

THINKING BIG. LEADING CHANGE.

THE WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION
OF COLORADO

WINTER 2010



COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE

WFCO works to improve childcare for Colorado's low-income families

Since 2006, The Women's Foundation has focused on "The Cliff Effect" research study and policy work that helps mitigate the "cliffs" throughout our State. One of the most significant cliffs for low income families is child care assistance. Work support benefits can help families close the gap between low earnings and the cost of basic expenses. But the childcare benefit often terminates abruptly when a family's income exceeds eligibility limits. Thus a small increase in earnings can lead to a sharp reduction in that childcare benefit—often referred to as a "cliff"—leaving the worker

no better off, or even worse off, than before. The question then becomes: "What happens to the child's early education continuum?" and "How does mom manage to keep consistent employment without childcare assistance?"

With generous support through **The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The WFCO has invested an additional \$200,000** to create a better Colorado Childcare Assistance Program (CCCAP—the state/county program for low-income families) through research, coalition building and policy work. The Kellogg Foundation invested in our work

continued inside...

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thanks
for the
Memories!



{Gretchen Gagel McComb, President & CEO of The Women's Foundation and our fearless leader for the past five years, has accepted a position with the Women's Funding Network. Although she is irreplaceable, the search has begun for someone to fill her shoes.}

What a gift it has been, such an incredible privilege and honor, to partner with each of you for the past five years as President & CEO of The Women's Foundation of Colorado.

continued inside...

Save the Date.

**THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 4, 2010**

The WFCO Denver Luncheon, featuring actress **Alfre Woodard**, Colorado Convention Center, Denver. Visit www.wfco.org for tickets/tables/sponsorships.

Critically acclaimed actress **Alfre Woodard** is known for the challenging roles she's portrayed in film and on television, winning Emmy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, Cable ACE Award, and a Screen Actors Guild Award. Last November, Woodard participated in First Lady Michelle Obama's mentoring initiative, stopping in Denver to stress the importance of supporting young women on their path to success.

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Message from the President

Continued from the cover...

I am so grateful for the energy this organization has given me, and for all that you, our supporters, do to impact the lives of thousands of women and girls every year.

I am not truly saying good-bye, as my new role as Chief Philanthropic Engagement Officer with the Women's Funding Network (www.womensfundingnetwork.org) will afford me many opportunities to collaborate with The Women's Foundation of Colorado. I leave knowing the strength of our team, our volunteers, and each of you ensures many more years of incredible success and impact.

Thank you to Eve Powell for her service as Interim President during the search for my replacement. Please feel free to contact her with any questions at evcp@wfc.org or 303-285-2966.

We are grateful for your continued support and commitment to the women and girls of Colorado. You are making a difference!

WFCO and Kellogg Foundation work on CCCAP

Continued from the cover...

because their goal is to help "communities marshal their resources to assure that all children have an equitable and promising future." And our work on CCCAP will help Colorado families as they strive for economic self-sufficiency, and identify ways to positively impact child poverty in Colorado.

Kellogg funds are being used to update The Cliff Effect reports in seven Colorado counties through a partnership with Columbia University. In addition, Columbia is modeling policy solutions for the childcare program as it affects the Cliff Effect.

The University of Denver and Project WISE were contracted to analyze how families cope with the childcare cliff around the state. Preliminary data shows that 1/3 of women in the sample (334 women) turned

down a raise, a promotion or a live-in partner in order to stay on the CCCAP benefit. Research revealed that there was no difference in geography or ethnicity in terms of managing the Cliff Effect and staying on the benefit.

The Foundation has also incubated the **CCCAP Learning Group**, which consists of nonprofit leaders in early childhood education, policy organizations and poverty-focused groups to generate policy solutions for the CCCAP cliff.

To date, the policies are as follows:

- **HB 1035:** A 12-month eligibility bill which will allow parents a 12-month period where they receive uninterrupted childcare assistance without a reporting requirement. This bill is one of five that will be introduced by the Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission and supported through the Foundation.
 - **Sick Absences:** A plan to seek American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to help increase the current three-day sick absence rule to five days in order to align with Federal guidance regarding the H1N1 virus.
- Moving forward, The WFCO will continue to advocate for HB 1035 and work with the State to increase funding for sick absences for CCCAP children. In addition, we will continue to convene partners and advocate to create a united voice for low-income families and their children.



TIDBITS TIDBITS TIDBITS TIDBITS TIDBITS

Welcome **New Board Members!** The Women's Foundation welcomes five new members to its Board of Trustees in 2010: **Teresa Coons** (Grand Junction), **Veronica Figoli-Fleischer** (Denver), **Cathy Hart** (Denver), **Ana Kemp** (Denver), and **Sue Smedstad** (Aspen).

With *welcomes* come *good-byes*—to "retiring" board members **Barbara Ipsaro**, **Jane Moy**, and 2008 Board Chair **Mary Stuart**. We appreciate your dedicated service!

Add your voice to ours! Find us on **facebook** ("Women's Foundation of Colorado") and **Twitter** ("WFCOLORADO")!

The **Lilly Ledbetter Luncheon in Vail** last August was a great success! Lilly shared her message with nearly 400 women and men from all over Colorado. Special thanks to Presenting Sponsor **The Club at Cordillera** and Gold Sponsor **Beaver Creek Resort**.

Call for Applications for the 2010 Dottie Lamm Awards. Do you know a young woman who has a passion for civic involvement? Invite her to apply for the 2010 Dottie Lamm Award! Two young women who are currently high school sophomores and who exemplify altruistic values will be selected. Each awardee will receive \$1,500 to be used toward academic or vocational school expenses. Deadline for nominations is **March 15, 2010**. Application information and forms may be downloaded from our website: www.wfc.org.

Did You Know?

- Mothers in states with child care subsidy up to 325% of poverty are 1.65 times more likely to be working full time (Joo, 2008).
- Child care subsidies reduce poverty rate for working parents from 52% to 34%.

EMPOWERMENT F COUNCIL O

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

The Council, established in 2008, is a unique group of women between the ages of 25–40 who want to become more involved in philanthropy in their community. The 2010 Empowerment Council Steering Committee will be hosting fundraising events, educational events and social networking events throughout the year. For more information on The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Empowerment Council and/or to be notified of their events please contact Kelly Fox at kellyf@wfco.org.

2010 WFCO Empowerment Council Steering Committee

Kelley Bergelt, Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe PC – Chair

Pamela Scharf, Towers Watson – Co-Chair
AJ Clemmons, Office of the Independent Monitor, Denver – Honorary Member

Cherie August, Dividend Capital Securities
Kathleen Beckwith, Alexander Capital Management Group

Stephanie Bruno, Cascade Financial Management

Marti Brust, UMB Bank Colorado

Lara Davies, IMCA – Investment Management Consultants Association

Brianna Elwell

Laura Gardiner, Style Your Life Now

Celia Heywood, First Data Corporation

Natalie Hyman, Local Insight Media

Tracy Marks, Closet Factory

Alana Morris, VOCA PR

Monique Orthober, Mile High United Way

Elizabeth Paulsen, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Shannon Peterson, American Humane Association

Jenna Syrdahl, Hensley, Kim & Holzer, LLC

Rebecca Theis, Alexander Capital Management Group Inc.

Women's Funding Network 2010 Annual Conference

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is part of a larger collaborative philanthropic network called the **Women's Funding Network (WFN)**, which includes over 150 women's funds on six continents that fund women's solutions across the globe. Each year the Women's Funding Network holds an annual conference for its members and partner organizations. We are pleased to announce that this year the conference will be held in Denver, Colorado, and hosted by The Women's Foundation of Colorado in partnership with other local WFN member funds: Jewish Women's Fund of Colorado, Chambers Family Fund and Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights.

The theme for this year's conference is Investment, Influence,

Impact: Seizing the Moment. The conference will focus on how together we can create positive, structural and long-lasting change for communities throughout the world. The conference is the largest event of the year for more than 400 philanthropists, grantmakers, community leaders and social entrepreneurs dedicated to investment in women and girls.

The conference will be held April 22–24, 2010. To find out more information about the Women's Funding Network and to get details on the conference please visit their Web site at www.womensfunding-network.org/conference.



HELP US FILL THE PURSE

Suffragette Elizabeth Cady Stanton once said, “Woman will always be dependent until she holds a purse of her own.”

Announcing The Women's Foundation of Colorado's **2010 Fill the Purse Annual Giving Campaign**. Fill the Purse has become a part of the Foundation's Annual Giving Campaign after its successful launch in 2009 during the Endowment Campaign. Funds raised from the campaign will help support The Foundation's research, education, public policy reform and nonprofit grants, as well as increase awareness of the girls' dropout rate in Colorado. During

the 2007–2008 school year, over 7,000 girls throughout Colorado dropped out of 7th–12th grades, according to the Colorado Department of Education. The Women's

Foundation's ten candy-apple red purse sculptures will continue to symbolize the Fill the Purse annual campaign at regional fundraising events throughout the year. Please visit www.wfco.org to get a list of local Fill the Purse events in your area this year.



Mark Your Calendar



2010 Annual Meeting

- **Tuesday, February 23, 5:30–7 p.m.**
- **The Chambers Center Garden Room, Denver.**

Join us for The Women's Foundation's Annual Meeting and Thank-You event. Special Guest Wade Buchanan, President of The Bell Policy Center and WFCO trustee, will discuss the positive impacts of The Foundation's collaborative work in direct service granting and public policy reform.

International Women's Day

- **Monday, March 8, 11a.m.–1 p.m.**
- **Location TBA, Denver.**

In celebration of International Women's Day, Women With A Cause will host a Tea and Expo. \$35 per person will cover the cost of the meal. The WFCO is proud to sponsor this event. To register or for more information, visit <http://www.womenwitha-cause.com>.

Equal Pay Day Rally.

- **Tuesday, April 20th, 5:30 p.m.**
- **Exdo Event Center, 1360 35th St, Denver.**

Save the date! Contact Jody Camp at jodyc@wfco.org for more information.

Women's Funding Network Conference

- **April 22-24**
- **Denver Marriott City Center Hotel.**

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is one of the hometown hosts of the Women's Funding Network (WFN) 2010 Conference. WFN consists of more than 150 organizations that fund women's solutions across the globe, making it one of the largest collaborative philanthropic networks in the world. Members include public charities, private foundations and funds within community foundations. Full or partial conference registrations and more information are available at www.womensfundingnetwork.org.

APRIL IS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

The staff of The Women's Foundation wishes to express our sincere thanks to the volunteers and interns who have assisted us over the years, in the office and at our Denver Luncheon: Bonita Ades, Bree Ellwell, Sommer Neff, Ashleigh Payne-Snyder, Diana Casillas, Rebecca Stewart, Jody Alweiss, Becky Carroll, Bonnie Mandarich, and so many others! We very much appreciate your assistance and support of our work.

The Foundation seeks volunteers throughout the year, and for the Annual Luncheon. Please e-mail kellyf@wfco.org if you are interested in assisting.

Denver Luncheon

It's time to mark your calendar for the 2010 Denver Luncheon, **Thursday, November 4**, at the Colorado Convention Center.

This year's featured speaker will be **Alfre Woodard**, award-winning actress and social activist.



Woodard has graced the screen with her commanding performances, winning Emmy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, Cable ACE Award, and a Screen Actors Guild Award.

Alfre is passionate about mentoring girls and was here in Denver last November at the Governor's Mansion with Michelle Obama to help initiate Michelle's national girls' mentoring effort. Her presentation in November will be titled **"Empowering Girls to be Next Generation Leaders."**

The 2009 Luncheon was a great success, thanks to all of our supporters! Lisa Ling, special correspondent for the National Geographic Channel and the Oprah Show, thrilled an audience of approximately 2,000 at the



Corporate Corner—FirstBank

{The Women's Foundation of Colorado is proud to have FirstBank as a long-standing Corporate Sponsor.}

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

November 11, 2009 Luncheon. The 22nd Annual Luncheon was co-chaired by Luella Chavez D'Angelo, Barb Grogan and Essie Perlmutter.

Many thanks to our sponsors that helped fuel the success of the Luncheon. Our Presenting Sponsor was **Western Union Foundation** and our Corporate Partner was the **Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado**, who made a generous gift announcement during the luncheon to match every gift up to \$25,000. The speaker was sponsored by **Aetna**, and the VIP Reception sponsor was **CH2MHill**. Media Partners were **CBS4** and **Comcast**. The Honorary Trustee Dinner was sponsored by **Jones Lang LaSalle**. We also thank sponsors at the Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze levels; MorEvents, and so many others whose assistance made this event possible.