



# The Women's Network

WAKE COUNTY

*connecting for change*

December 2009

## *A Warm Welcome to our New Members!*

We're so glad to announce 12 new members to the Network! We look forward to getting to know them and seeing them at an event or committee meeting in the New Year!

- Virginia Price
- Judy McDonald
- Judy Kelly
- Pickett Guthrie
- Ann Wooten
- Emily Barbour
- Melissa Peden
- Gamble Hefernan
- Carole Marcotte
- Natalie Smailes Rose
- Jane Pinsky
- Debbie Robbins

## *Would You Like to Host a Gathering to Recruit New Members?*

Informal events at a member's home provide a perfect forum to educate interested women about the purpose of the Women's Network. If you are interested in hosting such an event, inviting potential members, or helping in any way, please e-mail Suzanne Stroud, our Membership Chair, at [suzanne\\_stroud@ml.com](mailto:suzanne_stroud@ml.com).

*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.*

## *A Time to be Thankful and Proud*

As the Women's Network of Wake County completes our third year, we have much to be thankful for and proud of accomplishing. Since our launch in 2007, our organization has given \$294,000 to the women and children in need who live among us.

As we continue to grow, so does our ability to make a difference in the lives of Wake County women and children -- in their lives, their health, their safety, their education, their families -- and in the future of our community.

In three years, we have grown from four founding members to 136 today, adding 32 members in the past year alone. That growth has enabled our membership -- in the midst of widespread economic hardship -- to come together

this year to award \$125,000 in grants to four extraordinarily deserving Wake County non-profit organizations, each working on the front lines to address some of our community's most pressing needs.

Hospice of Wake County, the Lucy Daniels Center for Early Childhood, Urban Ministries of Wake County and Wake Technical Community College Foundation each received our votes and our grant money in this third cycle of giving.

"We had a number of deserving applicants, and the grants committee did an outstanding job of carefully reviewing proposals and conducting their due diligence so our membership could vote on our third-year recipients," said Noel Lichtin, president of our Leadership Council. "All of these programs will make a significant impact in Wake County."

We were proud to present Urban Ministries with a \$49,500 Women's Network grant to provide health care to low-income, uninsured minority women. We were also able to grant Hospice \$25,000 to create an after-school program for children of terminally ill parents; we voted to give The Lucy Daniels Center \$25,000 to provide free mental health counseling for children and parents from low-income households; and elected to make a \$25,000 grant to Wake Tech to pay for scholarships for foster-care children who are making the often complicated transition to college education and independent living.

## *Upcoming Dates for Your 2010 Calendar*

We love the momentum of adding new members and looking forward to using our grant-making power to make an even bigger impact on our community! Next year will be even bigger and better, with more members to get to know, and more grant money to bestow on non-profits that serve women and children. Here are some events to look for when you plan for 2010:

- February: We'll mail our annual survey to all members to let you tell us what issues are important to you and which non-profits you think we should alert to our grants schedule. You can also sign up for a committee that interests you.
- 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.

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## *Grants Luncheon with Cokie Roberts a Sold-Out Success!*

The chance to actually award our grants at the annual grants luncheon is always a gratifying and exciting celebration. This year, we were thrilled to have Cokie Roberts as our keynote speaker at the Umstead Hotel. She proved not only a major draw -- we were sold out weeks in advance -- but an inspiration to Women's Network members and grant recipients alike.

Mrs. Roberts spoke at length about the history of women in philanthropy and about what an important difference women's giving makes to communities around the world. She drew on her experience as a journalist, historian and international ambassador for Save the Children to discuss the importance of educating women and children and the need to invest in their safety, their health and their communities.

The luncheon also provided a great opportunity to get the word out about the Women's Network, and resulted in 12 new members joining our ranks!

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## *"Here's to the Ladies Who Lunch"*

Following our grants luncheon, Cokie Roberts devoted the weekly syndicated column she writes with her husband Steve to our organization and to women's giving circles in general. Here it is reprinted in full:

### **Here's to the Ladies Who Lunch**

By Cokie and Steve Roberts

October can be a great month for the Ladies who Lunch. The food might not be particularly filling, but the stories of people helped by the women sitting around the tables provide much more substantial satisfaction. That was certainly Cokie's experience at a lunch last week with our daughter in Washington, and one this week with our daughter-in-law in Raleigh as local women's giving circles — great groups of women who band together to better their communities — honored their awardees.

In the nation's capital, the well-established Washington Area Women's Foundation gathered close to 1,200 boisterous women of every race and ethnicity in a downtown hotel ballroom where they were greeted by a local TV anchor, saluted by someone from the White House, entertained by a professionally produced video and inspired by women helped by their largesse.

In North Carolina, the fledgling Women's Network assembled a couple of hundred women in a suburban hotel ballroom for a somewhat more subdued, but even more inspiring affair.

More inspiring because that luncheon for hundreds of donors grew out of a casual meal three short years ago when four friends asked, "What can we do to make a real difference?" (They call themselves, "The Four Blondes," confiding, "None of us is a real blonde.") The answer was plain to see in the faces of the representatives of grant recipients: a clinic serving poor minority women, a center providing mental health services for poor children, a community college helping foster kids move into adulthood, a hospice establishing an after-school program for the children of dying parents.

The grants (of at least \$25,000) were huge sums of money for those organizations, and a check for that amount would have been a huge sum for most of the women at the lunch. But by pooling their resources the women in Raleigh, along with their sisters around the country, are able to raise enough money to make a significant impact on the lives of local women and children.

Women have come together to help each other since the beginning of the republic. In the late 18th century, "the ladies of New York" established the Society for the Relief of Poor Widows with Small Children, which provided food, fuel and clothing to hundreds of widows and children. And the early 19th century found African-American women forming organizations like the Colored Female Religious and Moral Society of Salem, Mass., which charged dues of a penny a week as a safety net "for the benefit of the sick and the destitute." And that's the basic model for the giving circles of today.

In different places, different rules apply — in Raleigh, for instance, each woman pledges to give \$1,200 a year for five years and every member may vote on which organizations should receive their money — but in essence, they are all the same. Societies for African-American

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women, Latina women, Asian and Pacific Island women, Hmong women, white women all collect from the group as a whole, bundle the money into sizeable amounts and distribute it in the community, often to programs for women and girls.

Most of these giving circles, which have raised more than \$100 million and are now estimated to number some 500 strong, cropped up in the last five to 10 years and they are changing the face of philanthropy in America. Though the donors might be listed in a program somewhere, these are essentially anonymous gifts. They don't come from Mrs. Sally Smith. They come from the women of the community.

"Women are looking for relevance, not tax deductions. They want to serve in some way," says Town & Country magazine editor Pamela Fiori who has become an expert on women's philanthropy, "they feel it's their obligation and responsibility." Unlike traditional philanthropists, (read "men") it's not their names on a plaque these women want to see but the smile of the new homeowner helped by one of the programs they fund who jokes, "I don't hang out with renters anymore."

A study conducted by the universities of Indiana and Nebraska released earlier this year reveals that women's giving circles are providing the relevance donors are seeking. The findings show that members of these groups are "highly engaged in their communities," that they "give more and more strategically than other donors" that they "give to areas less often funded by organized philanthropy," and that "they are providing creative opportunities for new ways to give."

So there's much to celebrate here, ladies. Enjoy your lunch.

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## We Congratulate our Grantees at our 2009 Grants Awards Luncheon



### Cokie Roberts Meets Some of Our Members After the Luncheon



# The Women's Network – Connecting for Change

## Members (As of 12/1/09)

\* signifies founding member

~ deceased

bold face indicates new member joined this year

\*Barbara Allen  
\*Carmen Ames  
Lyn Andrews  
**Emily Aldrich Barbour**  
\*Audrey Black  
Mary P.W. Boney  
\*Carson Brice  
Julia Brown  
Perrin Burton  
**Janet Chesson**  
Candace Covington Olander  
Woody Dicus  
**Pam Dowdy**  
Mary-Owens Fitzgerald  
Kim Foster  
\*Jill Gammon  
Barbara Goodmon  
Kate Green  
\*Amelia Harrison  
\*Jennie Hayman  
Lynn R. Holmes  
\*Claudia Kadis  
Rose Kenyon  
\*Noel Lichtin  
Dabney Mann  
Sara May  
\*Barbara McGuire  
Jennifer Sullivan Munford  
Susan Nichols  
\*Virginia Parker  
\*Tricia Phoenix  
Margie Pipkin  
Edythe Poyner  
Janet Qubain  
Kristin Replogle  
**Natalie Smailes Rose**  
Eve Smith  
Pam Stock  
\*Cathy Stuart  
**Nancy Teague**  
**Mary Tschirhart**  
Jennifer Walker  
Kathy White  
**Pamela Wimbush-Cady**  
Carter Worthy  
\*Rosemary York

\*Melinda Allen  
Annette Anderson  
**Allison Atkinson**  
Patricia Behan  
\*Holly Blanton  
Elizabeth Borden  
\*Beth Briggs  
\*Anne Bryan  
Cameron Smith Callaway  
Caroline Choi  
\*Valerie Cozart  
Dana Dorroh  
Kellie Falk-Tillett  
\*Joyce Fitzpatrick  
\*Debbie Fox  
\*Brenda Gibson  
Elizabeth Goodmon  
**Pickett Guthrie**  
**Jean Hauser**  
**Angela Haynes**  
Dana Jennings  
**Michelle Keaton-Barrow**  
**Jeanne Lawson**  
**Carolyn Light**  
\*Jane Mann  
Easter Maynard  
\*Noel McLaughlin  
\*Carol Newcomb  
Eliza Olander  
Susan Peddycord  
Hilda Pinnix Ragland  
\*Mary Ann Poole  
**Virginia Price**  
**Wes Ragland**  
\*Liza Roberts  
Paula Sims  
Laura Irby Smith  
Kari Stoltz  
\*Dianne Boardley Suber  
**Judy Tilson**  
**Anne Underwood**  
**Christa Washington**  
\*Nancy White  
Jennifer Winston  
Mary Brent Wright  
Joyce Zeitler

Diane Amato  
\*Teena Anderson  
\*Blanche Bacon  
Mary Grady Bell  
**Kathleen Blum**  
Whitney Boylan  
Phyllis York Brookshire  
**Debra Buck**  
**Mary Laurie Cece**  
\*Hope Holding Connell  
Leah Devlin  
Margaret R. Douglas  
\*Elizabeth Fentress  
Jan Floyd  
Laura Frushone  
Anna Goodmon  
~ Marilyn Gordon  
**Paige Haensel**  
Susanne Hayes  
**Gamble Heffernan**  
Eve Jones  
**Judy Kelly**  
Karen Lichtin  
Susan Lilly  
**Carole Marcotte**  
**Judy McDonald**  
**Siobhan Millen**  
\*Juliette Newcomb  
Molly Painter  
**Melissa Peden**  
**Jane Pinsky**  
Jan Powell  
Linda Quarles  
Susan ReCorr  
**Debbie Robbins**  
\*Elizabeth Skvarla  
Susan Stephenson  
Suzanne Stroud  
Nancy Sumner  
\*Jennifer Tolle Whiteside  
Janis Vaughn  
\*Susan Weaver  
\*Carole Wilson  
**Ann Wooten**  
\*Carol Yochem