



A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR

As I end two years as Chair of the Women's Fund of CNY's Governance Council, I want to express my gratitude and thanks to all of the exceptional individuals who have volunteered and donated to the Fund. As a volunteer driven organization, the Council and its working committees have recruited and engaged outstanding area women to accomplish its goals. During this time, the Council has reaffirmed the Fund's mission and clarified

its vision. The Fund has changed its logo and is in the process of launching a new website, to better connect with current and future donors. Other marketing improvements have been made to increase communication with those interested in the Fund. A year ago, we launched a three-year campaign to grow our endowment to \$1 million dollars. I am pleased that in the first year, we are almost half-way to reaching our goal. Finally, in the Fund's eleventh year in awarding grants, it should be recognized that nearly \$140,000 has been distributed to worthwhile programs supporting women and girls in Onondaga, Cayuga and Madison counties. I believe that the Fund is in a strong position of growth to fulfill its vision "to improve the lives of women and girls, serve as a voice and advocate for women and girls, educate women about philanthropy and engage women in creating change through collective and targeted giving."

Sarah G. Merrick



Investing in CNY Women and Girls

Women's Fund of Central New York
presents our

Annual Grant Awards Celebration

Tuesday April 17th, 2012
5:30 – 7:30 PM

Drumlins Country Club
800 Nottingham Road, Syracuse

12 years of grant making
supporting more than 40 local
women-focused agencies

For tickets/more info:
www.womensfundofcny.org
(315) 422-9538

For sponsorship info:
(315) 425-6343



YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK:

WOMEN'S FUND OF CNY HELPING SOMALI-BANTU MOMS AND KIDS

Last year, the Women's Fund awarded more than \$6,000 to the Somali-Bantu Community Association of Onondaga County to support their Mother's & Children's Program. The Women's Fund helped hire a program coordinator to oversee English as a Second Language (ESL) classes geared for Somali Bantu parents who were often denied access to formal education while living in Somalia.

After moving to America, many Somali-Bantu adults struggle with filling out applications for employment and assistance and they are often isolated by language barriers. Their children also lag behind in school and are at a higher risk for dropout. A Citizenship test is usually taken five years after an arrival to our country, so the need for academic support and literacy classes often can make the difference in helping a family achieve their dream of American citizenship.

The Somali-Bantu Community Association began in 2004 with a mission to promote Bantu cultural programs and assist community members in attaining the necessary skills, language competencies and resources to overcome poverty and become functioning members of society. Annually, the Association serves 100 families, with more than 500 individuals; of these, almost 300 are children under 18 years of age. Almost all of those served are refugees who have come to America to escape persecution and to attain a better life for themselves and their families.

Get rid of the paper!

Sign up now to receive The Women's Fund newsletter via email at www.womensfundofcny.org or call (315) 422-9538.

THE WOMEN'S FUND ENDOWMENT: A QUICK REPORTING

*By: Mary C. Meyer, Esq.,
Senior Vice President, Finance and Operations*

In 1999, the Women's Fund Endowment started with just \$1,000 and a handful of committed women who wanted to make a difference. More than 10 years and 2,600 donations from people like you later, the endowment now stands at almost \$750,000 and has helped more than 50 local organizations by supporting women-focused programs, events and education with upwards of \$140,000 in grants. The amount of grant dollars the Women's Fund can award to local organizations varies each year based on the CNY Community Foundation's disciplined investment and spending policies. In 2001, the Women's Fund awarded a modest \$3,000, but last year that amount grew to more than \$22,000. If you gave \$1,000 to the Women's Fund 10 years ago, your investment grew an average of 5.8% each year and is now worth \$1,757.34!



CENTRAL NEW YORK
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Where the Smart Money Gives.

WOMEN'S FUND BEST PRACTICES

The Women's Fund of Central New York, an endowment fund of the Central New York Community Foundation, follows the Best Practices Model as recommended by The Council of Foundations, the premier association of philanthropic organizations. To figure out exactly what "Best Practices" entails, visit here: www.bestpractices.cof.org

Join The Women's Fund Now!

Make a donation of time, talent and treasure by visiting: www.womensfundofcny.org
Calling (315)422-9358 or mailing it to:

Women's Fund of CNY
Central New York Community Foundation
431 East Fayette Street, Suite 100
Syracuse, NY 13202

"GET A LIFE"

USING LIFE INSURANCE AS YOUR CHARITABLE GIFT



Lee Gatta always wanted to be a philanthropist and make a difference, she just wasn't sure to which organizations she should dedicate her efforts to create her legacy. When she was asked to join the Women's Fund of CNY Governance Council in memory of her late sister-in-law Joanne Reddick, Lee knew she had found her answer.

"Joanne was one of the original supporters who helped launch the Women's Fund. Helping local women & children meant so much to her," said Lee. "I immediately loved the concept of the Women's Fund, an endowment that supports women-focused efforts and organizations and helps build the next generation of philanthropists-- it just felt so right."

While she now volunteers countless hours for the Women's Fund and supports its efforts financially through regular contributions, Lee decided this was the year to create a legacy gift to make a greater impact.

"I am proud of the small successes and victories and know that every little bit of support helps," said Lee. "As a financial advisor, I spend every day working to maximize other people's financial situations; it was time to maximize my own contributions."

With help from the CNY Community Foundation, the non-profit organization that manages the Women's Fund endowment, Lee developed a plan to leave a substantial gift to the Women's Fund. Lee and her husband Joe Reddick contribute a manageable amount to the CNY Community Foundation four times a

year who in turn, pay a premium for a life insurance policy.

This \$100,000 insurance policy, through relatively small quarterly contributions, will ultimately benefit the Women's Fund and another beneficiary in a designated fund.

"It was unbelievably easy to set up," said Lee. "When I die, our Designated Fund, which I created through insurance policy contributions, will continue our family's mission to give back. It really gave me the opportunity to have a great philanthropic impact affordably."

For more information on setting up a special fund or how to maximize your current contributions to The Women's Fund, please contact Jennifer Owens at the CNY Community Foundation at (315) 422-9538 or via e-mail at jowens@cnycf.org.