

The Women's Fund Advisory Board 2014-2015

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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.*



SUMMER 2015



Becky Hallowell, Susan Robie, Ro French and Piper Kerman – the featured speaker at the 12th Annual Grant Awards Luncheon.

The Importance of Community...

There is little more important than the health of our communities, whether we're speaking of communities of ideas and beliefs, or the physical communities in which we live. Communities can help nurture and educate our children, shape our values, support our sick and vulnerable populations, expand our thinking and inspire us to collective action. Community brings the joy of belonging and the importance of something larger than ourselves.

At The Women's Fund of Essex County, community is the heart of who we are.

We are an all-volunteer community of women, men, families and businesses dedicated to creating social change for women and girls, particularly those in need or at risk. Our vision is to empower all women and girls to reach their full potential. We work at the community level because we believe that local change is the most sustainable change and that it is important to invest where we live and work.

The Women's Fund focuses on women and girls because this is where great social and economic need lies. As we say, "The Need is Real and the Opportunities are Great." In Essex County, as across the US and globe, women are significantly more likely than men to live in poverty, be abused, be homeless, and be held back by employment issues and other barriers to self-sufficiency and self-determination. At the same time, investing in women and girls yields powerful social and economic benefits. Simply stated: strong women and girls create strong families and communities.

Our mission is to raise funds and make grants to highly effective nonprofit programs in Essex County that target underserved women and girls. Our goal is to identify those points of intervention in the lives of disadvantaged women and girls that can change their future.

Thanks to the enormous generosity of our donors and volunteers, we are excited to announce that together we have now awarded over \$1,000,000 in grants to over 80 different programs that are helping to strengthen women and girls, their families and communities. We are so grateful to all our donors and volunteers.

In the pages ahead, we invite you to read examples of the needs we are targeting, our nonprofit partner programs, our volunteers and donors, and our impact... now that's community.

Sincerely,

Becky Hallowell
Advisory Board President

Lynn Bryant
Advisory Board Vice President

THE NEED IS REAL

Women and girls are **52%** of Essex County's population.



1 in 7 women and girls in Essex County live in poverty (vs. 1 in 10 men).



In **40%** of US households with children, mothers are either the **primary** or **sole** breadwinner. (Pew Research)

Women are **49%** of Essex County's workforce. Full-time working women earn on average **76%** of men.

- Men's median earnings: \$60,588
- Women's median earnings: \$45,770. This pay gap is even larger for women of color.

Girls and young women face critical life and behavior decisions, such as whether to stay in school, become pregnant, or allow bullying, media or sexual abuse to shape their self-image. These early decisions can shape the rest of their lives.

1 in 4 women and girls will suffer sexual abuse in their lives. The majority of sexual violence begins at high-school age. Physically or sexually abused teens are **6X** more likely to become pregnant.

An improving trend... but still too low 55% of young women ages 18-24 are enrolled in college or graduate school.

16% of women in Essex County are ages 65 years or older (11% live in poverty). In Massachusetts, one in three women ages 65+ rely exclusively on social security as their sole income.

SNAPSHOT OF A SINGLE MOTHER

While Essex County has many successful single mothers, a significant percentage of single mothers and their children are one of our most vulnerable populations.

1 in 4 of Essex County's families with children under 18 are headed by a single mother.

31% of single-mother families **live in poverty.**

- Median income of single mothers with children under 18: \$23,792
- Federal poverty level (for family of 3): \$20,090

81% of single mothers work.

Average single-mother family size: 3.2

1 in 9 single women who are heads of households is a grandmother.

SOME OF THE CHALLENGES

47% of single mothers have no higher than a high-school degree or equivalency.



- The vast majority of homeless families are single mothers and their children.
- **63%** of single-mother families rent, preventing the ability to build equity.



Single mothers living below the poverty line spend approximately **4X** the percentage of their income on child care as other families.

CHILDREN



Of the 27,241 Essex County children who live in poverty, **70%** live in single-mother families.

These are just a few of our findings from our report "The Need is Real." Go to www.thewomensfundec.org for our full findings.

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

2015 The Women’s Fund Grants \$230,000!

The Women’s Fund reaches women and girls of all ages throughout Essex County, addressing their needs for a secure future. The following are a few examples of the programs granted this year:



Community Action, Inc. ***Homeless Mothers Self-Sufficiency Program***

Supporting homeless mothers and their children living in the Best Western hotel in Haverhill, this program offers group and individual counseling on financial literacy skills and support with both job search and job training. They are helping the women work towards economic independence and permanent housing.



Girls Inc. of Lynn ***Teen Health Ambassadors***

With the intention of reducing teen pregnancy rates, older teens are trained in collaboration with the Lynn Community Health Center as teachers and mentors to younger girls, as they provide information about personal health care, healthy relationships, and safe-sex practices.



Northeast Hospital Corp. ***Connecting Young Moms***

At-risk and underserved young mothers are offered counseling, doula services, and support groups during pregnancy, birth, and infancy to give them the tools they need to develop healthy children and positive parenting skills.



Merrimack Valley YMCA ***Leadership Academy at Camp Nokomis for Esperanza Students***

This outdoor leadership program for the entire Esperanza Academy student population offers leadership training, team-building skills, environmental education and traditional camp experiences.



Compass Working Capital ***Compass Family Self-Sufficiency Program***

This innovative program offers comprehensive financial planning workshops to women in subsidized housing, and incentivizes them to build assets via escrow accounts that will eventually be used for home ownership and other financial goals.

2015 Grant Awards

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Haverhill
SMART Girls, SMART Leaders

Boys & Girls Club of Lower Merrimack Valley
Power of Paint, Girls on the Run

Children’s Friend & Family Services
Healthy Relationships
Girls’ Group

Community Action, Inc.
Homeless Mothers
Self-Sufficiency Program

Compass Working Capital
Compass Family Self-Sufficiency
Program in Lynn

Family Services of the Merrimack Valley
Court Appointed Special
Advocates Program

For Kids Only Afterschool
Girls on the Move

Girls Inc. of Lynn
Teen Health Ambassadors

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center
GLFHC Doula Program

Lynn Community Health Center
Lynn Baby Café

Merrimack Valley YMCA
Leadership Academy at Camp
Nokomis for Esperanza Girls

Northeast Hospital Corporation
Connecting Young Moms

Operation Bootstrap
Immigrant Women’s
Personal Growth Group

YMCA of the North Shore
Greater Beverly YMCA Girl Power

YWCA of Greater Lawrence
YWCA Women’s Economic
Empowerment Program

Thank you to our generous donors!

July 2014 to June 2015

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Wendy Smith
Janet Smith
Chris Smith
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Noel Spinney-Costin
Anne-Seymour St. John

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

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Susan Williams
Lisa Williamson
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Beverly Bootstraps
Bonneville Design
Boston Financial Data Services
Boston Private Bank & Trust Company
Bradford & Bigelow Charitable Trust

Brand Fund
Brookwood School
Bulens Family Foundation
Cape Ann Savings Bank
Carpenter & MacNeille
Chiaramonte Family Foundation
Coastal Windows and Exteriors
Compton Consulting Group
Couture Planet
CrossHarbor Capital
David & Mary Dearborn Fund
Eastern Bank Wealth Management
Erickson Living
Express Yourself
Family & Children's Service of Greater Lynn
Farm & Coast
Garnet Hill, Inc.
GE Foundation
Glovsky & Glovsky LLC
Goldman Sachs
Growing Younger Gracefully
Hanson Financial Group
Helen & David Tory Fund
Hollis and Rosemary French Fund
J Barrett & Company
J. Mode
James Scott & Sally Foss Hill Foundation
K. Marshall Design, Inc.
Kim Barnes Kimball, LLC
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Madam Had'em
Maplewood Benefits
McCue Corporation
Meg Erickson Handbags
NewLeaf Redesign
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Ruggles Family Foundation
Salem Five Charitable Foundation
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SEA Fund

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The Wenham Museum
The White Lilac
The Worth Collection
UBS Foundation
Wellington Management
Willowdale Estate
Windover Construction
Zampell Refractories

In-Kind Donors

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Christian Louboutin
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Henry's Market
Holly Hull, Inc.
Irresistibles
J Barrett & Company
J. Crew
J. McLaughlin
J. Mode

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Kate Spade
Leonhard's
Long's Jewelers
M Flynn Accessories
Meg Erickson Handbags
Michael Kors
Mimi Gift Gallery
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
North Shore Communications Group
Peabody Essex Museum
Proformance
Revelation Productions
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Salem Five Charitable Foundation
Sarah Oliver Handbags
Sole Amour
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The Book Shop of Beverly Farms
The Cricket Press
The Singing Flower
The Worth Collection
Timeless Interiors
Tory Burch
Vidalia's Market
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willaworks
Willowdale Estate

Volunteers

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Kennon Anderson
Susan Barry
Cathe Baum
Susan Beckmann
Gretchen Berg
Nancy Bildner
Lynn Bryant
Marie Byrne
Lynne Capozzi
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Wendy Roworth
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Paula Shorts
Ann Smith
Janet Smith
Jane Stark
Joni Stone
Kris Trustey
Lisa Williamson
Willa Worsfold

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?”

Over the past twelve years, The Women’s Fund of Essex County has proudly supported over 80 different nonprofit programs across Essex County.

We would like to take the opportunity to share with you a few stories from women and girls who have participated in some of these programs.

Please visit our website!
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

Compass For Kids

The Compass Community Collaborative Program in Lawrence provides job training for homeless women. Working with their corporate partners, Compass trains the women to qualify for available jobs. Here is Jenny’s story:

“Before I enrolled in the Compass program, my daughters and I had been living in a shelter for nine months due to leaving an abusive relationship. I really wanted to get my kids out of the shelter and to provide a better life for them.”

Jenny completed the job-training program and “I was hired at Sal’s about two weeks after graduation. I started as a hostess and about a year later I was promoted to



manager of one of their cafes.” Jenny has worked for almost three years, she has completed her GED, and her family has moved into stable housing.

Tri-Town Council

Stand and Deliver, a program offered by Tri-Town Council, targets middle-school girls, and it gives them the space and guidance they need to explore their self-esteem, friendships and personal identity. Uma and Andrea are a couple of girls who have participated in the program.

Uma, a sixth grader, shared “before participating in Stand Tall, I knew that photos in magazines were edited, but I never thought they could be edited as much as I now know they are. The models look like completely different people before and after the photos have been edited. Now, when I look at the people in magazines, never once does it cross my mind that I want to look like them, because I know how fake those photos are.”

Another participant, Andrea, appreciated being able to have a safe space in which to discuss issues with her peers. Andrea says of this experience, “I really liked sharing our thoughts with the group. We would usually go in a circle and discuss different topics. It was nice to hear other people’s opinions and think about them. I also liked how it was the Tri-Town, because I met some nice people that I might be going to school with next year. We got to introduce ourselves and do icebreaker activities to get to know each other.”

Uma and Andrea were both positively impacted by the work on friendships and navigating social pressures. Says Uma of what she learned, “Doing the ‘friendship solar



system’ really helped me understand more about the layers of friendships. I also learned a lot about communication and how to present myself toward other people. These are things I wouldn’t have understood as well without Stand Tall.”

Andrea had similar thoughts. “Yes. I realized that I have some friends that are good friends, but not best friends! We did a small diagramming activity that sorted the people we know into groups, which was really interesting. Doing that activity did not separate me from friends I wasn’t close with. Instead I talked to them more and got closer to them. It was really cool!”

For Tri-Town Council, most vital is what the girls take away from the experience. Uma expressed this beautifully when she stated, “I know to always stay true to myself.”

“One in four of Essex County’s families with children are headed by a single mother.”

YWCA of Greater Newburyport

YWCA of Greater Newburyport’s Encore Plus program provides much needed support to survivors of breast cancer. The following is an excerpt from a letter from one of the program’s participants:

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for being able to participate in the Encore Plus and After Encore programs. I have benefitted immensely both physically and emotionally from these amazing programs. I have been honored to meet and work with incredible women who have all experienced breast cancer at some point in their lives.

After my diagnosis and treatment for breast cancer I wasn’t sure if participating in a

group format would work for me. I quickly became more motivated and enthusiastic about exercise and increasing my overall strength and fitness. The support and camaraderie of the other participants and instructors provided an environment that allowed everyone to progress at their own pace and make the program and sessions their own.

These programs are such a valuable community service that I wanted to share how much I have benefitted from being able to participate in both Encore Plus and After Encore.

*Sincerely,
PL*

Fall and Spring Events . . .



Photos by Alyse Gause Photography and Abby Archer Photography

The Women’s Business Alliance...

is comprised of women business owners committed to raising awareness of The Women’s Fund throughout Essex County. We believe successful women have the ability to serve as role models for women and girls. Our goal is to create an alliance of business women who will help promote The Women’s Fund and our mission within their respective communities.

We invite you to become part of a movement to create social change throughout Essex County.

Current Members

- A Happy Hostess, *Peabody*
- Alison Harden Design, *Manchester*
- Alyse Gause Photography, *Essex*
- Cathy Crist Interior Design Studio, *Salem Club C, Gloucester*
- Coastal Windows & Exteriors, *Beverly*
- Communications Ink, *Prides Crossing*
- Couture Planet, *Lynn*
- Hanson Financial Group, *Manchester*
- HistoryKeep, *Marblehead*
- J. Mode, *Salem*
- JW Designs, *Beverly*
- K. Marshall Design Inc., *Wenham*
- Kim Barnes Kimball, LLC, *Wenham*
- Klara Kelly Designs, *Marblehead*
- Kristina Crestin Design LLC, *Manchester*
- Kyla Salon, *Gloucester*
- Leavitt & Co., *Manchester*
- LF Style, *Marblehead*
- Luxebar, *Peabody*
- M. Lekkakos Spa, Salon & Boutique, *Wenham*
- Madam Had'em, *Manchester and Marblehead*
- Maplewood Benefits, *Prides Crossing*
- Meg Erickson Handbags, *Beverly*
- Millennium Personal Spa, *Beverly*
- New Leaf Redesign, *Marblehead*
- O’verlays, *Beverly*
- Over the Rainbow, *Beverly*
- Ray of Light Chiropractic, PC, *Topsfield*
- Relish Catering & Events, *Manchester*
- Sarah J Consulting, *Lynn*
- Ship Shape Organize LLC, *Wenham*
- Solutions for Divorce, *Gloucester*
- Style Studio Photography, *Manchester*
- Sweetwater & Co., *Beverly Farms & Marblehead*
- The Singing Flower, *Wenham*
- Toccare Spa, *Topsfield*
- Zazou’s Accessories, *Wenham*

For membership information, please visit www.thewomensfundec.org and click on Women’s Business Alliance.

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



THE
WOMEN'S FUND
OF ESSEX COUNTY

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THE
WOMEN'S FUND
OF ESSEX COUNTY

SUMMER 2015
NEWSLETTER

Contact us at:
thewomensfund@gmail.com

Please consider donating online at
www.thewomensfundec.org



**The Women's Fund of Essex County's
13th Annual Grant Awards Luncheon**

with

Robin Young

Award Winning Co-host of NPR and WBUR's *Here & Now*

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

DoubleTree by Hilton Boston North Shore

50 Ferncroft Road, Danvers, MA

SAVE THE DATE!