



THE WOMEN'S IMPACT FUND

A special program of
Foundation For The Carolinas

Spring 2007

in the news

Grants Committee Selects Top 10 Finalists

ARTS & CULTURE

Collaborative Arts Theatre - Shakespeare on the Green
Theatre Charlotte - Impact on Issues, Education and Entertainment

EDUCATION

Communities in Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg - Performance Learning Center
Teach For America - Elimination of Educational Inequity in Charlotte

ENVIRONMENT

Advantage Carolina - Regional Planning Alliance
Carolinas Clean Air Coalition - Clean the Air for Kids

HEALTH

Charlotte Community Health Clinic - Chronic Disease/Health Education
Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) - HIV Prevention Education for African-American Women

HUMAN SERVICES

A Child's Place - Multi-Area Response & Social Service Work Team
YWCA Central Carolinas - Families Together

Ballots Due May 10

All WIF members will receive a ballot in the mail that will include one page of information devoted to each project and a one-page ballot. Ballots are due on May 10. Be sure to vote!

GRANTS COMMITTEE TO BE COMMENDED

Many thanks to the more than 50 grants committee members, chair Anne Essaye, and co-chair Sara Holderness for their hard work whittling down the 104 grant applications to the 10 finalists presented to the membership at the Live Ballot event on April 23. The entire membership will be asked to vote on the five winning organizations - be sure not to miss this yearly chance to really make a difference. To sign up for the grant committee or one of the other WIF committees, contact Donna Stoeling at: 704-973-4589 or email womensimpactfund@fftc.org.

Many thanks to:

A special thanks to Jane McColl and McColl Fine Art Gallery for hosting the April 12 meeting of the grants committee.

Don't Miss Our Annual Meeting May 30, Noon-2 pm at the Westin Hotel

The fourth Annual Luncheon & Meeting of the Women's Impact Fund will be held from noon to 2 p.m. on Weds., May 30, at the Westin Charlotte, 601 S. College St. Marca Bristo, a nationally and internationally acclaimed leader in the disability rights movement, will be the guest speaker. During the meeting, the new WIF board of directors will be voted on and the recipients of this year's grants will be announced. **This is the first year that WIF will be awarding five grants - this year totaling \$344,500 - one in each of our focus areas: arts & culture, education, environment, health, and human services.**

Tickets to the meeting are \$30 for members and \$20 for guests. For tickets or more information, call 704-973-4589 or email to womensimpactfund@fftc.org.



Acclaimed Disability Rights Leader Keynote Speaker

Marca Bristo is the recipient of three Presidential appointments and one Congressional appointment to disability policy positions. She has received numerous awards and recognitions including the Distinguished Service Award of the President of the United States of America; the Henry B. Betts Laureate, considered the Nobel Prize in the rehabilitation/disability field; and the 1993 United

Way of Chicago Executive of the Year Award. Ms. Bristo was also named by *Crain's Chicago Business* as one of Chicago's "100 Most Influential Women."

Bristo has served as president and chief executive officer of Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago for more than 20 years. Since 1980, Access Living has directly impacted more than 35,000 people with disabilities and has had a systemic effect on thousands more through improved access to public schools, public transportation and other public services. As chairperson of the National Council on Disability (NCD) from 1994-2002, Bristo created the first advisory committee to the NCD on international policy issues; served as the liaison to the U.S. Department of State on disability issues; issued numerous reports on foreign policy and disability; and provided leadership within the disability community on efforts to create a United Nations convention.

A Lively Live Ballot at the Mint



Robin Branstrom, Ginny Collett



Laura Way, Regina Smith



Jeanette Simms, Karen Gledhill



Velva Woolen, Sonja Nichols

On April 23 at the Mint Museum of Art, following a social hour, 105 WIF members learned about the finalists for the 2007 grants to be awarded at the Annual Luncheon & Meeting on May 30. Presenters for each of the finalists were Kelly Thomas (Arts), Diane Davis (Education), Susan McDonough (Human Services), Laurie Schwartz (Environment) and Charlene Slaughter (Health). Each provided background on the organizations requesting funding and their proposed programs. The question and answer sessions were spirited, providing additional insight for the members. Many thanks to grants committee chair Anne Essaye, co-chair Sara Holderness, and special events chair Ginny Collett for organizing this illuminating evening.



Julie Kral, Mary Mandeville, Lea Johnson, Nikki DeVillers, Laurie Schwartz



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

Congratulations: To Nikki DeVillers on the birth of her daughter, Madeline Grace, on Feb. 12!



Diane Bailey and Nikki DeVillers

WIF Membership: 356!

Welcome New Members: Summer Bailey, Jenny Lam, Karen McMillan, Betty Chafin Rash and Laura Way.

WIF Philanthropists Share Philosophy

On Feb. 20, WIF advisory board members Peggy Culbertson, Sally Robinson and Ruth Shaw shared their philosophies on philanthropy and volunteerism at "Wine & Wisdom," a standing-room only event hosted by Patty Norman at her Sharon Road home.

The three ladies, though unique in their own ways, have in common a nearly lifelong interest in our community and improving the quality of life for all. Their combined accomplishments are many, produced by dedicated volunteer work and generous philanthropy. In addition, the three are gracious, modest – and funny, too.

Just a few tidbits from the panel discussion: Culbertson has followed her personal interests in arts and human service organizations, finding one of her most rewarding experiences as one of the founders of the Charlotte Museum of History. Robinson grew up in Alabama, seeing yawning inequities in society from an early age. She naturally found herself drawn to organizations focused on achieving equal opportunities for those less fortunate. Though Shaw's employers most often directed her involvement with the community, she always found the work satisfying. Shaw did note that since her retirement she is relishing her ability to make her own choices.

One thing all three women agreed on: serving on boards is as much about the people you serve with on that board as it is about the mission. Find boards or organizations with people who are forward-thinking and active and the experience will be far more engaging and meaningful.

Thanks again to Norman and the three panelists for their "wine" and "wisdom."

New Member Orientation at Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson

A new member orientation was held on Jan. 30 under the kind auspices of WIF member and lawyer Diane Bailey at the offices of Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson with more than 45 member in attendance. WIF co-founder Claire Tate gave a brief history of the organization and thanked new members for their contribution, both in energy and resources. Sara Holderness, Cantey Tull, Jean Veilleux and Nan Clarke spoke about the grants, membership, education and communications committees, respectively. Many volunteer opportunities are available. Holderness spoke for many WIF members when she said, "The Women's Impact Fund is by far the most rewarding volunteer job I have had to date."



Anne Poole, Sara Holderness, Jill Dinwiddie



Martha Harbison, Brooke Cornwell, Cantey Tull

New Program Assistant Hired



Welcome to Donna Moore Stoeling who has joined Foundation For The Carolinas as a part-time program assistant dedicated to the Women's Impact Fund. Stoeling has worked in the computer industry for 18 years and has an extensive background in business and management. She also has been an active volunteer, including roles as board president of the roles as president of the Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Deltas of Charlotte, Inc. Currently she serves as corresponding secretary of Links, Inc. Charlotte Chapter and parliamentarian of the Charlotte Alumnae Chapter of The Deltas. WIF's team at FFTC includes Stoeling, Fontella McKyer, FFTC assistant vice president Client Services, and Nikki DeVillers, who will return from maternity leave in June as relationship manager. To contact Stoeling, call her at 704-973-4510 or email her at dmstoeling@fftc.org.

Mark your calendars

Wed, May 30

Annual Meeting Don't miss our signature event announcing this year's FIVE grant recipients and featuring guest speaker Marca Bristo.

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