



Evaluation Chair Veronica Esclamado at the Non-Profit Info session

Grants Committee Hosts Nonprofit Information Session

On August 24, the Grants Committee Chair, Sara Holderness, led an information session for area nonprofits interested in applying for a 2007-2008 grant from the Women's Impact Fund. Representatives from more than 40 area agencies came to the event held at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. Letters of inquiry will be due October 24, and then 60 members of the Grants committee will begin selecting agencies to continue in our grants evaluation.

Mark your calendars

October 24 *Deadline for Letters of Inquiry from nonprofit organizations interested in receiving grants.*

Wed. Nov 7
11:30 am *Lunch and Learn - The Low Carbon Diet: Impacts of Rapid Growth and Solutions for a Healthy Environment with Dr. Jane Preyer.*

Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary
248 Ridgewood Avenue

Thanks to members Joanna Virkler, editor, Nan Clarke and Kathy Izard for their work on the newsletter. Also thanks to FFTC staff member Donna Stoeling for her many contributions.



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From Your Board Chair
Judy Allison

At least every week, and sometimes every day, I receive positive feedback from members and community partners about the great work that the Women's Impact Fund is doing. Our fall membership-recruiting event was held on Oct. 4 and broke all records in terms of the number of potential new members who attended. Twenty-eight signed up on the spot and another 25 said they would join soon. That represents about \$297,000 in new commitments over the next five years! As I talked to members and guests at the event, I was so impressed by the level of enthusiasm and interest. There were many members who brought friends - and some who brought their daughters. These women believe in our organization and want to engage others in philanthropy and help make an even bigger impact on our community.

We are now at 430 members and growing. In the spring, we will be able to contribute at least \$430,000 to our community to address critical needs and emerging issues in our five focus areas of Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Health, and Human Services. We are certainly far exceeding expectations in our mission to strengthen communities through the "power of collective giving." Just as important, we are engaging women in meaningful philanthropy and leveraging the time and talent of our members in community involvement. We call this the "ripple effect" - when our members become involved as volunteers, advocates, fundraisers, board members - and even valued employees of the same nonprofits that WIF supports. That is building social capital!

As we approach our fifth anniversary, we can celebrate many successes, and we will embrace the changes that our phenomenal growth brings. We're reorganizing for the future, as we transition toward becoming more self-sustaining. We have attained our own 501(c)(3) status as a public charity, becoming a model among women's collective giving funds for our growth and quality programs.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement - you are making a powerful impact on our community. Feel proud!

Wf THE WOMEN'S IMPACT FUND
A special program of Foundation For The Carolinas

in the news

Fall Recruitment Event Most Successful Ever

On October 4, more than 100 members and guests gathered for the annual fall recruitment event at the home of Arrington Mixon. Twenty-eight new members joined to bring our membership to 430! Thanks to Arrington Mixon and co-hosts Judy Allison, Robin Branstrom, Kay Ethridge, Vicky Mitchener, Patty Norman, Sonja Nichols, Jo Ann Peer, Claire Tate, Debra Timmerman and Cantey Tull for hosting this successful event. Thanks to Martha Harbison and the Membership committee for a great job organizing.



Martha Harbison, Kay Ethridge, Arrington Mixon and Donna Stoeling



Denise Apple, Jayna Petzold and Billie Scrusse

Welcome 55 New Members!



Mary Lynn Moser and new member Cydnee Watterson

Thanks to two successful membership recruitment events this fall, our membership has increased dramatically. New members are Marilyn Alexander, Caron Arnold, Addison Ayer, Natalie Brown, Susan Brown, Ruth Cecil, Kim Chesson, Jo Clark, Veronica Clark, Terry Connor, Claire Cotty, Jean Davis, Robin Davis, Cynthia Frank, Merritt Friedman, Renata Henderson, Jill Hogan, Martha Honnold, Helga Houston, Fern Inger Epley, Amy Jones, Patty King, Meg Lauck, Kay Layman, Amy Lefkof Mayopoulos, Kristin Leshner, Laura Lewin, Stacy Lynch, Gianna Manes, Therese

Mattingly, Deanita McCall, Stacie McGinn, Janet Miller, Pat Mulholland, Kathleen O'Bannon, Laura Park, Jennifer Powel, Beth Quartapella, Melissa Reddick, Martha Scheppe, Kellie Scott, Leigh-Ann Sprock, Mary Staton, Caroline Stoneman, Margaret Switzer, Carolyn Taylor, Erica Toatley, Dearsley Vernon, Betsy Walsh, Cydnee Watterson, Mary Patricia Wheeler, Patricia Wheeler, Mary Whisonant, Kimberley Whitney, and Anna Lindsay Yarbrough.

Member News

Judy Allison, Mary Lou Babb, Robin Branstrom and Laura Meyer Wellman were interviewed for an article about WIF to appear in the December issue of *Today's Charlotte Woman*.

Dianne Bailey, Sara Holderness and Judy Allison made a presentation at the NC Conference for Women Givers in Raleigh on October 15. The conference showcased women's giving funds across the state.

Mary Lou Babb and Judy Allison spoke to a newly formed women's giving circle, Women Giving for Spartanburg, in Spartanburg, SC on October 10. Fifty women signed up at this initial event.

Congratulations to Patty Norman for receiving the Trustee Citation for Leadership by the American Library Association – the highest national honor for the trustee of a library.

Congratulations to Charlene Slaughter for receiving the National 2007 Health Awareness Promotion Award by the American Medical Association.

Congratulations to Mary Lou and Jim Babb for being recognized as the 2007 YWCA Couple of Achievement by the YWCA Central Carolinas.

Know a member that should be in our news? Email your news to nan.r.clarke@gmail.com



Jennifer Roberts, Molly Griffin, Jennifer Appleby, Jessica Saxe Schorr, Dave Cable at Community Issues Forum

Forum Informs on Community Challenges

Five community experts discussed both critical needs in Charlotte and successful approaches to addressing those needs at the WIF annual Community Issues Forum on Sept. 20 at the Afro-American Cultural Center. WIF's Incoming Chair Toni Freeman of the Duke Endowment, served as moderator for the lively forum, while Grants committee members led the Q&A session.

Panelists were Jennifer Roberts, chair of Mecklenburg County Commission; Dave Cable, director of Catawba Lands Conservancy; Jennifer Appleby, former board chair of Arts & Science Council; Molly Griffin, vice chair of Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education; and Jessica Schorr Saxe, a physician with the Community Health Clinic. Appleby, Griffin and Saxe are WIF members.

What they said Panelists' Comments from Issues Forum

Jessica Schorr Saxe:

"Lack of adequate health care access is as devastating as lack of health care insurance."

"If we had more open land, that would be good for the environment, of course, but also good for our health, as our kids would have more places to run around, which would combat the huge problem of child obesity. At some level, many of these problems are connected."

Dave Cable:

"Our region is losing around 41 acres a day of natural, unimproved land. By 2020, we expect to be at 13% natural land, down from 33% in 1976."

Jennifer Roberts:

"Our community is currently experiencing a surge in the number of families sinking into poverty, manifested by homelessness. There are currently 2,200 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools children identified as homeless, an increase of 20% over last year."

Molly Griffin:

"The quantity and especially quality of leadership in CMS schools is one of the most critical issues today. Having a good principal is the most significant factor in the success of an individual school."

Jennifer Appleby:

"We need to increase arts exposure to different populations and different cultures. Yes, adequate food and shelter are important, but art can provide answers to those who hunger emotionally."



Susan Brown, Jacelyn Karst Brown, Candy Moore at New Member Orientation



Karen Pritchett



Sonja Nelson, Fern Ingber, Candy Moore, Regina Smith, Jennifer Roberts at Shain Gallery

Thanks to Gaby Shain Bryson for hosting a new member event at Shain Gallery on Aug. 23 and to Vicky Mitchener of Dickens-Mitchener & Associates for her sponsorship.

Nina Ford Jackson, Jennifer Powell



Thanks to Jane Avinger for hosting our first recruitment event in Davidson on Sept. 13!



Pat Wheeler, Lacy Dick, Jane Avinger, Missy Kuykendall at Davidson recruitment event.

Our future

Since the launch of the Women's Impact Fund (WIF) nearly five years ago, we have been operating as a special program of Foundation For The Carolinas (FFTC). FFTC has been extraordinarily generous to WIF, recognizing the power of women's collective giving and branding us as the most exciting thing to happen to philanthropy in the last decade.

As we look to the future, it is clear that organizational changes are necessary to support WIF's tremendous growth and to maximize our community impact. This fall, the WIF board of directors voted unanimously to reorganize as a self-sustaining, self-governing nonprofit organization. In addition, approval was sought from the membership at the Community Issues Forum held on Sept. 20. Those in attendance also voted unanimously in favor of the proposed reorganization; however, a quorum was not achieved, so a ratifying vote will be taken in the coming months.

In an important first step toward a self-sustaining, self-governing model, on Oct. 3, 2007, the "new" Women's Impact Fund received its determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service recognizing WIF as a 501(c)(3) organization. The reorganization is not expected to be complete until Jan. 1, 2010. During the transition period, the FFTC-sponsored WIF will continue to support our membership and make high impact grants to the community. If you have any questions about the reorganization, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Transition Task Force: Judy Allison, Robin Branstrom, Toni Freeman, Betty Hunter, Kathy Izard, Patty Norman, Kathy Ridge, and Sally Saussy. Also, you may contact Diane Bailey, chair of the Transition Task Force, at dbailey@rbh.com.