

in the news



Robin Branstrom, Judy Allison, Mary Lou Babb

SUMMER 2007

From Your Board Chair



The Women's Impact Fund has ended its fourth program year with remarkable accomplishments. At our annual meeting on

May 30, we announced five grants totaling \$344,500. For the first time, we were able to award a grant in our Arts & Culture focus area, which is a long-awaited happening! We have awarded almost \$1 million in grants in four short years – and I know this is a source of pride for all of you.

On the membership front, we have recruited more than 30 new members this year, bringing our total to 378 as of June 21, 2007. Through our research, we have learned that we are the fastest growing women's collective giving fund in the nation. None of this could have been accomplished without the tremendous support of our volunteer leaders. It has been a thrill to work with such a great group of women, all committed to strengthening our community through the power of collective giving.

*As our fifth anniversary approaches, we are well positioned for continued success. I am so proud of the Women's Impact Fund and honored to serve as chair of the board of directors. I look forward to working with you and deeply appreciate your support and involvement. **We are making an impact!!***
Judy Allison

Member News

Congratulations to **Sarah Belk Gambrell** for being honored this spring for "Lifetime Achievement" by the Girl Scouts, Hornets Nest Council. In addition, on June 23 Gambrell received the first Annual Maya Angelou Elizabeth Ross Dargan Lifetime Achievement Award by the United Negro College Fund, Charlotte Chapter.

Congratulations to **Cama McNamara** for receiving a Women Who Lead Award from the United Negro College Fund, Charlotte Chapter.



Toni Freeman, incoming Chair 2008-2009 and Mic Alexander

Debbie Phillips and Leslie Sebo

Stacie Immesberger and Pam Johnson

\$344,500 Awarded at Annual Meeting

This year 208 members and guests attended the 2007 Annual Meeting and Luncheon on May 30 at the Westin Charlotte. Five organizations representing each of our giving areas, Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Health, and Human Services, were awarded a total of \$344,500 – that is \$81,500 more than we were able to award last year!

Congratulations to the five grantees:

- **Collaborative Arts Theatre for Shakespeare at the Green: \$49,000** Funds will pay the costs of producing one additional Shakespeare play each year over the next two to three years, plus marketing and educational outreach.
- **Teach for America for Elimination of Educational Inequity in Charlotte: \$84,000** Funds received over the next two years will be used to recruit and support seven new teachers for CMS, impacting more than 550 students.
- **Advantage Carolina for the Regional Planning Alliance: \$50,000** Funds will be used to recruit and manage business participants in Clean Air Works!; implement the Sustainable Business Practices forum; manage the transition to a long-term program sustained by the business community; and create demonstration projects.
- **Charlotte Community Health Clinic for Chronic Disease/Health Education: \$75,500** Funds will be used to hire a full-time health educator and a part-time registered nurse/certified diabetes educator; to fund interpreting/translation services and diabetic strips/supplies.
- **YWCA Central Carolinas for Families Together: \$86,000** Funds will be used by this transitional housing program to provide case management services, including psychosocial assessments, family plans, and financial literacy support. Funds received over the next two years will specifically pay for salaries, contract services, and staff recruitment and development.



Seated: Sheraz Kersey, Cyndi Kersey, Richelle McCoy, Christy Long. Standing: Candy Moore and Ruby Cooper



Alice Herald, Laurie Schwartz, President of Advantage Carolina Emmy Lou Burchette, Pam West



WIF member Anne Pipkin Benson with YWCA Grantees: Darren Ash, Board member, Jane McIntyre, Executive Director, and Anita Self, Board Member

Marca Bristo Serves Up a Little Magic



Bristo is president and chief executive officer of Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago. She was the 2007 Annual Meeting keynote speaker. Paraphrasing Daniel Burnham, Marca Bristo began her speech with this thought: **"Make no small plans – they have no magic to stir women's souls."**

Thirty years ago to the day before this keynote address, Bristo broke her neck while diving into Lake Michigan to retrieve a shoe. It was a defining moment in her life, teaching her tolerance, acceptance, toughness, coping skills, a sense of humor and the courage to stand up for her beliefs. It also led Bristo to her current work redefining what it means to be disabled. As she built her new life, Bristo was frequently angry at the injustice and inaccessibility that frustrated her. She became part of a movement which adopted the social/civil rights model, "Nothing about us without us." The most significant development the movement inspired was the 1990 adoption of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

Bristo encouraged WIF to use the power of the purse to empower organizations to end exclusion. **"Think big. Think bold,"** Bristo said in her final comments. "Remember Daniel Burnham and make plans with the magic to stir women's souls."

Thank you, Bank of America, for sponsoring our Annual Luncheon.

WIF Board of Directors

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2007-08 Nominating Committee

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Mic Alexander

Cantey Tull

Laurie Johnson

Judy Allison

Lesley Powell

Toni Freeman

Retiring Directors—Thank you!

Ginny Collett

Sandra Conway

Lesley Powell

Cantey Tull

Jean Veilleux

Many thanks to **Beth Quinn** for hosting a membership recruitment coffee in her home in Cornelius on April 26. Also thanks to her friend, Nancy Yung, for providing the refreshments.

Thanks to the following members for their work on the newsletter: Joanna Virkler, editor; Nan Clarke, Kathy Izard, Laurie Schwartz and Kathryn Maciel. Also thanks to FFTC staff members Donna Stoeling and Fontella McKyver.



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Membership Reaches 378

Thanks for a great recruiting effort from our members: 96 guests attended our Annual Luncheon! Many have already joined. **Welcome New Members:** Mar Dee Baker, Jacelyn Karst Block, Frieda Brown, Marni Eisner, Phyllis Gill, Neal Johnson, Valerie Lewis, Colleen Ludington, Kristine Matthews, Kelly McPhilliamy, Candy Moore, Randall Morrow, Mandy Norton, Cynthia Oates, Liz Peralta, Kathleen Price, Karen Pritchett, Susan Reif, Anne Carter Smith, Amy Stabingas, Andrea Stevenson, Edith Upchurch.

WIF Receives National Media Attention

On May 20, *The Wall Street Journal* featured WIF in an article on giving circles in the "Giving Back" section. The Annual Meeting and grant awards were the focus of the lead story in the June 6 issue of the online *Philanthropy Journal*.

Where are they now? Updates from WIF Grantees

Pat's Place

2004: \$100,000 to Council for Children to found Pat's Place counseling center for sexually abused children.

2007:

• *Tripled* its capacity to serve children, realizing a 25% increase in use by DSS social services and law enforcement personnel.

• *Increased* its staff to include a case manager and a full-time nurse practitioner.

• *Applied* for accreditation through the National Children's Alliance.

• *Hosted* its first annual child abuse conference, facilitated by a nationally recognized expert in the field.

Gang of One

2004: \$49,000 to the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department to found Gang of One gang prevention and education program.

2007:

• *Provided* over 230 gang recognition and awareness presentations for adults and gang resistance training for youth to an estimated 16,000 participants.

• *Collaborated* with over 50 local agencies.

• *Received* over 1000 calls to its hotline.

• *Established* over 38 new or enhanced gang prevention programs, including programs at 10 CMS elementary schools and one CMS middle school.

• *Assisted* over 65 youths in gang disassociation.

Mark your calendars

Beginning August 1

Grants Work Teams begin accepting and soliciting Letters of Inquiry (LOI) from nonprofits interested in 2008 WIF grants.

Thurs., Sept. 20 Annual Community Issues Forum

A unique opportunity to hear about critical and emerging needs from Mecklenburg experts.
Moderator: Toni Freeman

AfroAmerican Cultural Center
401 Myers Street

Calling all members There will be two new member recruitment events this fall (details to come).

We need your suggestions for new members!! It's best if you are able to accompany prospective members to recruitment events – but not necessary. Please send names and contact information to Donna Stoeling in the FFTC office at 704-973-4510 or dmstoeling@fftc.org.

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