

Fall—2006



2006 Mother's Day Appeal Doubled!

Thanks to the generosity of 110 donors, we raised more than \$15,000 this year. Check the website for the 2006 honorees.

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New Program Fund Expands Our Reach

We are pleased to introduce a new way of giving back to women and girls — the **Program Fund**. Until now, your generous donations have primarily supported our operations, while we have used our endowment to award small grants to local organizations. We have felt the need, as have some of our donors, to contribute larger amounts, to pool our gifts with others in order to have more impact, and to take advantage of opportunities to help on a more timely basis. The Women's Fund has created a Program Fund to accomplish this. Contributions can be earmarked for a specific project that supports our mission, or can be donated for distribution by the Women's Fund at some future time.

Our first grants have already been made:

... \$1,000 to The Community Foundation's effort to raise \$20,000 in support of a MCAS remedial program for New Bedford High School students

receiving a certificate of completion rather than a diploma. Nearly 50% of these students were girls.

- ... \$1,000 to the Mayor's Summer Youth Volunteer Program for 200 teenagers engaged in volunteer work around the city.
- ... \$5,500 for scholarships for Star Kids — a program to provide educational opportunities for high risk/low income children.
- ... \$5,000 in support of the youth initiative program at the October Bioneers Conference at UMass, Dartmouth.
- ... \$1,000 to Peaceworks for the Maxfield Street Garden.

We now have a variety of ways that you can support women and girls. Choose the Program Fund and leverage your gift through our organization — building connection, communication, and collaboration.

Action Awards 2006

The following area non-profit community organizations were awarded our 2006 Action Awards.

Trips for Kids - Salaries for two teen girls to serve as peer leaders for summer biking program for "at-risk" youth

Inner City Youth - Prize money for women who successfully complete a training course to become arborists

ArtWorks! - Stipend for female artists mentoring teen girls in internship program



Culture Park - Funds for in-school tour of "Wives Tales", an oral history theater project with women and girls from area fishing families

3rd Eye - Stipend for mentor of teen girls singing sessions

Coalition Against Poverty - Fund first phase of book by and for women who have led empowering life journeys

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



Kate Fentress
Director

From Our Director

I hope you like our new look! Once again, due to inspired assistance, like volunteer photographer Linda Keith and master printer, Reynolds DeWalt, we are making our website and publications visually more appealing. In the last two years we have gotten most of our systems in place and it is a joy to be working on upgrading rather than inventing, improving rather than designing. With the commitment and talent of the Advisory Council in hand, the sky is the limit. While we haven't felt any stardust yet we are still reaching!

"There cannot be a true democracy unless women's voices are heard" (Hilary Rodham Clinton). The veracity of those words is one of the reasons I am so pleased to be a member of the new regional council of the Mass Commission on the Status of Women. One of our first efforts, which will be replicated in other counties across the state, is to better understand the status of women in Bristol County as well as in the

cities of Fall River and New Bedford. With the help of the Center for Policy Analysis at UMass Dartmouth, we will roll out this data by October. This information will be a guide for legislators, educators and the general citizenry in better serving women in our area.

A great "possibility" that grew out of the Women's Forum (*Great Ideas, Great Possibilities*) we held last February is a committee dedicated to supporting quality education for girls in New Bedford. While it is often easiest to react, I applaud these women for taking the time to investigate what is missing and to plan a response based on specific knowledge rather than undocumented concern. Like all that we do, this project is volunteer driven, and another place where you can help us make a difference.

As always, thank you for your support of our work and in the words of Laurel Thatcher Ulrich remember that "Well behaved women rarely make history"!

A Change in Status—A sign of success

The Women's Fund has been part of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) since its formation five years ago. It was established in 2001 as a special-interest fund to serve the interests of women and girls in the area. For the first few years, we operated strictly on volunteer power — until we

recognized the need for a more permanent presence at the office. Kate Fentress was hired as a part-time coordinator in June 2004. She has been largely responsible for facilitating our growth since then. Recently, Kate became an employee of CFSEMA, in alignment with our growing collaboration with the activi-

ties of CFSEMA. Kate's title has changed to Director — and we are pleased to recognize her contribution to our success.

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Area Conferences Promote Better Lives For Girls

Girls and Society Symposium & the Second Annual Conference on Girls in the Social Margins, Girls in Conflict with the Law

On May 4th and 5th, 2006 two events addressed critical issues of girlhood in the social context, supported by the Chancellor's Office of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and organized and facilitated by Robin A. Robinson, Ph.D., Department of Sociology & Anthropology.

Keynote speakers for the two events included the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, Jane E.

Tewksbury, Esq., and internationally renowned scholar on female delinquency Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind, Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Hawaii. A wide and stimulating array of presentations focused on leading edge research by scholars and providers who study and work with girls. Participants and speakers explored issues central to the status of girls in Massachusetts, focusing on poverty, violence, trauma and

trauma treatment, community reintegration following detention/placements, and media portrayals of adolescent girls.

If you wish to add your name to the mailing list for the Third Annual Conference, to take place in May 2007, please contact Professor Robinson at: rrobinson@umassd.edu.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

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**WOMEN CREATING
CHANGE TOGETHER.**

'SWIMS' Career Day—Successful Women in Math and Science

The Women's Fund participated in the Successful Women in Math and Science (SWIMS) Career Day in March in conjunction with the SouthCoast Education Compact, Bristol Community College, UMass Dartmouth, and the YWCA of Southeastern MA. The brainchild of Sheila Koot and Edwina Cronin, math instructors at Dartmouth High School, SWIMS was a regional opportunity for professional women to encourage young women to pursue careers in math and sciences.

The day long event brought close to 250 area high-school girls together with 50 business and professional women who volunteered to talk about the joys and challenges of their careers in math and science. Students participated in information workshops lead by women professionals in civil engineering, food chemistry, pharmacy, nursing, information technology,

accounting, banking, marine biology, and architecture. These women helped to motivate students and provide a more realistic picture of their career areas.

Speakers included Chancellor Jean MacCormack, Ph.D. first female chancellor in the UMass system, Keynote speaker Mary Lynn Lenz, President and CEO of Slades Ferry Bank and Mary Lou Clark, Assistant Superintendent of Dartmouth Public Schools. High school students from the following school districts participated: Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown/Lakeville, New Bedford, Wareham, Westport, Swansea, Somerset, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School.

SWIMS Career Day for 2007 will be held in March. Contact lblake@umassd.edu for additional information.





Women in Marion learn more about our fund

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

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

8th **5K Road Race**, UMass Dartmouth
Sponsored by the Women's Center
Registration begins at 8AM
Call 508-996-3343 for more information

15th–21st **YWCA Week Without Violence**
Call 508-999-3255 for schedule.

25th/6PM **Candlelight Vigil**, City Hall
Sponsored by the Women's Center
Call 508-996-3343 for more information

October 19/8–10 AM

Women in Government, Women Leaders Breakfast

Woodlands Commons, UMass Dartmouth

October 20–22

Bioneers by the Bay—Connecting for Change

UMass Dartmouth

<http://www.connectingforchange.org>

For registration and information

October 21/10am-12n

Children Helping Children

Sponsored by the Pajama Program
Oceans 18, New Bedford
Call 508-985-1966 for information

November 7

Massachusetts General Election

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Calendar for The Women's Resource Center

UMass Dartmouth

<http://www.umassd.edu/wrc>

March 2007 - **International Women's Day**

Celebration - TBA

March 2007 - **SWIMS**

(Successful Women in Math & Science)

UMass Dartmouth

May 4, 2007 - **Girls in the Social Margins, Girls
in Conflict with the Law**

Third Annual Conference

UMass Dartmouth