

THINKING BIG. LEADING CHANGE.

THE WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION
OF COLORADO

SPRING 2011



WFCO and the Embrey Family Foundation Put Money to Work for Girls \$750,000 TO AID IN SCHOOL DROP OUT ISSUE



The Women's Foundation of Colorado is the proud recipient of an Embrey Family Foundation (Dallas, TX) investment. As part of a three-year, \$750,000 grant, seven organizations were selected through a request for proposals process. Our partners will receive funds to be used to help Colorado's at-risk girls graduate from high school through mentoring and sport programs.

The seven organizations selected to receive Girls Drop Out Prevention Project funding in 2011 include:

Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo, Pueblo, CO
Delta Montrose Youth Services, Inc., Delta, CO
Youth Zone, Glenwood Springs, CO
Botlz Middle School, Fort Collins, CO
The Youth Foundation, Edwards, CO
The Bridge Project, Denver, CO
OMNI Institute, Denver, CO

continued inside...

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Louise C.
Atkinson,
President &
CEO



We move ahead in 2011 with a sense of pride, confidence and focus. Reflecting on the past year, it is evident that a tremendous amount of work was accomplished to impact the lives of women and girls. I am excited to share that our granting stream achieved over \$900,000 and we continue to use our research to inform our work through public policy and public outreach. This year, through generous funding from The Embrey Family Foundation, we can strengthen our focus on keeping girls in school and reducing the drop out rate.

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Regional Events

High Tea -
Sat, April 30 at 1 p.m.
Hosted at the Home of Diane Clark,
Pueblo West
Denver's Empowerment Council
Summer Cocktail Party -
Tues., May 10 at 5 p.m.
Strings Restaurant: 1700 Humboldt St., Denver
Fill The Purse Dinner Party -
Sun., July 31 at 5 p.m.
1521 Restaurant: 123 N. Main St., Pueblo
Fill The Purse Luncheon -
Thurs., September 15 at 11:30 a.m.
Cheyenne Mountain Resort:
3225 Broadmoor Valley Rd., Colorado Springs
Vail Valley Annual Luncheon -
August, Date/time TBD
For more information or to register for any
of the above, please visit wfcoco.org.

THE WOMEN'S
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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With the help of our friends, volunteers, donors, corporate partners, regional steering committees, contractors, Board members, Honorary Trustees, grantees and our staff, The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) remains a positive force for the greater good of women and girls in our state. Solid progress is being made to ensure that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves self-sufficiency.

So that our work continues with a sustainable and long-term perspective, we have embarked on a strategic planning process. This is an important initiative, as it will provide the future road map for our organization. The process is a statewide, collaborative effort that will demonstrate inclusiveness and a commitment to diversity of people, partners, and ideas. We want to listen and learn in order to gain important insight about how we are doing.

We value our regional partnerships and join together on one of the most pressing issues – getting girls to graduate from school. This year, we are working with The Colorado Coalition for Girls (CCFG) to host regional events aimed at bringing attention to the significant drop out problem for girls in our state. This series of workshops will bring together service providers, community leaders, district administrators, policy makers, non-profit partners and educators.

With your continued support, we are positioned for an amazing year, boldly leading change to advance opportunity for all women and girls in Colorado. I look forward to working with everyone in 2011.

FUNDING TO SUPPORT MENTORING AND SPORTS PROGRAMS

continued from the cover...

As part of the Girls Drop Out Prevention Project, this grant allows WFCO to scale-up statewide investments in preventing girls from dropping out of school. Supporting organizations that provide positive reinforcement through mentoring and after-school sports programs is a significant part of ensuring the success and self-sufficiency of women and girls well into their future. Research clearly shows that participating in a solid mentoring program significantly increases academic performance for at-risk girls. In addition, middle school girls who play sports are more likely to receive better grades, higher standardized test scores and are more likely to graduate than girls who do not play sports. WFCO will invest grant funds into organizations that use these strategies with at-risk, middle school girls throughout Colorado.

OMNI Institute has been contracted to evaluate the success of the mentoring and sport programs through a variety of outcome measurement tools and technical assistance to our partners in the field. An annual meeting will be held to connect our partners, share lessons learned and research new innovations in working with at-risk girls and their ability to graduate from school.

"We are excited to partner with The Embrey Family Foundation," said Louise Atkinson, President and CEO of WFCO. "This significant investment in our work will help us carry The Women's Foundation

of Colorado's mission statewide and fund research-based strategies to help keep Colorado girls in school. The fact that 5,899 Colorado girls dropped out of school last year is concerning to us, and we will use this generous funding to make a long-term impact in the lives of at-risk girls across the state."

JPMORGAN CHASE LEVERAGES THE EMBREY FAMILY FOUNDATION GRANT WITH \$10,000 CORPORATE SUPPORT OF GIRLS' DROP OUT PREVENTION PROJECT

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

JPMorgan Chase is committed to supporting innovative educational programs to ensure that today's youth complete high school and have a clear path to self-sufficiency. Chase believes that for young adults in Colorado, graduating from high school is key to personal independence and success, and often a prerequisite to becoming a contributing member of our community.

The data is compelling – according to the Colorado Children's Campaign, using Colorado Department of Education figures, Colorado had a high school graduation rate of only 70 percent. This means that each year, nearly 17,000 students do not graduate on time. Failure to graduate represents a significant loss in human potential for the state of Colorado. Conservative estimates indicate that the lost earning potential due to students not graduating from high school is \$3.4 billion per year.

One of the ways Chase invests in lasting, positive change for Colorado is working with organizations like The Women's Foundation of Colorado on their statewide Girls Drop Out Prevention Project. JPMC is proud to partner with WFCO's unique project which creates a replicable, research-based model that will help more Colorado girls earn high school diplomas, get better jobs and create better lives for themselves and their families.

TIDBITS TIDBITS TIDBITS TIDBITS TIDBITS

- Welcome **Paula Edwards** as our new Board Chair for 2011. We thank **Margaret Brown** for her wonderful year as Board Chair in 2010.
- Welcome Susan Campbell (Holme Roberts and Owen), Kim Patmore (Patmore Management Consulting), Elaine Torres (CBS4), Gaye Woods (Optimum Search Associates) as our **new Board members**.

- Thanks to our former trustees who have joined **WFCO Honorary Trustee Council**: Ajenai (AJ) Clemmons, Walt DeHaven, Jacqueline Lundquist, and LaRae Orullian.
- We bid a fond farewell to **Eve Powell** who served as our Development Director and Interim CEO. Thank you for your years of commitment to the women and girls of Colorado.

WFCO's Investment Success

ENDOWMENT CROSSES \$17 MILLION MARK

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is excited to announce that the endowment crossed the \$17 million mark for the first time in 2010, and the Investment Committee is very proud to report that The Foundation has weathered the 2008-2010 economic crisis in excellent shape.

Last year the endowment was up 13.5% even with 40% invested in fixed income investments. In short, the endowment had terrific returns with significantly less risk than the S & P 500. Since June 30, 2008 the endowment is up 1.2% versus a negative 1.2% for our benchmark.

In November, the Investment Committee decided to hedge against rising interest rates by reducing the fixed income position in the portfolio from 40% to 25%, and reinvested the remaining 15% into liquid alternative investments to hedge against a correction in the equity markets. Currently the portfolio is diversified with 6 asset classes with 17 different investment managers.

Our asset consultant, Syntinsic Investment Counsel, has skillfully guided The Women's Foundation of Colorado throughout the past three years with excellent asset allocation recommendations and investment advice.

Fred Taylor
Chair of WFCO
Investment Committee



SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL LUNCHEON

WFCO DENVER ANNUAL LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011

COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER, DENVER

Featuring tennis legend Martina Navratilova

Presenting Sponsor: FirstBank

A champion on and off the court, Martina Navratilova is not only a tennis legend, but an inspirational leader. Arguably one of the best tennis players ever to step on the court, Martina amassed an unmatched number of professional records over the course of a career that spanned an amazing four decades. She is a trailblazer, making her mark on the male dominated world of sports, and overcame the odds to become one of the most successful tennis players ever.

Tickets will be available on WFCO website, wfc.org, on June 1, 2011.

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kelly Fox at kellyf@wfc.org or 303-285-2974 or Marijke Swierstra at marijkes@wfc.org or 303.285.2970.

Corporate Corner



WFCO is proud to have FirstBank as a long-standing corporate sponsor and presenting sponsor of this year's Denver Luncheon, to be held on November 3rd.

FirstBank is fortunate to have financial stability, outstanding employees, and the greatest customers we could ask for. We owe our success to the core values we've held since our founding in 1963.

Banks are only as strong as their local communities and the people living in those communities. We believe that in order to be successful, we must give back to the communities and people we serve. The Women's Foundation of Colorado helps ensure that every woman in Colorado is self-sufficient and FirstBank firmly believes in this mission.

We've maintained a strong commitment to convenience, friendly and intelligent customer service, and loyalty to our employees. FirstBank has grown through consumer and commercial lending, innovative banking products and services and a high regard for community investment. We're still a growing company, but after nearly 50 years, our commitment to our customers and to our communities has not changed.

Brian Jensen
Senior Vice President
FirstBank



Northwestern Mutual
FINANCIAL NETWORK®

WFCO continues to enjoy a strong relationship with **Northwestern Mutual**. NWM enables their clients to protect their futures and grow their wealth. Two NWM Financial Advisors, Jeanine Snyder and Sarah Miller, are strong supporters of WFCO. Their story is a personal one as they have discovered the shortage of women in the financial services industry. Looking for an outlet to nourish their vision of giving back and empowering more women in their community, their goals aligned perfectly with WFCO's.

Jeanine and Sarah attended their first luncheon in 2010 as Gold Sponsors and have since taken their collaboration with WFCO to a whole new level. Together, they're taking an active role in the Development Committee and Sarah is dedicated to working with the Empowerment Council. They are most proud of their 2011 VIP Reception sponsorship at the November 3rd Luncheon.

Jeanine and Sarah are Financial Advisors at The Cunningham Agency at Northwestern Mutual. Fortune magazine named Northwestern Mutual the "World's Most Advanced Company" in the life insurance industry. Jeanine has been named as one of "2011's 40 under 40" by The Boulder County Business Report.

Jeanine Snyder and Sarah Miller can be contacted at: nmfn.com/sarahsmiller and nmfn.com/jeaninesnyder.

EMPOWERMENT COUNCIL



The Empowerment Council is a philanthropic community of young professional women seeking to change and contribute to the empowerment of Colorado's girls and women through economic self-sufficiency.

The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Empowerment Council is a unique group of wonderful women between the ages of 25 – 40 who want to become more involved in philanthropy in their community. They support The Foundation by hosting fundraising events, educational events on WFCO issues and happy hours throughout the year.

Kelley Bergelt, founding chair of the Denver Council, was most recently spotlighted in February's, Denver Business Journal "Street Talk" section about starting the Empowerment Council.

We are pleased to announce that this is the third year of the **Denver Empowerment Council** and would like to introduce the 2011 Council members: **Chair**, Pamela Scharf (Towers Watson); **Co-Chair**, Alana Morris (VOCA PR); Kelley Bergelt (Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe PC); Stephanie Bruno (Cascade Financial Management); Marti Brust (UMB Bank Colorado); Belinda Butler-Veytia (URS Corporation); Kate Cihon; Lara Davies (IMCA – Investment Management Consultants Association); Emily Droll (Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck); Katherine Facchinello; Celia Heywood (Bank of America Merchant Services); Samantha Holloway; Natalie Hyman; Jessica Jaramillo (Alyn-Weiss & Associates); Rachel Levine (National Cinemedia); Sarah Miller (Northwestern Mutual Financial Network); Monique Orthober (Mile High United Way); Shannon Peterson (American Humane Association); Maisha Pollard; Shelby Ross (Mile High United Way); Lisa Rothrock (Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP); Jenna Syrdahl (Hensley, Kim & Holzer, LLC); and Becky Theis (Alexander Capital Management Group Inc.).

We would also like to welcome for the first year, the **Vail Empowerment Council** and its 2011 Council members: **Co-Chair**, Katie Santambrogio (The Youth Foundation); **Co-Chair**, Kim Taylor (Law Office of Kimberley G. Taylor, LLC); Meredith Brewer (The Westin Riverfront Resort and Spa); Jane Brummett (Lion Square Lodge); Tori Elliot (Eagle County Economic Development Council); Lawson Mischer (The Youth Foundation); Sara Miwa (Vail Resorts Hospitality); Kelly Rugeley (VP Vail Hospitality & Area General Manager); Betsey Seeger (Roundup River Ranch); Erin Benderly (Self Employed Consultant); Dana Bronfman (The Youth Foundation); and Erin Gersbach (VVMC).

TURNING DOLLARS INTO CHANGE

When women are economically secure, families and communities are economically secure. We invite you to help us move toward a vision of economic self-sufficiency and equal access for all Colorado's women and girls – a vision that will have a positive, lasting effect for our state. There is critical work to be done and you are a crucial part of the effort. Your gifts ensure that our research, advocacy and grantmaking are building resources and leading change. Please use the envelope provided, and add your support to those committed to **Thinking Big, Being Bold, and Making Change**. An investment in women and girls is the most enriching and meaningful action you can take.

Volunteer Appreciation

"We make a living by what we get,
we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill

- Thank you to Linda Konstan for her human resource contributions to WFCO staff and some great new ideas for the team. Her breadth of experience and assistance has been invaluable.
- We are thankful for Helen and Matt Resnick of Resnick Partners and Traci Clayton who donated their time and management expertise to work with WFCO staff on change management.
- Jen Grooters is one of our newest volunteers and we appreciate her leadership with WFCO's volunteer coordination efforts. She also joined the PEP Club and is now serving on the Program and Development Committees.
- WFCO is fortunate to have Bonita Ades as an enthusiastic volunteer that assists with various projects at the office. She has been assisting us for several years and is willing to volunteer her services in whatever way is helpful.
- A special thank you to Corrie Natividad, Lucy Van Dusen and Madeline Jones for their help with our database these past few months.
- A special mention of gratitude to our intern, Katie Boysen for her work with The Beyond Our Borders Special Interest Fund. Katie is a returned peace corps volunteer (Georgia), and a graduate student at the Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

Do you have a volunteer project for the staff of WFCO? We are offering a day of service to our Colorado grantees. Visit us online to learn more.

If you are interested in volunteering with WFCO, please contact Kelly Fox at kellyf@wfco.org.

Thank you.