe for one minute that it is part time – and we and she have never looked back. Kate comes from a social work and development background but that does not begin to describe her skills. She brings an enormous amount of energy, superb networking skills, and a commitment to collaboration and cooperation. A twenty year resident of the South Coast, Kate has a passion for women's issues that has only deepened over her 5 months with us. She has brought a consistent presence to the fund that will allow us to take our place in the not-for-profit community.

Please give Kate a call and find out how we can make change together, one person at a time. *(from Christina Bascom, Executive Committee Member)*

### Here is what we have been up to in the last 6 months!

- ✓ Hired part-time coordinator
- ✓ *Joined the Women's Funding Network ([www.wfn.org](http://www.wfn.org))  
A worldwide partnership of women's funds, donors, and allies committed to social justice, the Women's Funding Network seeks to ensure that women's funds are recognized as the "investment of choice" for people who value the full participation of women and girls as key to strong, equitable, and sustainable communities and societies.*
- ✓ *Held introductory tea in Dartmouth*
- ✓ *Expanded our database*



#### **Can you believe?**

The United States is 60<sup>th</sup> in the world when it comes to women in government.

- ✓ *Completed a needs assessment  
A sampling from non-profits in the greater New Bedford area, suggested that these organizations are looking for a fresh approach to the multiple needs in our region. They did not want us to issue a Request for Proposals for the limited funds available at this time. Participants imagined a collaborative program to follow a fixed number of families, providing a comprehensive and holistic approach to problem-solving.*
- ✓ *Articulated the roles and responsibilities of our volunteer board and committees*
- ✓ *Set our course for 2005*

***Thank you for supporting  
the Women's Fund -  
We couldn't do it without  
you!***

## In 2005 we will...

*Solve Problems, Raise Awareness,  
Build Endowment*

- Respond to the Needs Assessment  
*We will **facilitate** a creative process for non-profits!  
We will **assist** in grant writing to increase the chances that a collaborative project will become a reality!*
- Use flexible funds to help women and girls move forward  
***A small grant** for a GED, a security deposit or a parenting class can make **a huge difference in a woman's life!***
- *Work with after school programs At Artworks! **Students are developing** design skills while helping us with our logo!*
- Provide information and support to middle and high school girls groups  
*We will also remind them of all of the evidence that although the 70's are over, **the women's movement still has work to do!***
- Hold one introductory tea each month  
***You can host a tea!** Call Kate Fentress at 508-996-8253*
- Create a monthly women's networking event in downtown New Bedford  
*Watch the papers for the dates. **Come and bring your friends!***
- Sponsor an art show in fall of 2005  
***Join us** on a committee!*

- Expand our Mother's Day Appeal  
*Let's continue to **honor our mothers and mentors!***
- Educate people about forming a Giving Circle  
*Would your book group like to collectively **meet a societal need** while learning more about philanthropy and finance?*
- Continue hosting events and activities to raise money for our flexible funding pool and for our endowment  
***Your energy and imagination could make a difference!***

*"In every community, there is work to be done.  
In every nation, there are wounds to heal.  
In every heart, there is the power to do it."*

*Marianne Williamson*

## There are over 100 Women's Funds in the United States

*Women in communities across the United States and Canada are joining the women's fund movement. In a women's fund, women raise the dollars and decide how they will be spent. In a women's fund, women at every economic level learn that they, too, can be givers. Women who are closest to the problem – women of color, and others who experience the issues first-hand, become involved in the solutions. Women are making philanthropy a tool for progressive social change, for developing women's leadership, and for making a difference (from the California Women's Fund FAQ's)*

**GET  
ACTIVE!**

You received this letter because you are a donor, or your name was suggested by a friend. You can help grow and nurture the Women's Fund, assuring its place as a long-term resource in our region. Call us at 508-996-8253 and find out how you can help.

***Did you know?***

Women are STILL paid only 77% of what men earn doing the exact same job. African-American women earn only 66% of what men in equal jobs do.

Less than 5% of philanthropic dollars in the USA go to gender specific programs for women and girls.

*"Learning about money – how to manage it, talk about it with our loved ones, and use it to bring about social change – is as important for women today as it was for our mothers to learn how to drive and for our grandmothers to secure the right to vote." – Tracy Gary, one of the founders of the women's funding movement*

**Future Web Site**

We are currently developing a website, which will expand on some of the themes mentioned in this newsletter. Eventually, we will have links to helpful resources and organizations.

**Our Wish List**

1. A digital camera
2. A laptop
3. Help with operations funding



*"I feel like a man trapped in a woman's salary."*  
(from the November 1/04 issue of New Yorker magazine)

**Women Creating Change Together**