

**The Women's Fund  
Advisory Board  
2013–2014**

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*The mission of  
The Women's Fund is to  
promote philanthropy  
as we raise and  
distribute funds  
to organizations that  
provide opportunities  
and solutions for  
women and girls  
in need throughout  
Essex County.*

## The more things change . . .

This has been an exciting year of continued growth and development for The Women's Fund of Essex County. We have much for which to be grateful. As we transition in as the new leadership team, Lynn and I thank Susan Barry for her leadership these past two years. We look forward to building upon the successes and working diligently to keep the momentum going.

Here are some of the highlights of the past year:

- Thanks to your generosity, The Women's Fund increased the grant award levels, as well as the number of programs funded. We awarded \$200,000 to 19 outstanding nonprofit programs that focus on life skills and other interventions that help to change the lives of women and girls in Essex County.
- Thanks to your donations, we now have the capacity to consider proposals in all three fields of grant funding each year: Economic Self-sufficiency and Security, Health and Well-being, and Leadership and Empowerment. Previously, we rotated the fields of funding each year. We now have the ability to encourage applications from a greater number of nonprofit agencies. A greater reach for more impact!
- We continue to expand our community of donors and volunteers. Still largely a movement of women helping women, we are delighted to see increasing donations from men, as well as families, who understand that investment in women and girls is an investment in families and our communities. We also appreciate the growing support of our corporate and local business partners who are dedicated to the communities where they live and work. As part of this, we are excited to have officially launched our Women's Business Alliance (WBA) to serve as community ambassadors for The Women's Fund. The members of the WBA understand that successful businesswomen serve as role models and can truly influence the success of others.

Photo by Alyse Gause Photography



*Susan Barry, The Women's Fund, with Natalie Jacobson and Dawn Loggins, featured speakers at the 11th Annual Grant Awards Luncheon.*

*continued from page 1 . . .*

## The more things remain the same . . .

Throughout our growth and advancements, The Women’s Fund remains committed to three core priorities: our mission, our grant research and our reliance on volunteers.

This spring we concluded our strategic planning, establishing a “living plan” to help guide our growth and initiatives for the next three years. The plan serves as a compass to help us to vision our work while keeping firmly focused on our mission.

Our grant research and due diligence, honed over twelve years and widely respected in the field, remains consistent and rigorous. Even with growing grant applications, we believe that site visits and meetings with program staff and participants in their environment provide the truest window into the work and challenges of the nonprofit agencies we evaluate. Developing an in-depth understanding of the agencies and their programs enables us to better partner for enhanced and sustained success of each program.

Finally, our work would not be possible without volunteers. Nearly everything we achieve is based on the time, talents and energy of volunteers. Because of their contributions, more of your donations go directly to work as grants. We greatly appreciate the dedication of all our volunteers to The Women’s Fund mission.

## Thank you for making a difference!

As a result of your strong support, our collective impact in Essex County continues to increase. Together, we reach several thousand women and girls, across an array of interconnected issues, to build better lives and futures. Together, we are empowered with the deep satisfaction and knowledge that each of us can make a meaningful difference.

All of us on the Advisory Board commit to continuing to earn your trust through careful stewardship and a steadfast focus on our mission and impact.

We hope you will enjoy reading in this newsletter some great examples of our work and volunteers who exemplify the core of our mission in action.

With warmest regards,



**Becky Hollowell**  
Advisory Board President



**Lynn Bryant**  
Advisory Board Vice President  
Grants Allocation Chair

The Women’s Fund of Essex County is a field of interest fund of Essex County Community Foundation.

## 2014 Grant Awards

### **Amirah, Inc.**

Career Readiness Workshop for Women  
Survivors of Commercial Exploitation

### **Beverly Bootstraps Community Services, Inc.**

Cooking Matters

### **Big Sister Association of Greater Boston**

Community-Based Mentoring in Essex County

### **Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem**

SMART Girls

### **Building Bridges Through Music, Inc.**

Girls E3 – Educate, Engage and Empower

### **Citizens for Adequate Housing, Inc.**

Career Link

### **COMPASS for Kids**

COMPASS Community Collaborative Lawrence

### **Express Yourself, Inc.**

Who Runs the World? Girls!

### **Family & Children’s Service of Greater Lynn, Inc.**

Parenting Education & Family Support Programs

### **Family Services of the Merrimack Valley**

Stand and Deliver

### **Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts**

FaBFactor – Finance and Business Series

### **Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center**

GISA Project Bold: Action for Safety

### **Lawrence CommunityWorks**

Community Education Circles

### **Pathways for Children**

Cape Ann Families Nurturing Parent Program

### **SeniorCare Inc.**

Empowering Senior Women Through  
Financial Literacy

### **The Plummer Home for Boys**

Therapeutic Groups for Girls and Young Women  
at Plummer Home’s On Point Program

### **Wellspring House, Inc.**

Medi-Clerk Job Training & Placement

### **YWCA of Greater Lawrence**

YWCA’s Women’s Health Advocacy Project

### **YWCA of Greater Newburyport**

YWCA Encore +

*“We believe that social change is best sustained when it begins at the community level.”*

## The Women’s Fund Grants \$200,000!

This spring The Women’s Fund awarded \$200,000 in grants to 19 agencies that are working to improve the lives of women and girls in Essex County by offering programs in the fields of Leadership and Empowerment, Economic Self-sufficiency

and Security, and Health and Well-being. Eight of these agencies were first-time recipients of Women’s Fund grants. We would like to introduce you to three of the agencies that we funded for the first time this year.

## Big Sister Association of Greater Boston

Leilani lives in Lynn and had wanted a Big Sister for as long as she could remember. After seeing an ad on television, she repeatedly asked her mother to let her join the program. She was ecstatic when she was matched with Talia two years ago. Talia, originally from Methuen, signed up to volunteer after attending an information session at her workplace. In addition to being Leilani’s Big Sister, she is a member of Big Sister Association’s Young Professionals Board.

Big Sister Association of Greater Boston’s mission is to help girls realize their full potential by providing them positive mentoring relationships with women. They are the only Big Brothers Big Sisters of America mentoring affiliate that combines established, research-based practices with a gender-specific lens proven to increase positive outcomes for girls. Their programs for girls are specifically tailored to the age, stage of development, and unique needs of each girl.

The Sisters both love to cook, make arts and crafts, go on adventures, and help others. Community service has been one of the many ways they have connected. They have volunteered together at various food and clothing banks, as well as participate in fundraising walks and runs. Last year they were selected as part of Fenway Park’s Mentoring Night to read the opening lineup for a Boston Red Sox game on NESN. The Sisters’ relationship has also helped Leilani do better in school. Recently she earned a 93% on a math test, which has been her most difficult subject. Leilani’s mother says that Talia is one of the best things to happen to their family.

In 2013, Big Sister Association served more than 2,600 girls throughout the Greater Boston community. The Women’s Fund provided a grant to help them expand their reach in Essex County.



*Big Sister Talia & Little Sister Leilani*

## SeniorCare

SeniorCare Inc. is a one-stop organization that provides and coordinates services to elders in Essex County, enabling them to live independently at home or in a setting of their choice while remaining a part of their community. SeniorCare offers a wide range of services including Adult Protective Services, Home Care, Elder Housing Coordination and Advocacy, and Nutrition Programs, including Meals on Wheels. These services are provided by a network of professionals as well as by volunteers.

Betty was bedbound and totally dependent on others for her care and basic needs to be met. She had no family aside from a distant relative who lived many hours away. In addition to the other SeniorCare services she received each day, the meals delivered to her home and the daily contact of a Meals on Wheels driver allowed her to achieve her wish to remain home until she passed away some years later. In the past year, SeniorCare had three separate Meals on Wheels drivers find elders who had



## Express Yourself

Last May representatives from The Women’s Fund were part of an audience of 2500 people who cheered on youth from *Express Yourself* during their EXYO 20 event, celebrating 20 years of performance at the Citi Performing Arts-Wang Theater. Founded in 1988, *Express Yourself* offers multi-cultural arts programs to youth at risk because of mental illness, behavioral issues or their families’ lack of financial resources. By combining performing and visual arts, the students prepare for their annual show, where they are joined on stage by their adult mentors and even by professional performers.

The Women’s Fund supported a collaboration with the House of the Seven Gables Settlement Partnership, providing an opportunity for young girls from Salem to join together to create an original performance piece with set design. This arts immersion program offers the young women who participate an opportunity to focus on building communication and leadership skills while enabling them to follow their dreams.

Amanda, a group member, has held a leadership position, recruiting and organizing young women from her neighborhood to make a commitment to being a part of the team of dancers that share this unique experience. Amanda was honored with a leadership award at the House of Seven Gables’ annual Garden Party, where she gave a speech thanking the funders for the opportunity of being able to take risks that she never thought she could.

*Express Yourself* will be moving to a bigger and brighter studio located at the Cummings Center in Beverly, where they can better serve their community of at-risk students.

*continued on page 6 . . .*

# Thank you to our generous donors!

July 2013 to June 2014

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*“Nationally less than eight cents of every dollar spent by organized philanthropy goes to programs focused on women and girls.”*

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Lisa Williamson

*The names in bold gave \$1,000 or more.*

*“Within a decade, two thirds of consumer wealth will belong to women. Can you imagine women’s power to reshape our communities and world by investing in social change?”*

*SeniorCare* continued from page 3 . . .

fallen at home and called emergency services for them. In many cases, the Meals on Wheels driver is the only contact some isolated, homebound, but independent elders have Monday through Friday.



*Eleanor & Shirley*

The Women’s Fund is supporting the Money Management Program in which trained volunteers help low-income senior women increase their financial literacy skills. The volunteers work with the women in their homes teaching them to manage checking accounts, prioritize mail and bills, manage credit card debt and recognize scams. In addition to learning these valuable skills, the elderly clients enjoy the companionship and care of their visitors.

**Please visit our website!**  
[www.thewomensfundec.org](http://www.thewomensfundec.org)

- Donate
- Learn about The Women’s Business Alliance
- Read our research on the status of women and girls in Essex County
- Learn more about our work, the programs we support and how you might become involved
- Register for events or view photo galleries of past events

## New Advisory Board Members



**RACHEL L. POHL** is a philanthropic leader with 25 years of experience as a foundation program officer and strategic development

consultant. Currently, Rachel is providing donor and nonprofit consulting, helping clients in areas of social enterprise development, scaling and expansion strategies, and creating new philanthropic vehicles for aligning high impact growth grant capital and mission investing. Rachel held positions at Hemenway & Barnes and the Jessie B. Noyes Foundation. Her work included advising family trustees, including Jane’s Trust and the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, focusing on health and welfare, environment, and education priorities. Rachel has also written domestic and international grants, in fields including agriculture, water, community development and reproductive health and rights. In addition to work with The Women’s Fund, Rachel’s other volunteer and philanthropic activities include: The Play It Forward Giving Circle, The Food Project, New England International Donors, and Mongol Ecology Center.



**JANE STARK** is a creative and community-oriented professional with over 25 years of experience in fundraising for national nonprofits and

independent schools. Currently, Jane is the Associate Director of Annual Giving at St. John’s Preparatory School. Prior to this position, she was the Director of the Capital Campaign at Shore Country Day School, developing case statements, managing the appeals program and cultivating key donors. Jane has also served as the Director for Congressional Relations and Legislative Assistant for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. There she managed national legislative strategy through all phases of development and implementation. In addition, Jane facilitated national relationships with major financial institutions and secured a twenty-five percent increase in funding for the corporation in a single year. Her volunteer experience includes co-chairing an Advancement and Initiatives Committee, raising a record-breaking annual fund of over \$1 million in two years for Shore Country Day School.

## Elaine Quinn – Women Supporting Women!

The strong foundation of The Women’s Fund has always been the generous support of the women that volunteer to sustain our efforts. From “Power of the Purse” events to our Annual Luncheon and Appeal, donations and contributions may not always be measured by the character and dedication of the women of the Fund, but they should be. Our community of volunteers is essential to the success of our work supporting women and girls in Essex County. It is their commitment that makes all the difference; it is women supporting women and that is the mantra of one such volunteer, Elaine Quinn.

A Midwest native, Elaine grew up in Wisconsin. One of her early memories was of her mother helping others, starting with the Hmong refugees from Vietnam. She also worked with Meals on Wheels and local elderly women, shopping, getting them to appointments – helping in anyway she could. This August, Elaine’s Mom, a two-time breast cancer survivor, stalwart role model and amazing influence, turns 85. Her enduring legacy of helping others has been passed on to Elaine and Elaine hopes to her 8-year-old daughter... “I only hope I can give my daughter that same appreciation and priority, giving back to her community. Not

*continued on page 7 . . .*

*“Thirty percent of Essex County’s families with children are headed by a single mother.”*

only how good it makes one feel but, most importantly, the positive impact she can have on her world.”

Elaine has had an amazing impact since attending Trinity College in Washington, DC, working in New York and then moving to Boston with her husband John, 25 years ago. Today as Zone Vice President/Global Technology at Travelers, Elaine still takes time to offer an extra set of hands at the Women’s Lunch Place in Boston, a daytime shelter. She often serves lunch and has a chance to see firsthand how serving a simple meal can have an impact. Elaine and her daughter have also volunteered at the Special Olympics.

When asked why The Women’s Fund? Elaine states, “I am excited by the work, but most of all by the caliber and dedication of the women I have met.” Additionally, “The Women’s Fund’s mission is something I believe in and beyond that, the Fund does all the extras...the three-year funding, as well as following up and checking to see how grant recipients are doing.” Elaine is very interested in using her business background to work with the grants allocation process and getting closer to the organizations, learning about how they operate and the impact that can be made over time.



*Elaine Quinn*

As a final note, a North Shore Nursery School mother first introduced Elaine to The Women’s Fund. “She recently passed away and while we were acquaintances through our daughters, she was an inspiration to me in so many ways that she will never know. I hope I can work to improve the lives of women and girls in Essex County in honor of her, our mothers – and our daughters.”

Women supporting women! Elaine, thank you for your dedication, character and commitment in supporting The Women’s Fund.

## Fall and Spring Events . . .



Photos by Alyse Gause Photography

## CONGRATULATIONS

**from the Women’s Business Alliance to The Women’s Fund of Essex County for awarding grants totaling \$200,000 in 2014**

The Women’s Fund of Essex County is a community of women dedicated to creating social change for women and girls. Our vision is to empower all women and girls to reach their full potential. We raise funds and award grants to nonprofit programs in Essex County that are changing the lives of women and girls in significant and sustainable ways.

The Women’s Business Alliance is comprised of women business owners committed to raising awareness of The Women’s Fund throughout Essex County.

### WOMEN’S BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBERS

- A Happy Hostess, *Peabody*
- Alyse Gause Photography, *Beverly*
- Coastal Move Management, *Beverly*
- Coastal Windows & Exteriors, *Beverly*
- Communications Ink, *Prides Crossing*
- Couture Planet, *Lynn*
- Indigo Blu Trading Company, *Beverly*
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- Madam Had’em, *Marblehead*
- Maplewood Benefits, *Prides Crossing*
- Meg Erickson Handbags, *Prides Crossing*
- Melissa Sherwood Style, *Marblehead*
- Millennium Personal Spa, *Beverly*
- New Leaf Redesign, *Marblehead*
- Relish Catering & Events, *Manchester*
- Style Studio Photography, *Manchester*
- Whiting Consulting, *Marblehead*
- Zazou’s Accessories, *Wenham*

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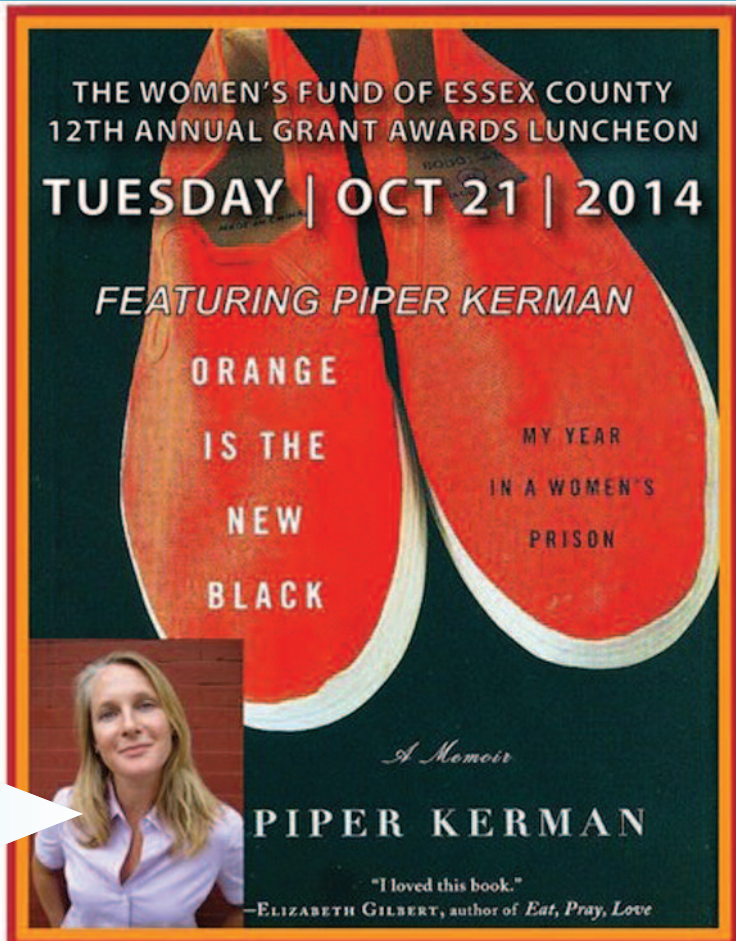
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