



Community Update

The Passion • The People • The Promise • The Power of Giving Together

Leadership Luncheon raises over \$1 million for women and girls

As we begin our 10th anniversary year, Washington Area Women's Foundation continues to be grateful to the generous donors who made our 2007 Leadership Luncheon the most successful in our history, setting records in attendance and fundraising. More than 1,500 women and men attended the ninth annual event, which raised more than \$1 million for women and girls in the Washington metropolitan region.

Filling every corner of the ballroom at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, guests were treated to a discussion of the role of women's philanthropy by Ambassador Swanee Hunt, president of the Hunt Alternatives Fund and director of the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard, and Dr. Helene Gayle, President and CEO of CARE. National Public Radio host Michele Norris moderated.

"The most powerful people in this world are not those who have big bank accounts or important degrees," Norris said. "They are the people who have the power to create change." Addressing the audience, she added, "You are among the most powerful people in Washington. You are improving the lives of women and girls and, in doing so, you are lifting up the entire community."

In a program devoted to philanthropic strategies and vision, Hunt said, "Philanthropy, for me, is doing what I must do. It's at my core. When we talk about philanthropy, we talk about the basic love one of us feels toward the other that says, 'It is not acceptable for you to hurt. I cannot bear it. Therefore I must do something.'"

Asked by Norris if there are gender differences in philanthropy, Gayle responded with an anecdote from a conflict resolution conference. "A Sudanese woman told me, 'When men get together they talk about their tribes, they position themselves. When women get together, we are all one tribe. We see ourselves as one. We see issues as common to all of us. We believe in collective action.'"

At times the problems of the world can seem enormous, Norris noted. Given how easy it is to feel overwhelmed, how do you empower women to get involved?



Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Dr. Helene Gayle and Michele Norris, speakers at the 2007 Leadership Luncheon.

"Follow your passion," advised Gayle. "Start with something tangible and go from there. There are wonderful vehicles. This—Washington Area Women's Foundation—is one of them. Stretch as much as you can," she added. "We all know that we can do more."

Earlier in the day, emcee Doreen Gentzler, a co-anchor of NBC News 4 and a member of The Women's Foundation's Board and Washington 100, introduced a video produced by fellow Board member Jennifer Cortner and EFX Media. The video showcased Washington Area Women in the Trades (WAWIT), a collaborative program of local organizations including the YWCA National Capital Area, a Stepping Stones Grantee Partner.

Following the video, WAWIT graduates Lacenia Peay and Sharan Mitchell shared their stories. Peay, who was on public assistance for 15 years, graduated from the trade program and is now employed there. Mitchell credits WAWIT with

From the President



Dear Friends-

Thank you so much to all of you who have made my arrival at The Women's Foundation so positive and exciting.

When I met the staff, they shared some of their favorite words to describe The Women's Foundation: "awesome," "inspire," "transform" and "connect."

All fitting in what I am finding to be an energetic, can-do organization that approaches its work with inspiring vision.

It is truly awesome!

I'm thrilled to serve as The Women's Foundation's next leader, and to have the opportunity to work with you to move this organization into a 10th anniversary year—and beyond—that will build on the strengths, impact and partnerships of the last decade to create even more lasting change in the lives of women and girls.

In the last 20 years that I've lived and worked in Washington, I have seen tremendous changes. I have seen women begin to earn more money, and to take their place as leaders, entrepreneurs and decision makers. But, I've also seen the emergence of the "two Washingtons," where poverty is also growing rapidly and, the majority of the time, bearing the face of a single mother.

My decision to serve as president of The Women's Foundation is a reflection of my commitment to working to eliminate this divide through the power of women, coming together, to create a better community.

It is also a perfect melding of my professional and personal paths. With my background in banking and community development at Bank of America, I know a good investment when I see one. And, having been raised in a family that believes in true social change—not just charity—when it comes to truly changing communities and lives, my money is always on investing in women.

I look forward to working with you to make our collective investments in the women and girls of our region grow, along with their impact, and to transforming the future for every woman in this region.

Sincerely,

Phyllis R. Caldwell

Phyllis R. Caldwell
President



Washington Area Women's Foundation

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Washington Area Women's Foundation is a powerful nexus for social change, philanthropy and women's leadership.

Mission

Washington Area Women's Foundation's mission is to foster a powerful wave of philanthropy to improve the lives of women and girls through:

- Expanding and leveraging women's philanthropy;
- Increasing social change philanthropy in our community;
- Providing programmatic, operational and grantmaking resources to local organizations; and,
- Serving as a regional voice for women and girls.

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Welcome aboard!

Washington Area Women's Foundation welcomes two new board members.

Anna M. Flores is vice president of consumer and community affairs at American Express.

Leonade R. Jones directs mutual funds in the American Funds group and is a co-founder and former chief financial officer of VentureThink LLC and Versura Inc., companies revolutionizing higher education finance via the Internet.

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Do you have feedback, a letter to the editor or a story idea? Please contact Lisa Kays at lkays@wawf.org.

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Janice Kaplan contributed to this newsletter.

Continued from front page

turning her life around. After spending 15 years in prison, she enrolled in the trade program. After graduation, she was hired by a construction company to work on Washington's new baseball stadium.

"We are living proof that when women get a chance and we support each other, we can transform lives," Peay said.

Honorary Leadership Luncheon co-chairs Carolyn Berkowitz, vice president of community affairs at Capital One, president of the Capital One Foundation and a member of The Women's Foundation's Board, and Ralph F. Boyd, Jr., executive vice president of community relations of Freddie Mac and chairman of the Freddie Mac Foundation, shared their thoughts about The Women's Foundation.

"The Freddie Mac Foundation seeks partnerships that help us leverage every dollar we invest in local communities." Boyd said. "This is also at the heart of The Women's Foundation's approach—in what is otherwise known as 'The Power of Giving Together.'"

"We are living proof that when women get a chance and we support each other, we can transform lives." –Lacenia Peay

"Many people thought we had gotten a little too crazy with our goal setting when we launched Stepping Stones with a goal of increasing the income and assets of low-income single moms in our region by \$27 million by December of 2008," Berkowitz said of The Women's Foundation's signature program. "Two years later, we have more than 30 outstanding Grantee Partners that have already provided over 10,000 direct services to low-income women. In just two years, this work has increased the income and assets of single moms in our region by more than \$11 million. The Women's Foundation likes big goals with an eye on deep and lasting impact."

In addition to Capital One and Freddie Mac, other luncheon sponsors included Charlotte I. Perret, AOL, The Clark Charitable Foundation, Fannie Mae, FedEx Corporation, PAC, Inc. & The Pingo Family and the Rocksprings Foundation.

The Women's Foundation welcomes new Grantee Partners!

Since 1998, when The Women's Foundation gave its first grants to five local nonprofits, our community of Grantee Partners has grown to include more than 100 outstanding organizations throughout our region. As we enter our 10th anniversary year, we are proud to have these grantees as part of our community of changemakers.

2007 Leadership Awardees

Ascensions Community Services, Inc.
A Wider Circle
DC Abortion Fund
Divine Images Network, Inc.
FAIR Fund
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Pregnancy Aid Centers, Inc.
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Learn more about these
Grantee Partners at
TheWomensFoundation.org.
Click on Volunteer and Connect.

To learn more about how you can be a part of the next Leadership Awards or giving circle grantmaking process, contact Allison Mitchell at 202.347.7737 or amitchell@wawf.org.

**Got \$42 a month burning a hole in your pocket?
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2007 Community Briefing: Women in law enforcement are good for women, good for communities

Participants attending Washington Area Women's Foundation's 2007 Community Briefing learned about a pioneering new training program for women interested in careers in law enforcement. The public briefing, titled "Women in Law Enforcement: Good for Women, Good for Communities," was held in conjunction with the annual Leadership Luncheon.

The briefing opened with an update on The Women's Foundation's signature initiative, Stepping Stones. Interim President Marjorie Sims reported that Stepping Stones provided an impressive \$2.1 million in direct grants to 36 organizations in 2007. In addition, in the past year The Women's Foundation helped more than 1,300 women increase their assets and income by helping them find jobs, reduce debt, refinance homes, establish savings plans and more. The Women's Foundation also assisted women to collectively increase their assets by \$11 million—\$3.5 million by women participating in Stepping Stones programs and \$7.5 million by women who benefited from the passage of an \$11.75-per-hour living-wage law. Through Stepping Stones, The Women's Foundation has built 270 effective and enduring partnerships that serve low-income women.

Camille Cormier, director of local programs and policy at Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), spoke about the organization's "Women into Protective Services Careers Program," which is partially funded by Stepping Stones. WOW's examination of the status of women's participation in the protective services sector in the region includes a gender analysis of who is entering these fields, determining which people are getting trained, and identifying barriers for women and girls in these occupations. The project is also looking at the circumstances of single mothers' participation and the barriers they and employers face in increasing their participation.

"WOW has taken the complexities of sectoral employment program design a step further, by overlaying it with a gender emphasis," Cormier said. "We are particularly focused on strategies



Tameika Bridgett, Commander Cheryl Pendergast and Camille Cormier brief attendees of the 2007 Community Briefing on the topic of women in law enforcement.

and activities to help low-income women succeed in law enforcement careers, based on their roles as both income-providers and primary caregivers in their families."

WOW's innovative program was further illuminated by panelist Tameika Bridgett, a second-year student in criminal justice who hopes to become a federal officer in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service. "My passion is law enforcement," she said. "As a single mom, it's hard raising kids, doing a full-time job and going to school fulltime. No matter what it takes, I'm going to fight hard to complete all my goals."

Bridgett and audience members were inspired by presentations from two of the Metropolitan Police Department's top officials, Assistant Chief Diane Grooms and Commander Cheryl Pendergast, who is also an advisor to WOW's law enforcement program. The two spoke candidly about the rewards and challenges facing women who hold leadership positions in the protective services field.

Grooms, who became the first female Commander in Washington, D.C.'s First District in 2005, emphasized that law enforcement encompasses many career paths. "For a long time people thought all we do is clean up the streets. We specialize in many fields, like forensic science. We have accident investigators and homeland security specialists. For some,

Continued on back page.

Thank you for being part of *The Power of Giving Together!*

In the past year, thousands of women have increased their income and assets, gained access to better jobs and achieved economic security and financial independence that was previously thought outside of their grasp. Thank you to the following individuals, foundations and companies that support our work, and choose to invest in our community by investing in a better future for its women and girls. Your commitment changes lives. Thank you for your generosity, leadership and vision.

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this is just the beginning of their career; they go on to other fields as consultants. In law enforcement, there is really an opportunity to grow.”

However, young female officers face obstacles that men don't, Groomes continued. It is up to women in leadership positions to guide younger members of the force. Groomes is also reaching out to women in the community through the DC Fashion Idol program for at-risk young women, which she developed.

“How has the inclusion of many more women in law enforcement helped to bring policies that create a more family friendly environment?” asked one audience member.

Pendergast explained that she serves on a committee to address women's issues in the department and that their recommendations resulted in daycare centers with alternative hours, for example. Moderator Rebecca Roberts, an award-winning public radio reporter and host, asked the speakers to elaborate on the benefits to the community of having women on the police force.

“If you only see one gender, you only get one perspective,” said Pendergast. “When I assist the public, I can sympathize with them because I am

part of them. Women are nurturing, bring a sense of understanding, patience, a strong sense of values. As the community starts to understand that, they are more receptive to women in law enforcement.”

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