



TOGETHER, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women's Funding Alliance

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2004

inside:

WFA Partners with the Rep page 3

Agency Spotlight: Intercommunity Mercy Housing page 5

Member Agencies Win Awards page 5

April 22: The Art of Dining page 6

Columns:

From the Executive Director page 2

Agency Events page 5

Who We Are page 7

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Use Your Voice, Use Your Purse, Use your Power

(Part I of 2)

Over the last year, our supporters have told us that they are concerned about local and national trends. Freedom of speech, reproductive rights, health and safety, immigrant rights, and freedom from discrimination are all precious rights that Alliance supporters care deeply about, and that are in danger of being infringed upon.

Hearing this, we decided to call attention to the power each of us has to effect change—the power of our voices, the power of our purses, the power of action.

While the Alliance focuses on being a catalyst for change solely in Puget Sound, the change that we and our supporters work to create not only benefits our region but the entire world community. As our grantees and federation agencies are part of the Alliance, so the Alliance is part of a patchwork of women's funds across the world.

We don't work in isolation—our individual steps together get us closer to our vision of

**a just,
equitable,
and safe world
alive with possibilities
and opportunities
for women and
girls.**

As the Alliance achieves our goals, we help propel our sisters forward, just as their successes inspire and motivate us.

Last year saw many victories for this international community: from the 20th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, to Afghani women reclaiming professional and academic lives for themselves and their children; to the courage of Nisha Sharma, an Indian woman whose refusal to accommo-

date her fiancé's exorbitant demands for additional dowry propelled her to fame and made her a role model for other women.

These international successes are echoed by those of our own community. In the last year, Women's Funding Alliance agencies have accomplished much. A few of these successes include:

Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services partnered with the National Domestic Violence Hotline to provide crisis resources to deaf and deaf/blind women experiencing sexual assault and domestic violence across the country.

Northwest Women's Law Center succeeded with a case holding that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered couples are entitled to have their relationships analyzed the same way unmarried heterosexual couples' are, for purposes of dividing

continued on page 7

Ripples of Hope, Ripples of Change

WFA Announces New Donor Circle: The Ripple Fund

We are pleased to announce the success of our inaugural donor circle—the Ripple Fund!

In the fall of 2003, a group of friends came together and discussed the age-old tradition of shared giving and women's giving circles. They were inspired by their commitment to women and girls, and to learning, giving, and personally



Somali Women & Children Skills For Change

participating in the grantmaking process to fund social change.

These women, who prefer to remain anonymous, decided to form a donor circle: they would pool their money, WFA would provide them with staff support, and they would personally direct the pooled money to organizations. With three active members and other "silent" contributors, the donor circle raised almost \$20,000 in just a few months!

continued on page 4



Photo by Rich Hansen

LeAnne Moss

Strength In Numbers

Welcome to Women's History Month! While women make history *every* month of the year, March is the time when we acknowledge the special accomplishments of women in our past and present.

Collectively, women are a great force to be reckoned with. Today, close to 51 percent of the wealth in this country is held by women. Women hold more assets and power than ever before in our nation's history.

And they're using it for good. Just take a look at what our women donors—with their many passionate and supportive male counterparts—helped us accomplish last year:

We distributed over \$288,000 in grants, scholarships and funding to our federation agencies . . . a 5 percent increase over the year before!

We honored our founding mothers and agencies at our festive (and high-caloric) Chocolate and Champagne reception last winter.

We welcomed two new agencies to our federation: Seattle Girls' School and Jubilee Women's Center.

We held our third annual forum on women's and girls' issues for Social Venture Partners.

We held our first Inspirational Philanthropy event, honoring Ellen Ferguson, our inspirational donor extraordinaire.

We said "hello" and "thank you" to more than 300 new donors!

We entertained and partied with 480 guests at the 11th annual Art of Dining.

We collaborated with the Seattle Storm to invite our donors and friends to a special reception and home game.

We launched our first donor circle, the Ripple Fund, which is providing more resources to women and girls (see page 1).

You—our supporters—know the power of giving. You know that your dollar can transform people and communities. But did you know that your support of the Women's Funding Alliance is part of a larger movement that is changing the lives of women and girls all over the world?

Today, more than 100 women's and girls' foundations are thriving throughout the United States and abroad. During the last 19 years, these funds have distributed more than \$200 million in grants and raised another \$200 million for endowments and program development, vastly expanding the universe of women's philanthropy.

Women's foundations are the backbone of social change in their communities. Together we provide support for such critical work as anti-violence programs, economic development efforts, and advocacy programs that work for gender pay equity and increased economic security for women and their families. We do this work because we know that **strong women build strong communities**. And strong communities build a stronger and more peaceful world for all of us.

So when you write your check to the Women's Funding Alliance or buy a piece of art at the Art of Dining, know that you're a part of a larger movement . . . a movement that is creating history and opening windows of opportunity for women and girls everywhere.



WFA Advisory Board members Ellen Ferguson and Nancy Nordhoff at the Inspirational Philanthropy event.



When women and children thrive, the entire community prospers.

Our mission

The Women's Funding Alliance promotes justice, health, and opportunities by investing in the future of women and girls.

We believe:

- Valuing women and girls is fundamental to creating a just and equitable society.
- All women and girls have a basic right to physical, mental, and spiritual health and well-being.
- Opportunities to collaborate, learn, and give are essential to success.

Toward this end, the Women's Funding Alliance...

- advances philanthropy through workplace giving campaigns, individual gifts, and events.
- advocates for social change by funding programs and projects that benefit women and girls.
- strategically invests in organizations to help them build and sustain their capacity.
- articulates underlying issues affecting women and girls.
- leads and supports community efforts and collaborations.

Taste of WFA at Seattle Repertory Theatre



Representatives of 15 WFA member agencies and nearly a hundred Alliance supporters braved the beginning of January's snowstorm to attend the **Seattle Repertory Theatre's** final dress rehearsal of *Living Out* on January 7. Not only did the evening provide the Alliance with an opportunity to partner with the Rep and showcase a great play, but it also gave attendees a "Taste of WFA" —a chance to learn more about the agencies the Alliance funds.

WFA was thrilled to work with the Rep on this project. *Living Out* addresses one of the most difficult questions many women face—who looks after our children while we are out earning a living? Sometimes funny and sometimes sad, the play offered the audience a slice-of-life glimpse at the compromises two women make in order to pursue two very different dreams of success.

Attendees enjoyed more than just a great play. Sharon Ott, the Rep's artistic director, joined us and provided insightful opening remarks about *Living Out* and the questions it would raise over the course of the evening.

Guests also had an opportunity to learn more about the Alliance and the agencies WFA funds. Braving the bad weather were representatives from 15 of our 21 member agencies. Armed with brochures

and good spirits, agency staff and volunteers explained how they are making this area a better place for women and girls, and how the Alliance helps make their work possible. One supporter said she "really didn't understand the breadth of what WFA does until I saw so many agencies in one place!"



WFA agencies tell their stories at the Rep.

Agency representatives also had a chance to meet each other and broaden their understanding of the inspiring company they keep as a member agency of WFA. "It was so great to meet everyone," one staff member said. "I have a much better idea of what else is out there for women and girls now."

We offer thanks to all of you who braved the elements to join us; to the Seattle Rep—especially **Sharon Ott**, **Dawn Rains**, and **Michael Betts**—this wonderful evening would never have happened without you; and last but certainly not least, to our member agencies—your work helps makes this area a better place for women and girls, and we are inspired by our partnership!

Federation Agencies

Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services

BABES Network

Chaya

FaithTrust Institute

Harborview Center for Sexual Assault & Traumatic Stress

Intercommunity Mercy Housing

Jubilee Women's Center

King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

Lesbian Resource Center

NARAL Pro-Choice Washington Foundation

Northwest Women's Law Center

Passages Northwest

Positive Women's Network

Powerful Voices

Refugee Women's Alliance

Residence XII

Seattle Girls' School

Washington CASH

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

Women's Housing, Equality and Enhancement League

A Look Inside International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD), March 8, celebrates the progress made to advance women's status around the world, as well as to provide an atmosphere for further change. Many women's organizations take this day to honor achievements in the struggle for international equality, peace, justice, and basic human rights. Visit www.iwd-seattle.org for highlights of this year's events in our area.

§ The first IWD was celebrated on March 19, 1911, in Germany, Denmark, Austria and various other European countries.

§ An American commemoration of working women inspired IWD.

§ The United Nations officially recognized IWD in 1975, inspiring other nonpracticing governments to recognize the day as well.

Ripple Fund *continued from page 1*

Naming the fund was an important part of creating the circle. What name would exemplify the Alliance's donor circle—a fun and new way to be involved in philanthropy, friends collaborating on a project, new and current donors coming together to help women and girls and make an impact in the community for years to come? Looking out at the waters of Lake Washington, the perfect metaphor came to these women—a **ripple**. So simple and small, yet strong enough to create a bigger effect and influence change.

To have as great an impact as possible, Ripple Fund members decided to focus their giving on organizations and programs serving immigrant women and girls in King and Pierce counties. Fund members developed guidelines, reviewed applications and participated in site visits.

The Ripple Fund and the Women's Funding Alliance are pleased to announce the following awards:

- \$7,500 to **Asian and Pacific Islander Family Safety Center** for their Young Women's Leadership Group;
- \$7,500 to the **Cambodian Women's Association** for general operating expenses; and
- \$5,000 to **Somali Women and Children Skills for Change** to help fund a project coordinator and outreach workers to help address domestic violence issues in the Somali community and culture.

Decisions were difficult, since applicants included agencies that provide culturally relevant health services, empower and build leadership among young girls and teenagers, and provide resources to parents and early-learning child care programs.



Cambodian Women's Association



Young Women's Leadership Group of the Asian and Pacific Islander Family Safety Center

To the Ripple Fund members and donors—thank you for starting a new wave of change! Your time, commitment and passion for the women and girls in our community have inspired us all.

Are you and your friends interested in starting your own donor circle? Contact Savitha Pathi at savitha@wfalliance.org. For more information about the agencies receiving Ripple Fund awards, please visit www.wfalliance.org.

The Good Body

by Eve Ensler
(author of *The Vagina Monologues*)
April 28, 2004
Seattle Repertory Theatre

Join the Alliance for Eve Ensler's new play, *The Good Body*. Limited tickets are available for WFA supporters for \$25. Contact Jolyn Mason at (206) 467-6733 to reserve your tickets.

The Good Body consists of a range of monologues based on conversations with women from Bombay to Beverly Hills, written and performed by acclaimed playwright Eve Ensler. Whether undergoing Botox treatments or hiding beneath burkhas, women of all nationalities and backgrounds feel compelled to change the way they look in order to fit in with their culture, to be considered "good." Through this confessional form, Ensler taps into an underlying obsession with women's bodies that transcends societal borders.

Thank You 2003 donors!

Thanks to the committed generosity of Alliance donors, WFA met and exceeded 2003 fundraising goals! WFA is sincerely grateful for the thousands of donations from individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations. Your important contributions will be further acknowledged in WFA's 2003 Annual Report.

Your 2003 gifts support many Alliance programs, including:

- The Alliance's next **granting cycle**, with grants awarded in late Fall, 2004.
- WFA's **Directory of Organizations Serving Women and Girls**, to be published Summer, 2004.
- Design and setup of the **Ripple Fund** and future donor circles.
- **BrenMar Scholarships**, to be awarded in May, 2004.
- The **Seed Fund**: Fundraising technical assistance and scholarships awarded to organizations in communities of color. (See our Fall 2004 Newsletter for more on this innovative program.)
- **Federation Breakfasts**, bringing federation agency leaders together to discuss pressing issues and establish a peer group that serves as an invaluable resource.

Interested in applying for grants or scholarships, ordering a directory, or attending any of the events mentioned in this newsletter? Visit www.wfalliance.org or call (206) 467-6733 for more information.

Agency Spotlight: Intercommunity Mercy Housing

As many of you know, fall is a busy time for the Alliance—it's workplace campaign season. During the course of a few short months, we visit over a hundred offices and conference rooms around Puget Sound to tell the story of WFA and our member agencies. We often need to rely on the staff of our member agencies to represent the Alliance—and all of our agencies—at these events. Everyone pitches in, but some people go above and beyond.

This year, **Paul Chiocco** of **Intercommunity Mercy Housing** truly went above and beyond expectations, staffing nearly 20 percent of our workplace events. Efforts like Paul's help get the word out about the great work being done by Alliance agencies to create change for women and girls in Puget Sound.



Mercy Housing

Intercommunity Mercy Housing (IMH) is one of WFA's agencies creating change for women and girls. IMH develops and manages properties in Western Washington serving nearly 2,000 very low-income families, many of them women and their children. Intercommunity Housing also furnishes residents with the services they need to maintain stable families and grow to self-sufficiency, including English language classes, after school programs, job development, computer training, and parenting classes.

We offer Paul our heartfelt appreciation, and our gratitude to Intercommunity Mercy Housing for their work with women and girls. Thank you, Paul!

Kudos to Federation Agencies

Marilyn Smith, executive director of **Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS)**, received an award from the Ford Foundation's "**Leadership for a Changing World**" program in honor of the remarkable work she does within the Deaf community. Until recently, ADWAS was the nation's only Deaf-managed and fully accessible sexual assault/domestic violence organization, offering exclusive services to the Deaf as well as the Deaf-Blind.

The first annual **Jeanette Williams Award** was given to **Lisa Stone**, executive director of **Northwest Women's Law Center**, for her dedication, advocacy, and leadership for women in the Seattle area. Mayor Greg Nickels presented the award at the Seattle Women's Summit.

Seattle Girls' School (SGS) was recently awarded a **\$2 million matching grant** through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help strengthen the school's scholarship endowment over the next few years. Seattle Girls' School emphasizes math, science, and technology and encourages and prepares girls to become leaders in their communities.

Chaya, a community-based organization serving South Asian women in times of crisis and need, was the recipient of the **2003 Outstanding Organization Award** from the Seattle Human Services Coalition. Chaya's work to raise awareness of domestic violence has helped numerous women in need of support.

Congratulations to Marilyn, Lisa, SGS and Chaya for this well-deserved recognition of their inspiring work.

Agency Events

March 25

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC)
"Kids Are Our Business" Breakfast
Enumclaw, 7–8:30 a.m.
Enumclaw VFW Hall
Info: Tiffany Devoy, (425) 226-5062 x219,
tdevoy@kcsarc.org

April 1, June 3, July 1 & Sept 2

Washington CASH
Wine and Cheese with CASH
CASH office, 1912 E Madison, Seattle
Free, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
RSVP: Celia Weisman, (206) 352-1945,
giving@washingtongcash.org

April 17

Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress (HCSATS)
Free self-defense class for adolescent girls and women in shelters
Catholic Community Services
Seattle, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
RSVP: Kerry Todd, (206) 521-1800,
kjtodd@u.washington.edu
Held in conjunction with Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs' Sexual Assault Awareness Week, 4/12–4/17

May 1

Residence XII
"Building Hope, Restoring Lives" Auction
Red Lion Bellevue Inn
Tickets: \$50
Info: Libbie Stellas, (425) 823-8844

May 4

Seattle Girls' School
Grace Hopper Awards Luncheon
Keynote speaker: Dr. Sally Ride
Info: (206) 709-2228

May 6 & August 5

Washington CASH
Breakfast with CASH
CASH office, 1912 E. Madison St., Seattle
Free, 7:30–8:30 a.m.
RSVP: Celia Weisman, (206) 352-1945,
giving@washingtongcash.org

May 8

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC)
7th Annual Mother's Day Auction
Capitol Hill Arts Collective
Seattle, 6 p.m.
Info: Karen, (206) 324-3063

May 13

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC)
"Kids Are Our Business" Breakfast
Kent, 7–8:30 a.m.
Meridian Valley Country Club
Info: Tiffany Devoy, (425) 226-5062 x219,
tdevoy@kcsarc.org

Visit

www.artofdining.org

for exciting

previews of

Art of Dining

auction items

and gourmet

menu.

It's Time for the Fabulous 12th Annual Art of Dining!

This year's Art of Dining will take place at the Paramount Theatre on **Thursday, April 22**. The evening features an elegant multi-course dinner prepared by a dozen of Seattle's most beloved women chefs, as well as an auction that showcases art from two dozen of



Guests enjoy themselves at the Art of Dining.

the Northwest's best-known women artists. **Last year, the event drew 480 guests and raised more than \$200,000 to improve the lives of women and girls!**

This year's event promises to be even better, with sizzling new auction items,

convenient online ticketing and payment options, streamlined registration procedures, and two chances to win that heavenly coconut cream pie!

For up-to-the-minute information on this year's featured chefs and artists, how to donate to the auction or be a table captain, and how to reserve your tickets before they sell out, visit www.artofdining.org.

See you April 22!

2003 Phone Campaign

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Alliance's 2003 phonathon!

Together we raised more than \$10,000 for women and girls. If you received a call, you may have spoken with a member of our wonderful calling team, the Co-Operators (including **Katie** and **Debra**, shown here). WFA sincerely appreciates the generosity of everyone who participated and helped make a difference!



Seattle Storm/Alliance Night Out!

Friday, June 11
Seattle Storm vs. Connecticut
6 p.m. at KeyArena
Tickets: \$25
Info: (206) 467-6733

Bring a girl to the game and support women and girls! Seattle Storm and Women's Funding Alliance have partnered in honor of June's **Girl Power Week**. Tickets include attendance at the WFA pre-game reception 6-7 p.m. A portion of every ticket goes to the Alliance and our agencies.

March for Women's Lives

Join the Alliance Delegation!

April 25, 2004

Washington, DC

Passionate about women's rights? Considering the march but not sure who you'd attend with? Join a group of women and men committed to women's rights, and help WFA reach our goal of twenty participants. Delegations with twenty or more participants march first with banners announcing their organization's commitment. The Alliance will be marching alongside WFA federation agencies NARAL Pro-Choice Washington and Northwest Women's Law Center.

To join the Alliance delegation, call Kate at (206) 467-6733. Delegation participants will receive email updates and the location in DC where we will assemble for the March.

Welcome, Kelly and Nancy!

The Alliance is pleased to introduce our new program intern, Kelly Wiles, and event manager, Nancy Ward. Kelly is working toward her degree in political communication at the University of Washington, and is happy to be doing work that allows her to express her passion for human rights. "I liked the idea of working for an organization that gives women and girls opportunities they might otherwise not have had."



Nancy Ward



Kelly Wiles

Nancy has been working in nonprofit events management for eleven years. She began her career in Washington, DC, and is proud of contributing to the start of an organization called Women in International Security.

In addition to managing the Art of Dining and several other events in the Puget Sound area, Nancy currently co-chairs Passages Northwest's Comedy and Courage benefit auction. "I'm passionate about providing opportunities for women and girls, in order for them to find the value within themselves - not from outside sources - and then be able to transfer that value to the community at large."

Use Your Voice *continued from page 1*

assets when the relationship ends.

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition celebrated their 20th year of advocating for the rights of lower-income women and their families.

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center launched a three-year campaign to reach victims of sexual assault, their families, friends and the community to ensure that communities begin conversations about this issue, and that all victims get the help they need.

Imagine what would happen if each of us used our voice, our purse, and our power...

Each of us has the ability to build on this momentum and to powerfully change the future for women and girls. Imagine what would happen if *each* of us used our voice, our purse and our power!

Some possible ways for each of us to effect change:

Use Your Voice: Contact the League of Women Voters and find out the facts about the issues you care about. Talk about them with your friends and family. Write a letter to the editor or to an elected official who can advocate for your issues.

Use Your Purse: Donate to an organization that is doing work you're passionate about. Contribute to the election campaign of a candidate you believe in. What may seem a small amount of monetary support can make a huge difference.

Use Your Power: Vote, and encourage your friends and family to join you. Volunteer for the programs that are creating the change you want to see. Join the March for Women's Lives this April 25 in Washington, D.C., or another demonstration of your beliefs and right to free speech.

Our next newsletter will continue the discussion of how to "Use Your Voice, Use Your Purse, Use Your Power," and how the Alliance and our supporters can and are creating change in our community.

Resources: League of Women Voters (LWV), www.lwv.org. LWV of Washington, (206) 622-8961. LWV of Seattle, (206) 329-4848, www.seattle.wa.lwv.org. Voting registration, www.secstate.wa.gov/elections. March for Women's Lives, www.marchforwomen.org, or call (206) 467-6733 to join the Alliance delegation.

Camp Ten Trees Honors WFA

WFA recently received a **Philanthropist of the Year** award from Camp Ten Trees, one of last year's grantees. Mo Malkin, co-founder and co-director, explains that WFA is the first funder—after the Pride Foundation's original startup grant—to recognize the need for an organization like Camp Ten Trees and to support their important work with a grant.

Camp Ten Trees provides an empowering, safe, and creative environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth and children of LGBTQ families. WFA's \$7,500 grant last year made a significant impact on their camp and the youth that attend. We hope our funding and public recognition of Camp Ten Trees will call other funders' attention to this young and innovative grassroots organization. Thank you for the award, Camp Ten Trees!

Who We Are

Established in 1983, WFA promotes justice, health, and opportunities by investing in the future of women and girls. Since its inception, the Alliance has distributed over \$2 million in the Puget Sound area to more than 80 programs that address issues such as poverty, sexual assault, discrimination, domestic violence, education, and reproductive rights.

The Alliance focuses on these areas:

- ¶ **Funding Social Change:** Through its federation structure, scholarships, and grantmaking program, WFA raises and distributes funding to organizations serving women and girls.
- ¶ **Raising Awareness:** WFA educates the public and amplifies the voices of women and girls.
- ¶ **Building Community:** WFA facilitates connections between organizations and individuals concerned about women's and girls' issues.

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W Women's Funding Alliance

Come inside and take a look.

Ripple Effect

A new funding vehicle is born: the donor circle page 1

WFA Partners with the Rep

Alliance supporters enjoy *Living Out* page 3

Art of Dining Approaches

Mark your calendars: April 22 at the Paramount Theatre! page 6

Member Agencies Are Awesome!

Directors and agencies are honored with awards and grants page 5

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