



# The Women's Network

WAKE COUNTY

*connecting for change*

January 2011

## *\$130,000 Distributed at Annual Luncheon*

### *We're Growing! Please Welcome These New Members to the Network!*

We're so excited to announce so many new members to the Network! We look forward to getting to know them, and seeing them at an event or committee meeting this year!

- Donna Anderson
- Linda Grew
- Nell Finch
- Molly Mahoney
- Debra Ratliff
- Christine Wagner
- Fran Buckley
- Marilyn Stevens

### *Our Membership Committee is Planning Great Ways for Us to Meet!*

Michelle Keaton-Barrow and Kathy Blum, our dynamic Membership Committee co-chairs, are hard at work planning opportunities for us to get together! They include:

- February 16 – reception for potential members and Network members at NCCF
- March 31 – get-together at Liza Roberts' home

Keep checking your e-mail for dates and times, and make plans to join us. As always, feel free to bring along a friend or two who might be interested in joining the Network.

*The Women's Network maximizes women's leadership in philanthropy by engaging and educating its membership, increasing charitable contributions and strengthening communities through the impact of collective giving.*

*(reprinted from Philanthropy Journal, November 9, 2010)*

A group of 143 Network members and guests gathered in Raleigh to award grants totaling \$130,000 to three local nonprofits serving women and children in the Wake County area.

The latest round of awards from the Women's Network of Wake County brings the total amount donated over the last four years to \$424,000.

"I'm impressed by the funding level you've raised to give these grants," said Laurie Emrich, the keynote speaker at the network's annual awards luncheon held Nov. 8 at the Marriott City Center in Raleigh. "And that they are larger grants to fewer organizations."

Emrich, founder of the Threshold Foundation and a member of Women

### *Upcoming Dates for Your 2011 Calendar*

January is a great time to take out your calendars and fill in all the Network activities and events we are planning for you. Here's a brief list to get you started:

- February: Our committees are in full swing! Membership, Education, Special Events, and Communications are open for additional members. If you'd like to join your fellow Network members on a com-mittee, let Jeanne Lawson know at 256-6914.
- March: Our annual education issues luncheon is already in the planning stages, and we'll make sure you have the date when it's announced soon.
- Also in March: look for our announcement of our first Women, Wine & Philanthropy after-hours social event this year!

Moving Millions, a movement designed to encourage wealthy women to donate \$1 million or more to women's funds, praised the network's efforts, and its focus on helping women and children.

"I want to live in a world where cooperation, equity and justice thrive," she said. "The advancement of women's rights holds the ability to advance the rights of all. If women have full and productive lives, that improves the quality of life for their children and their communities."

And while 75 percent of those in poverty are women and children, Emrich said, women's issues receive less than 7 percent of the funding pie.

The grants awarded by the Women's Network of Wake County will help narrow that gap.

Urban Ministries received \$50,000 in general operating support for its Helen Wright Center for Women, which provides shelter and transitional housing for about 250 homeless women each year.

A grant of \$45,000 will fund a new mobile classroom for Read and Feed, a three-year-old organization that takes books and meals to elementary-age children in their own neighborhoods.

The grant will allow the organization to double to 700 the number of children it serves annually, says Jan Elmo, president of Read and Feed.

"You've made quite a difference in our children's lives," she said of the grant.

And SAFEchild received \$35,000 to hire a child abuse evaluation specialist for its Advocacy Center, which annually serves 325 child victims of abuse and sexual assault and their parents.

"We cannot do it by ourselves," Marjorie Menestres, executive director of the organization, said of the group's mission to prevent child abuse. "You remind us that we are not alone in our efforts to help children."

## *We've Reached a Milestone in our Membership!*

Just after our successful grants awards luncheon concluded in November, the response from interested women began to take off! Just four years after our inception, we have reached an important milestone in our history of being a key resource of funding for projects affecting the lives of women and children here in Wake County: we're now over 150 women strong!

Let's see if we can make the 200 mark this year! The more members we have, the more money we can give away in grants....and we make more of an impact on others' lives.

If you have someone in mind that you'd like to see join the Network, contact Membership Co-Chair Michelle Keaton-Barrow ([michbarrow@earthlink.net](mailto:michbarrow@earthlink.net)) or Co-Chair Kathy Blum ([kathyblum@alum.mit.edu](mailto:kathyblum@alum.mit.edu)). They want to hear from you!

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## *Laurie Emrich Congratulates The Women's Giving Network at Our Awards Luncheon*

***(Note: The following is a reprint of Laurie Emrich's remarks to the attendees at our grants awards luncheon.)***

What a pleasure to be here with you in Raleigh, on the occasion of The Wake County Women's Giving Network fourth annual awards luncheon. What a great turnout you have today.

I don't know too much about your Giving Network, but it is clear that you have accomplished a lot in these four years, especially given that you are volunteer led.

Soon you will find out which organizations are receiving grants this year. I am impressed by the funding level you have attained. But even more striking to me is the fact that you have a history of giving large grants, to fewer organizations. From personal experience I know that making those hard decisions with scarce resources is VERY challenging. I tip my hat to you for this, as well as giving general support grants. This is a decision that demonstrates your understanding of what best helps non-profits to thrive.

Congratulations.

Okay, so let's go.

- I'd like to start with a bit of personal background, giving you a sense of my "journey" – as they say in California.
- I want to share my thoughts on the question, Why Women? Why should we focus our attention and resources on women?

1. Though a lot of my experience and orientation is influenced by my work overseas, I want to also stress the importance of "acting locally" by talking about the local fund where I live, in Washington DC. Remember that expression, Think Globally, Act Locally? Isn't it exponentially more important now than ever before?
2. And I would conclude with a couple of things a quick walk through the history of women's' funding, and a brief overview about the Women Moving Millions Campaign.

We begin ...

Here is one of the most important things to know about me. I want to live in a world where cooperation, equity and justice thrive. Don't you? To make that happen I try to follow the advice of 1960s rhythm and blues singer-songwriter, Wilson Pickett: "Ya gotta shake whatcha brought whicha."

To me this means bringing all of myself, all of my resources – my character, experience, knowledge, and very importantly my heart and spirit, to each and every day and challenge.

### ***My personal history***

I grew up in Colorado, in a family with a strong ethic of social justice. My father, the son of a pickle factory owner, conducted his business in the spirit of Tikkun Olam, which means to repair or heal the world. He was always very generous, and he possessed a strong sense of social justice that imbued his work with a spirit of integrity and action.

I am very proud that early on he was involved in civil rights through the Urban League and, as an owner of Yellow Cab Company, was the first in Denver to hire African American drivers. I watched my parents' example over the years and took life lessons from it.

So as I grew up, the seeds of justice and social conscience were sewn deeply: fairness, justice and equality are at the heart of my value system.

At the same time, though I grew up in a life of privilege. And through an inheritance in my 20s, I had sufficient money to not seek paid work and was in a very different position than most of my counterparts. Yet, as a young person, I needed to know that I had the skills and ability to support myself, so I set about finding work in my chosen field of reproductive rights and international development.

For over 15 years, I worked with governments and nongovernmental organizations to assist in developing primary health care delivery systems in Africa – including four years I lived and worked in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, then Zaire.

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During this time of my work in Public Health, those initial funds that I had inherited pretty much gathered dust, both because I was busy with my work, and also because I was still far too ambivalent about my privilege, to actively deal with that money.

By the mid-1990s I decided that my work commute across the Atlantic to Africa was terribly impractical. So I cast my eye around for a set of more local, and now volunteer, consultancies. Though I was not truly conscious of this at the time, I began a different sort of commute, a journey to reconcile my egalitarian values and my reality as an inheritor of wealth.

In my 40s, I began to address my life of privilege, and the financial resources I had at hand, joining various donor networks, including the Funding Exchange, Women Donors Network and Threshold Foundation. As I studied and became active in the world of social justice philanthropy, I was increasingly systematic and extensive in my own grant making, continuing to focus on leveraging systemic change rather than responding to societal symptoms.

At about the same time, I had the opportunity to act locally, becoming a founding board member of the Washington Area Women's Foundation.

Let me break here, and address the question of why I began to focus on women. Well, I believe that women's rights are human rights, as was famously put forward at International Conference on Women held in Beijing, China. Additionally I think the advancement of women's rights also hold the ability to change human rights overall and to generate the outcomes of improved living standards.

Gender equality produces a double dividend because it benefits both women and children. We see that healthy, educated and empowered women have healthy, educated and confident children. Through gender equality women can not only live full and productive lives, they can also improve the lives of their children, their families, and their larger communities.

I am not the only person believing this. Among many others, Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of the UN has this to say:

*"As we know from long and indisputable experience, investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity and sustained economic growth. No measure is more important in advancing education and health including the prevention of HIV/Aids. No other policy is as likely to improve nutrition or reduce infant and maternal mortality."*

Personally I believe very strongly in fairness, equal opportunities, for all people regardless of race, gender, creed, sexual orientation etc. In addition to equal opportunity, I believe that a more rational and fair allocation of societal resources would work consistently and strenuously towards fulfillment of basic human needs of ALL people.

So now, let's look at some of the recent statistics in the US. and around the world....

In the US, the wage gap persists to this day, with average full-time working women earning 80 cents to every dollar for men in the U.S. *There is no country in the world where women's wages are equal to those of men.* Do you know that many studies have shown that women are more likely than men to use family income to the benefit of the family? *Why?*

Worldwide, 800 million people are illiterate. Almost 2/3 of them are women. *Why aren't more girls attending school?*

In the US a woman is raped every 6 minutes. *How can we allow this degree of insecurity to persist?*

Globally, women produce 75-90% of food crops they are mainly unpaid for this labor. *Yet who owns the land? Who has difficulty accessing credit? Why do rural agricultural extension agents target their services to the men?*

So my answer to "*why women?*" is:

1. Women show incredible talent and fortitude in improving the lives of their families and their communities.
2. And I also see that a plethora of societal resources are unfairly allocated, resulting in outcomes such as the ones cited above.

Women's funds such as yours are on the front line of the world's most pressing social issues such as poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, health care, education and human rights abuses.

Women and children are 75% of those in poverty, *yet they receive less than 7% of funding* -- you and I and so many others are now working hard to change that.

These realities have motivated me to focus on women's rights in my work and my grant making.

And of course all of you in this room are here because you too believe that *another world is possible*, a world of gender justice, a better, healthier world for all.

Do you know that great quote from the Indian writer, Arundhati Roy? *Another world is not only possible, she is on her way.*

On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.

Back in the mid 1990s, when I had returned to the US, and had begun engaging more with my financial resources, I had the great good fortune to be in right place at right time. The Washington Area Women's Foundation was just getting started; they were looking for Board members, they didn't yet have their first full time staff member.

The Women's Foundation drew me with its vision of social change and the heart-based values of its mission: to foster a powerful wave of philanthropy that would bridge the resource gap facing so many of the region's women's and girls, and

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in so doing, improve their lives. Like Wake County's Network, The Women's Foundation supports local nonprofits specializing in diverse strategies to change the lives of women and girls: ranging from financial education and job training to affordable child care centers to programs that raise girls' self-esteem.

The opportunity arose, and I stepped up. As a founding board member, I worked with the passionate, experienced and insightful board members and then with a growing staff, -- for the first nine years of the organization.

From '98 when we gave out leadership awards to 10 organizations in the amount of 22,500 – we have gone on to become one of three women's funds out of 90 nationwide to grant more than \$1 million in 2006, and have been granting more than \$1 million per year ever since.

### ***Evolution of a donor***

Over the last fifteen years, I have been a steady contributor to the Women's Foundation and a host of other national and international organizations. I believe strongly in giving multi-year, general support funding.

Until recently, my gifts hovered in the five-figure category. I certainly don't have vast wealth, and yet the reality is that I have more financial assets than 90 percent of the world's citizens.

So here's the thing .....

If I believe in justice, how can I accept the enormous and growing income inequality that characterizes today's world? If I support the reform of private foundation structure that allows them to accumulate billions in endowment assets, while putting only 5 percent of it to timely use to promote their missions, then shouldn't I apply that same logic to myself? If I believe in taking action, how can I justify sitting on my ass..ets?

The experience I have gained from Denver to Kinshasa, from the Threshold Foundation to Be Present, has helped me to focus my giving, to create a mature long-term strategy, with my priorities identified and synergies engaged. Which brings me now, to talk a bit about the Women Moving Millions Campaign.

Here is a quote that Helen LaKelly Hunt loves, and that was part of the inspiration for Women Moving Millions. This is Suffragette Matilda Jocelyn Gage writing to Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

"Why is it everyday I read in the newspaper of another woman making bequests to yet another museum... but woman fail to understand the cause that underlies all others in importance, that of Women's Rights?"

In early 2007, Helen and her sister Swanee dreamed and schemed together of a way to "raise the bar for women's giving", to "pop" the prior ceiling, encouraging women and men of means to give at the one million dollar level.

They combined their passion, empathy and resources with the Women's Funding Network to develop the Women Moving Millions Initiative. The campaign aspired to unleash the energy of big bold giving to women's right to prosper, to advance in society, and to claim space and set policy.

Women Moving Millions is making history. How?

\* Traditionally, many women have funded the ballet, the symphony, their husband's alma matter's at significant levels, but not women and girls. This is the first time in history that women have funded their own advancement, at these levels.

\* Over the two years of the official campaign, during the worst economic downturn in recent history, 102 bold donors stepped forward, giving over \$182 million...(breaking their two year campaign goal by over \$32 million)

- And it's not over yet - once they, now we, realized that millions were possible, we started thinking *BILLIONS!!!!*

As Helen says, we are stronger when each of us leverages our gifts with the other.

Some of you in this room also have the opportunity to make history with us, and to become WMM donors!! Wake County Women's Giving Network could be part of this movement. As an organization funding women and girls, your local fund is already part of a thriving global movement.

In 1988 there were only fourteen women's funds. Today, there are approximately 144 women's funds on all six continents.

Here is what I think. When hearing of the bold proposal from the Hunt sisters, I think that one or several of you may have responded as I did, feeling a frisson, a shiver of recognition ... thinking ...

Wait a minute, Let me think ... Why, actually, ... *YES I CAN! I CAN DO THIS!*

I am able, and I am ready. I have the passionate conviction and sufficient resources to *STEP UP IN THIS WAY.*

Here is the exciting thing. Remember at the beginning? My beloved Wilson Pickett quote ... Ya gotta shake whatcha brought whicha?

*Everyone* in this room is blessed with passion and abilities, a strong commitment to women's advancement, to your Giving Network --- we all have gifts to bring.

We all have LOTS to shake.

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At whatever level you fund, in whatever ways you bring your time, talent, and treasure to bear --- you are birthing another world.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Let the dreaming and scheming continue. All hands are needed "on deck".

**BRING IT. SHAKE IT. JOIN THE MOVEMENT.**

Thank you.

#

### *A Letter to our Membership from Liza Roberts*

Dear fellow Network members,

The new year has gotten off to a great start at the Women's Giving Network of Wake County. In January, we welcomed our 150th member, Linda Grew, followed quickly by our 151st, Donna Anderson.

When new members like Linda and Donna join our ranks, our network of women committed to connect for change grows in size, perspective, and enthusiasm, while our capacity to make a difference in the lives of our community's disadvantaged women and children grows exponentially.

As we expand, it is fortunate to have other thriving giving circles around the state and country to look to for ideas: how they grow and maintain their membership base; how they make grant decisions; how they plan for the future. Our liaison at the North Carolina Community Foundation and fellow Network member Jeanne Lawson and I have begun talking to other groups about how they do what they do, with the hope that some of what we learn might benefit our group as we look ahead.

Some of the best ideas, though, can be found closer to home. Founding Network member Beth Briggs, President of Creative Philanthropy, kindly invited me to speak on a panel she moderated on the subject of collective giving at the Triangle Association of Fundraising Professionals earlier this month. The conversation that evolved between Beth, the audience, and the panel -- which also included representatives from local Latina and men's giving circles -- was educational and thought-provoking.

The enthusiasm in the room also made it clear to me that the Women's Giving Network is poised for a very successful year. Here's to growing our membership, our ability to give, our effectiveness, and our future.

Thank you for being part of it. Together we are making this happen.

-- Liza

### *Scenes from our Annual Grants Luncheon*



*Membership Co-Chairs Michelle Keaton-Barrow and Suzanne Stroud offer an invitation to join the Network to our guests at the annual luncheon.*



*Network members Beth Briggs, left, and Woody Dicus, center, listen intently to Laurie Emrich's remarks.*



*Network members and their guests filled the room!*



*Grant recipients Marjorie Menestres (SAFEchild), Danita Morgan (Urban Ministries) and Jan Elmo (Read and Feed) pose after the luncheon. Congratulations!*

## The Wake County Women's Giving Network *Connecting for Change (members as of 1/15/11)*

Barbara Allen\*  
Melinda Allen\*  
Diane Amato  
Carmen Ames\*  
Annette Anderson  
Donna Anderson  
Teena Anderson\*  
Lyn Andrews  
Allison Atkinson  
Blanche Bacon\*  
Emily Aldrich Barbour  
Patricia Behan  
Mary Grady Bell  
Audrey Black\*  
Holly Blanton\*  
Kathleen Blum  
Mary P.W. Boney  
Elizabeth Borden  
Whitney Boylan  
Carson Brice\*  
Beth Briggs\*  
Phyllis York Brookshire  
Julia Brown  
Anne Bryan\*  
Debra Buck  
Fran Buckley  
Perrin Burton  
Cameron Smith Callaway  
Mary Laurie Cece  
Janet Chesson  
Caroline Choi  
Mary M. Clayton  
Hope Holding Connell\*  
Candace Covington  
Olander  
Sandra Crane  
Valerie Cozart\*  
Leah Devlin  
Woody Dicus  
Dana Dorroh  
Margaret R. Douglas  
Pam Dowdy  
Kellie Falk-Tillett  
Elizabeth Fentress\*  
Jane Ferdon  
Nell Finch  
Mary-Owens Fitzgerald  
Joyce Fitzpatrick\*  
Jan Floyd  
Kim Foster  
Debbie Fox\*

Laura Frushone  
Jill Gammon\*  
Brenda Gibson\*  
Anna Goodman  
Barbara Goodman  
Elizabeth Goodmon  
Kate Green  
Linda Grew  
Pickett Guthrie  
Paige Haensel  
Amelia Harrison\*  
Jean Hauser  
Susanne Hayes  
Jennie Hayman\*  
Angela Haynes  
Gamble Heffernan  
Kathy Higgins  
Lynn R. Holmes  
Dana Jennings  
Eve Jones  
Caroline Kadis  
Claudia Kadis\*  
Michelle Keaton-Barrow  
Judy Kelly  
Rose Kenyon  
Jeanne Lawson  
Carla Liberatore  
Karen Lichtin  
Noel Lichtin\*  
Carolyn Light  
Susan Lilly  
Molly Mahoney  
Dabney Mann  
Jane Mann\*  
Carole Marcotte  
Sara May  
Easter Maynard  
Judy McDonald  
Barbara McGuire\*  
Noel McLaughlin\*  
Siobhan Millen  
Jennifer Sullivan Munford  
Carol Newcomb\*  
Juliette Newcomb\*  
Susan Nichols  
Eliza Olander  
Molly Painter  
Virginia Parker\*  
Susan Peddycord  
Melissa Peden  
Tricia Phoenix\*

Hilda Pinnix Ragland  
Jane Pinsky  
Margie Pipkin\*  
Mary Ann Poole\*  
Jan Powell  
Edythe Poyner  
Virginia Price  
Linda Quarles  
Janet Qubain  
Wes Ragland  
Debra Ratliff  
Susan ReCorr  
Kristin Repogle  
Liza Roberts\*  
Debbie Robbins  
Jackie Saber  
Paula Sims  
Elizabeth Skvarla\*  
Eve Smith  
Laura Irby Smith  
Susan Stephenson  
Marilyn Stevens  
Pam Stock  
Kari Stoltz  
Suzanne Stroud  
Cathy Stuart\*  
Dianne Boardley-Suber\*  
Nancy Sumner  
Nancy Teague  
Jeanne Tedrow  
Judy Tilson  
Jennifer Tolle Whiteside\*  
Mary Tschirhart  
Anne Underwood  
Janis Vaughn  
Christine Wagner  
Jennifer Walker  
Christa Washington  
Susan Weaver\*  
Kathy White  
Nancy White\*  
Carole Wilson\*  
Pamela Wimbush-Cady  
Jennifer Winston  
Ann Wooten  
Carter Worthy  
Mary Brent Wright  
Carol Yochem\*  
Rosemary York\*  
Joyce Zeitler  
*\*Signifies founding member*