

**Women's Fund Celebrates with Jennifer Buffett**  
***"The Buffett Effect"***



The Women's Fund is celebrating "***Redefining What's Possible***" for the women and girls of Western Massachusetts with a keynote address from **Jennifer Buffett, President and Co-Chair of the New York based NoVo Foundation**, a renowned voice for women and girls across the globe, who works passionately to empower girls and women worldwide as primary agents of change and end violence against them. Whether it is the work that NoVo is accomplishing through its global initiative of "*The Girl Effect*" or NoVo's strategic plan to scale the adoption of evidence-based Social and Emotional Learning in US School districts in pursuit of advancing whole child education, *the Buffett effect* has gone global and is being brought home to here to Western Mass. on November 2<sup>nd</sup>!

**Kathy LeMay of Florence, MA, founder, president, & CEO of *Raising Change* (see bio below)** is our presenting sponsor and will introduce Jennifer Buffett and speak on behalf of the Fund, as a passionate, long-time supporter and former board member of the Fund, and an agent of social change herself.

Our program also includes **special presentations of this year's Ripple Award winners, Niki Perez, of Jump Start Program in Holyoke and Lauren Payne-Riley, of Railroad Street Youth Project in Great Barrington.** You will hear the moving stories of these incredible young girls who hail from two unique communities in Western Mass but whose story is the same; each a true example of how when given the opportunity, one's vision can come true. The **Ripple Awards will be presented by Dr. Maria Sirois, of Pittsfield, inspirational speaker, consultant, and licensed clinical psychologist.**

**As women from across our four counties and beyond fill the Log Cabin, they will be reminded that they shoulder the responsibility to create and support leadership models that uplift and engage young girls and women across the ages. "*With the abundance of women in leadership in business, academia, and the arts in Western Massachusetts, there is no reason we can't be a model to the rest of the world!*"** Carla Oleska, CEO Women's Fund.

Flash photography and cameras are permitted during the event. Phone/studio interviews with Jennifer Buffett and Kathy LeMay must be arranged in advance. Press Conference from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Log Cabin. Ripple Effect awardees are available before, during, and after the event for comments.

**Registration by October 24, 2011. \$50 per person. For anyone interested in attending, please call 529-0087 ext. 10 to register. Thank you.**

### **Bio for Jennifer Buffett:**

Jennifer Buffett is President and Co-Chair of the New York based NoVo Foundation, where she works passionately to empower girls and women worldwide as primary agents of change and end violence against them. The NoVo Foundation also supports a specific strategic plan to scale the adoption of evidence-based Social and Emotional Learning in US School districts in pursuit of advancing whole child education.

Jennifer's work in philanthropy began in 1997 in Milwaukee, focusing on early childhood education for at-risk children and families. Today she leads the NoVo Foundation overseeing its strategic direction, program development, advocacy and partnerships. Jennifer co-chairs the foundation's board with her husband, Peter Buffett. In addition, Jennifer provides leadership and serves on the boards of the Nike Foundation - to promote "The Girl Effect"- the social and economic change brought about when every girl has the power to participate equally in her community, V-Day, CASEL (Collaborative for Academic and Social and Emotional Learning), BRAC USA, Apne Aap Women Worldwide and Women Moving Millions.

Jennifer and Peter are recipients of the Clinton Global Citizen Award for their "visionary leadership and sustainable, scalable work in solving pressing global challenges." Barron's ranks them in the top 25 list of most effective philanthropists and the Ms. Foundation for Women honored the Buffett's philanthropic boldness and commitment with a 2010 "Gloria Steinem Award." Jennifer was recently named one of "150 Women Who Shake the World" by Newsweek and The Daily Beast.

### **Bio for Kathy LeMay**

Kathy LeMay is the founder, president, and CEO of Raising Change, which helps organizations raise capital to advance social change agendas and individuals create Generosity Plans to help change the world.

LeMay, who began her global activism in war-torn Yugoslavia where she worked with women survivors of the siege and rape-genocide camps, has been a social change fundraiser for 15 years, raising more than \$150 million dollars in the fields of women's human rights, hunger and poverty relief, and movement-building. In addition she has directed an additional \$100 million in philanthropic dollars to organizations working to

make a difference. LeMay serves as an adviser and consultant to Fortune 100 companies, universities, international NGOs, and the United Nations. She is a sought-after speaker on strategies for social justice and empowering women to come into their voice.

In the year 2000 LeMay was nominated for a Reebok Human Rights Award for her 15 years of service as a human rights activist. She was just named one of *Business West Magazine's* "40 Under 40" and, in January 2010, she released her first book, *The Generosity Plan*, published by Simon & Schuster/Atria and Beyond Words.

Kathy has appeared on numerous television and radio shows including Oxygen TV and *The Oprah Show*. She is a contributing columnist to *World Pulse Magazine*, where she also serves as the Board Chair.