

LINKING arms

FALL 2007

WOMEN'S FUND OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

MOVING FORWARD to a new decade

I am deeply honored to have the opportunity with Executive Director Carla Oleska to lead the Women's Fund into our second decade. It promises to be one filled with great energy and action that will focus on achieving meaningful change for women and girls in Western Massachusetts.

This winter, the board and staff will take on the challenge of envisioning the next ten years as we develop a new strategic plan. We'll be listening to you and looking for opportunities to impact educational access and success, increase economic self sufficiency, achieve equity in all areas of endeavor, and deepen the connections between us. I hope our vision will be bold, that we will use our collective voices to be heard in new forums, and that we will harness the power of our communities to effect real social change.

In November, we take time to celebrate the accomplishments of our first decade:

Over \$1 million awarded in grants to more than 70 programs, over 18,000 women and girls served by these

programs, relationships throughout the four counties strengthened through connection and collaboration, and a Women's Fund that is strong and ready with the resources and capacity to take on the next ten years.

Thank you to our grantees, donors, volunteers, staff and board for your deep and enduring commitment over the first ten years. With your support, the next ten years promises to be even better!



Anne Paradis
ANNE PARADIS
PRESIDENT

**I HOPE OUR
VISION WILL
BE BOLD**



Youth Alive junior step team of Pittsfield.



Step Forward student drummers.



Girls Inc. Pilates class at Whiting Street Reservoir in Holyoke.



Youth Alive senior step team of Pittsfield.

women's fund distributes \$100,000 in grants

The Women's Fund has awarded over \$100,000 in grants to twenty organizations working to make life better for women and girls in the four counties of Western Massachusetts:

Center for Human Development, Inc.
—Program Support

Community Involved in
Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)
—Program Support

Girls Inc. of Holyoke
—Operating Support

Girl Scouts of Pioneer Valley
—Program Support

Gladys Allen Brigham Community
Center—Operating Support

Granby Police Department
—Program Support

Helen Berube Teen Parent Program
—Operating Support

Montague Catholic Social Ministries
—Program Support

MotherWoman, Inc.
—Capacity Building Support

NELCWIT—Program Support

Safe Passage—Operating Support

Square One (formerly
Springfield Day Nursery, Inc.)
—Program Support

Step Forward/Step Ahead
—Program Support

Veterans Education Project
—Program Support

Voices From Inside
—Operating Support

Womanshelter/Companeras—
Operating Support

Youth Action Coalition
—Program Support

Youth Alive—Operating Support

Youth Empowerment Adolescent
Health Network (YEAH Network)
—Capacity Building Support

YWCA of Western Massachusetts—
Program Support

*Please visit www.womensfund.net for complete
program descriptions and contact information.*



Young mothers' graduation celebration at the Helen Berube Teen Parent Program, Pittsfield.



Girls Inc. summer field trip.



Step Forward scholars during a voice class.



Girls Inc. summer painting project.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2007 RIPPLE effect AWARD RECIPIENTS

Twelve women were honored at our Ripple Effect Award reception on October 4, 2007. Nearly 100 family and friends, along with the nominating grantee organizations, joined them for this joyous occasion at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton.

Yasmin Ahmed
Somali Women's Project

Jessica Allen
Elms College—Step Forward/Step Ahead

Juliana Brunell
Helen Berube Teen Parent Program

Rachel Chandler-Worth
Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)

Rachel Farber
Youth Action Coalition

Amy Holmes
Voices From Inside

Chantale Johnson
Helen Berube Teen Parent Program

Robin Lane
Montague Catholic Social Ministries

Diana Nunez
United Arc of Franklin/Hampshire Counties

Dalein Rivera
Solutions CDC

Linny Son
Girls Inc. of Holyoke

Laura Stranlund
Veterans Education Project



Berkshire County participants at the County Executive Directors Luncheon.

Abbie von Schlegell, MA Swedlund, and Maria Sirois at 10th Anniversary Table Captains kick-off.



Regina Curtis, Shirley Edgerton, Lysette Navarro, Kim Keough, Suzanne Parker, and Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz of Pennsylvania at the Women in Politics Symposium.



Capacity Building Conference participants enjoy dessert.



Cathy LeMay, CEO of Raising Change, conducts board workshop on giving circles.

Hampden County participants at the County Executive Directors Luncheon.

TRIATHLETE to BE HONORED

The Women's Fund is thrilled to announce that Carole DeMetre, who we fondly call our "volunteer and athlete extraordinaire," has won the Janus Charity Challenge first place award of \$10,000 through her participation in the 2007 Ironman Lake Placid Triathlon. Carole's unflagging commitment to improving the lives of women and girls in Western Massachusetts has inspired many of our donors to give generously to the Women's Fund, enabling her to gain the top award.

We are even more thrilled to announce that Carole has been selected as the 2007 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser, Hampshire County, by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. She will be honored at the National Philanthropy Day Luncheon to be held on Thursday, November 15, at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

Thank you, Carole, and thank you to all of our volunteers and donors who make the work of the Women's Fund possible year after year!



Mary McEaney, Debin Bruce, Rosie Jones, Anne Paradis, and Cheri Cross at the 8th hole.

everything ROSIE for the women's fund

Thirteen-time LPGA winner Rosie Jones swings into action at the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts 10th Anniversary Golf Classic at the Hickory Ridge Country Club in Amherst. Rosie generously donated her entire day to make this summer fundraiser a huge success.

the women's fund of western massachusetts
10th anniversary celebration

NOVEMBER 1, 2007



Please join us for this milestone event celebrating ten years of making a difference in the lives of women and girls in Western Massachusetts.

Featuring
Dr. Mae C. Jemison

—First woman of color in space, scientist, physician, entrepreneur, and philanthropist

“a woman who embodies the mission of the women's fund!”

CORPORATE SPONSORS



Northwestern Mutual
FINANCIAL NETWORK®

the women'STimes

and

Bank of Western Massachusetts
Fran Johnson's Golf & Tennis
Integrity Development & Construction, Inc.
MicroTek, Inc.

THANKS a million!

Reserve YOUR seat today!

November 1, 2007
Sheraton Springfield
at Monarch Place
Springfield, Massachusetts

For more information contact the Women's Fund at 413-529-0087, ext. 13.

