



# THE WOMEN'S IMPACT FUND

*A special program of  
Foundation For The Carolinas*

Winter 2007

# in the news

## Grants Committee Selects Top 20 Proposals

After a careful review of the 104 Letters of Inquiry submitted to the grants committee, twenty organizations have been asked to respond to WIF's formal Request for Proposals. Over the next two months, members of the grants committee will conduct further research on each of these organizations, including conducting site visits. By March 30, each of the five grants committee work teams will select their top three agencies as semi-finalists. On April 12, the entire grants committee will choose the top 10 agencies (two in each focus area) that will appear on the ballot sent to the entire membership.

Grants committee chair Anne Essaye and her team of 50 hardworking and committed members have already spent enormous time and energy selecting the top 20 agencies. In addition, Foundation for The Carolinas staff, particularly *Nikki DeVillers, Annette Taylor* and *Lauren Evans*, provided invaluable help and support. Many thanks to committee volunteers and Foundation staff.

The four candidates for grants in each of WIF's five focus areas are: (in alphabetical order)

- A Child's Place*
- Actor's Theatre of Charlotte*
- Advantage Carolina*
- American Rivers*
- Carolinas Clean Air Coalition*
- Central Avenue Bilingual Preschool*
- Charlotte Children's Choir*
- Charlotte Community Health Clinic*
- Collaborative Arts Theatre*
- Communities In Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg*
- Crisis Assistance Ministry*
- Florence Crittenton Services/United Family Services*
- Latin American Coalition*
- Mecklenburg County Medical Society Foundation*
- Planned Parenthood Health Systems*
- Regional AIDS Interfaith Network*
- Southern Environmental Law Center*
- Teach For America*
- Theatre Charlotte*
- YWCA of the Central Carolinas*

## Many thanks to:

First Presbyterian Church  
*For hosting our January Lunch and Learn event*

Myers Park Presbyterian Church  
*For hosting our Art of the Deal event*

## Five Grants to be Awarded in 2007!

Thanks to a very successful membership drive this fall, the Women's Impact Fund now has the critical membership mass to award a high-impact grant in each of its five focus areas: arts & culture, education, environment, health, and human services. An exciting milestone for WIF as well as for our nonprofit community!

This year then, because WIF will award five grants, the ballot will contain a total of 10 projects – two projects in each focus area. When each member receives the ballot in late April, she will be asked to vote for her top choice in each of the five focus areas. The top vote getter in each category will be awarded a grant ranging from \$40,000 to \$100,000 – with a total of about \$344,500 to be distributed.

To help members make informed decisions, a "Live Ballot" event is scheduled for April 23 at the Mint Museum of Art. At that time the grants committee will review all 10 projects and answer any questions. In addition, the ballot materials will include a summary of all 10 projects. Winners will be announced at the Annual Luncheon & Meeting on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 at the Westin Charlotte. *Now be sure to vote!*



## Grantee Reports at Jan. 25 Lunch & Learn

Organization leaders of each of the four 2006 grant award winners gave WIF members fresh insight and updated information at the Lunch & Learn on Jan. 25 at First Presbyterian Church.

• **Citizen Schools'** North Carolina state director (and WIF member) **Jerry Fatticci** said that WIF money helped launch the Citizen Schools after-school program at two sites this year, Eastway Middle School and Martin Luther King Middle School. Current plans are to add one more site in Charlotte and three to five sites in other parts of North Carolina.



*Lesley Powell and Kemilou Pomplun*

• **MedAssist** executive director Susan Basini reported that with the help of WIF funds, MedAssist was able to hire another pharmacist for its free pharmacy, thereby expanding hours into the evening to better assist their working clients. In 2006, MedAssist helped 4,000 clients, some with acute illnesses and short-term needs, but most with long-term needs related to chronic illnesses, such as diabetes or heart disease.

• An economic impact study funded by WIF for the **Catawba Lands Conservancy's Carolina Regional Trail** project is a critical part of the upcoming capital campaign for the trail. WIF member **Ann Browning**, director of the trail project for CLC, said the study focuses on economic development, the knitting together of communities, the preservation of heritage, the creation and preservation of more open space, and positive impact on air and water quality issues.

• Executive director Frank Crawford and program director Tara Williamson of **Youth Homes** are tackling new programs targeting children who age out of the foster care system at 18 years old. One program is designed for children 16-18 years old – to prepare them for independent living. Another program is available to provide support to kids who are 18 years and older. Future plans include a permanent resource center. Crawford reported that kids who have "aged out" represent 28 percent of our homeless population.



THANK YOU to the following members who contributed their time and talent to this newsletter: Joanna Virkler, editor; Nan Clarke, and Edith Wyatt.

**FFTC Staff Support Update :** While Nikki DeVillers is on maternity leave, Fontella McKyer, FFTC assistant vice president, client services, will be our key link to FFTC. Contact Fontella at fmckyer@fftc.org or 704.973.4512. Or contact Lauren Evans, at levans@fftc.org or 704.973.4568

## WIF Membership: 351!

Welcome to the 31 new members who have joined WIF since last fall! Mary Clifford Boyd, Caroline Broadfoot, Amber Harper Brown, Sheryl Vandermolen Bucci, Marcy Choate, Dana Martin Davis, Brittan duBose, Leigh Finley, Jan Foster, Karen Gledhill, Kathryn Griffin, Julie Zydron Griggs, Julie Haack Kral, Alice Harney, Linda Hindel, Frances Lilly, Jan Loring, Mary Mandeville, Annette Mason, Kelly McPhilliamy, Leigh Moran, Dawn Osborn, Liz Peralta, Kay Saville, Suzanne Schaffer, Leslie Sebo, Joyce Shields, Keri Shull, Anne Carter Smith, Choux Stultz, Lauri Wilks, Marylyn Williams, Rachel Williams.

### Member News *Congratulations:*

**Jerri Fatticci**, who joined Citizen Schools (a 2006 WIF grantee) as NC state director in December. Fatticci served on the grants committee and became so engaged with Citizen Schools that she left her long-time job as a financial advisor at Bank of America to change careers. "We were very poor growing up and for a time one of the only meals I received was through the free lunch program at school," Fatticci said. "I am truly blessed to have this opportunity to give back in such a meaningful way."

**Ann Browning** on her new position leading the Carolina Regional Trail project for Catawba Lands Conservancy (a 2006 WIF grantee). Browning recently left her long-time career as a partner at Bank of America Capital Investors to join the nonprofit world. Just like Jerri Fatticci, her work on the WIF grants committee inspired her to make the switch.

## Member Education Event: The Art of the Deal



*John Lassiter, Chris McLeod and Mark Bernstein*



*(Left to right) Frances Evans and Hope Watts study plans for cultural facilities.*



*(Left to right) Jean Vellieux, Nancy Tarbis, Lydia Taggart, and Laura Thompson.*

More than 50 WIF members attended the "Art of the Deal" Lunch & Learn at Myers Park Presbyterian Church on Nov. 6. Sponsored by The Greater Charlotte Cultural Trust, the meeting provided a behind-the-scenes look at Charlotte's new \$83 million Campaign for Cultural Facilities. Speakers were WIF member **Chris McLeod**, vice president of the Trust, Charlotte City Council member John Lassiter, and Mark Bernstein of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein (father of WIF member **Cary Bernstein**). They described the months of planning, the not-always-expected partnerships and the 19 separate agreements that led to one result: New or vastly improved facilities for seven major cultural institutions in Charlotte, including the Mint Museums, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and the Afro-American Cultural Center. Finish date is planned for summer 2009. "Even for Charlotte," Lassiter said, "the ingenuity that went into this project is unique. A lot of people believed in it, plus we had a little bit of luck."

### Many thanks to:

The Greater Charlotte Cultural Trust

*For sponsoring this event*

Education Committee

*for arranging this event*

## Mark your calendars

Register: 704.973.4589

Tues, Feb 20  
6:00-7:30pm

**Wine and Wisdom** *A unique opportunity to hear from three of Charlotte's leading philanthropists: Peggy Culbertson, Sally Robinson and Ruth Shaw*

Home of Patty Norman  
3141 Sharon Road

Mon, April 23  
6:00-7:30pm

**Live Ballot Event** *Get ready to vote by attending this fun event to learn about the WIF Top Ten for the 2007 Ballot*

Mint Museum of Art  
2730 Randolph Road

Wed, May 30  
*\*Note Date Change\**

**Annual Meeting** *Don't miss our signature event announcing this year's FIVE grant recipients and featuring guest speaker Marca Bristo, a nationally recognized disability rights advocate.*

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