

# Our VOICES

SPRING 2007

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## Effective Collaboration BWF's Allocations Committee

*By Mary Frances Mitchner*

*I was asked, as an Allocations Committee member, to talk about the work of the Boston Women's Fund Allocations Committee. I am Mary Frances, and I think that it is always a good thing to de-mystify a process. This is also an opportunity for me to step back and put mine and my colleagues' participation in perspective.*

### Why I Participate

There are many reasons from the personal to the professional that I serve on the BWF Allocations Committee. To begin with, foundations, or anyone who awards funds, have a special place in my heart. Coming from the non-profit world, I am familiar with the art of begging. What a luxury to be on the "giving" end, for a change. Secondly, at the core of what I do professionally is program design and evaluation. As an Allocations Committee member, I have the opportunity to see how organizations on the ground grapple with the evolution of program issues and evaluation design.

I am not quite a child of the sixties, maybe the seventies. But, my professional career has always focused on making a difference, using my skill set on behalf of marginalized populations. It is important and instructive for me to know what is working on

the ground. Which populations benefit from what programs is a particular interest of mine and what are the trends towards effective collaborations? Being an Allocations Committee member allows me to both use and expand my skills. And I have the opportunity to meet accomplished and interesting women.

### Is it Only About Getting up Early on Saturday and Sunday Mornings?

No. Well, we do get up very early on Saturdays or Sundays, but of course, that is not all it is about. It is about leaving egos at the door. It's about reading, listening, reading some more, listening, deliberating, negotiating and consulting. These activities happen for the most part amongst us and to a lesser extent, very discreetly through our networks and of course, with the foundation's staff as sounding boards.

*continues on page 5*



*Catherine Joseph*

## Making the Case By Catherine Joseph

The Boston Women's Fund is excited to announce that we will be embarking upon a new grantee evaluation process that promises to be a win-win situation for all involved. This new evaluation tool—called "Making the Case" (MTC)—was developed by the Women's Funding Network, with the goal of providing social change organizations a substantial evaluative tool to measure the social change impacts of their projects. It is an outcomes-based measurement tool that is defined by the participants and their projects.

The Boston Women's Fund has always believed in reporting that is self defined. Our grantees decide what is important enough to mention. So, we are pleased that this feature is one that will be preserved in our new format.

*continues on page 9*

# Young Sisters Back in Action

By Melissa Cariño

Greetings! The Boston Women's Fund is thrilled to introduce our 10 newest Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy! They are a diverse group of young women (ages 15–20) from the Greater Boston and Worcester communities, who join us to strengthen their leadership skills, garner experience, and participate in activism. Please join us in welcoming them to our sisterhood!

- Hannah Brown
- Helen D'Angelo
- Princesa Diaz
- Jamieka Foy
- Ashley Gaines
- TiElla Grimes
- Amy Lee
- Ashley Mendes
- Aryelle Murrell
- Vivian Showell

Young Sisters began powerfully with an introductory weekend retreat in November where we began building our sense of sisterhood. Then, we held a day long retreat with BWF adult staff—facilitated by some of our Young Sisters. As one might expect, we are different in many ways. So, we learn from each other while enjoying and learning to feel comfortable with one another.

We've already held a couple sessions on *Philanthropy* where we've dissected, redefined, and reclaimed the term. What an amazing breakthrough to hear all the Young Sisters confidently state, "I am a philanthropist!" Young Sisters are excited to put their new knowledge to work through marketing strategies, event-planning, and beginning their work in grant-making by shadowing BWF's Allocation Committee this Spring.

We use a popular education model in our discussions with each other. We are learning, unlearning, and critically analyzing various issues like capital punishment, homelessness, and heterosexism. Everyone now recognizes that our values play a major role in how we act as community members and that the "personal is political." It is satisfying to see the politicizing of each of the Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy.

Each Young Sister possesses a fiery passion about a social or economic justice issue. Those issues include immigrant rights, AIDS/HIV prevention, and safer schools for the LGBTQ community. We look forward to transforming those passions into action as we continue our work with the Young Sisters For Justice in Philanthropy (YSFJP) program.

We include a poem from one of our Young Sisters, **Ashley Mendes**, to share some of her concerns and to shed light on her political development.



Top, l to r: Hannah Brown, Ashley Mendes, Princesa Diaz. Middle: Aryelle Murrell, Amy Lee, Vivian Showell, TiElla Grimes. Bottom: Jamieka Foy, Ashley Gaines, Helen D'Angelo

## Who Prays for the Children?

By Ashley Marie Mendes

Who prays for the child  
That comes from a broken home  
Who forgot how to trust  
and always feels alone  
Who can never smile again  
Knows nothing but pain and deception  
Whose nightmares are real  
and always has to fight for a decent meal

Who prays for the child  
That is split in two  
Doesn't know what's the right or wrong thing to do  
Who wants nothing but to be loved  
and not kicked and shoved

Who prays for the daughter  
That cries inside  
That hates to be hurt  
So she hides  
The one that needs our help the most  
The one that never brags or boasts

Who prays for the daughter  
That has been through so much  
Who lost her innocence  
with her fathers touch

Who prays for the children  
that have seen so much

Who prays for the son  
Who always feels the need to carry a gun  
Whose heart has turned cold  
from all the dead bodies he saw  
young and old

Who prays for the son  
So alone and confused  
Just living his life  
like his boys want him to  
Who prays for the son  
That wants out of the game  
But can't because he's afraid of shame

Who prays for the child  
That drowns in sin  
Who thinks they have everything  
but in reality have nothing  
The one that thinks violence is the key  
to gain power on these dangerous streets

We need to pray for the children  
Around the world  
Pray for every boy and girl  
Let's pray for a change  
So they can live a life they can be happy to claim  
A life that has both love and shame  
Both peace and sorrow  
A life where they'll know  
They will see tomorrow.

[The preceding are excerpts from the original poem.  
See full poem at [www.myspace.com/YSFJP](http://www.myspace.com/YSFJP)]



## Ripple Effects: News from the BWF Community

By Hayat Imam

### New Orleans Reconstruction

Becky Pierce, a carpenter for the past 25 years, specializes in home renovations, particularly those requiring tricky problem solving—she says. In October 2006, long-term BWF donor Becky volunteered her time and skills to reconstruction work in New Orleans. Her efforts included training local New Orleans residents in construction skills.

Becky is also a war-tax resister who refuses to pay federal taxes as a statement of conscience against using tax money for war and militarism. Every year she calculates her taxes and gives it to groups doing great community work. BWF is a recipient of her generosity. Becky is also a war tax resistance counselor.

In New Orleans, Becky joined the People's Organizing Committee (POC), ([www.peoplesorganizing.org](http://www.peoplesorganizing.org)), a small, black-led group, organizing with the poorest New Orleans Hurricane Katrina survivors. As part of a 6-week construction skills training program, Becky trained hurricane survivors to rehabilitate a church.

Becky describes her time in New Orleans as immensely satisfying but also very challenging because the training started from scratch, beginning with learning how to read a measuring tape! The hours were long, often spent shopping for lumber, hardware, and tools. Before Becky left Massachusetts, she solicited donations and shipped herself a huge box of tools and materials for the POC program. In a wonderful team effort, the three trainees and Becky trimmed and restored the eight stained-glass windows for the church, passing on important carpentry skills along the way.

Becky worked in the Lower Ninth Ward, which was the lowest-lying and hardest-hit neighborhood of New Orleans during the hurricane and floods in 2005. Becky's impressions are sobering. The devastation is terrible, with little functioning infrastructure. This happens to be the area with the highest level of black home ownership and about 90% of the houses have been destroyed. When Becky was there, water had just been restored to the area but electricity had not. All the construction work

***People said that none of the promised federal money to help homeowners repair or rebuild has been released, making residents feel that the government, at all levels, does not really want the 200,000 or so low-income residents to return to New Orleans.***

they did rely on generators to power construction tools. The levee had been repaired, but only to withstand a category 3 storm. (Katrina was category 5.) Blocks and blocks of houses stood empty, some with signs saying "I will return and rebuild."

The city is full of houses, needing repair, waiting for their owners to find the money to return and rehab them. People said that none of the promised federal money to help homeowners repair or rebuild has been released, making residents feel that the government, at all levels, does not really want the 200,000 or so low-income residents to return to New Orleans. One battle was won recently: ACORN and other community groups successfully organized to stop the city from taking the whole Lower Ninth Ward by eminent domain and bulldozing the remaining houses, stores, and churches to create "green space." The city also wanted to tear down 5000 units of public housing in four housing projects that were not damaged in the flooding—solid, 3-storey, brick buildings in good condition, boarded up to keep the tenants from moving back in. Fortunately, community groups are organizing and some residents have sued for the right to move back into their apartments. And, of course, we have heard about the hundreds of trailers that FEMA has locked up in parking lots without releasing them to people who desperately need them.

Becky is still absorbing what she learned, and she feels she learned more than she taught. For more information, you can reach Becky at [beckyp44@verizon.net](mailto:beckyp44@verizon.net).

### The Power of Words

In a wonderful example of collaboration between grantees, Boston Women's Fund grantee, the Center for New Words (CNW) is conducting an innovative writing program for women called Voices Together (VT). In January 2005, CNW began this program with a former grantee of Boston Women's Fund, On the Rise (OTR), a safe haven for homeless women and women living in crisis. VT is a weekly writing group, open to any women there. Selected writings by women in Voices Together are posted on a blog (<http://voicestogether.blogspot.com>). One print journal has been produced.

The VT program fits perfectly into CNW's mission to bring to the public conversation, the voices of unheard women speaking from the margins of society. The women at OTR are all survivors, with powerful experiences and illuminating perspectives. Often, creative expression ends up serving as a tool for survival for many as well. Writing produced in the group is shared on a voluntary basis. Everyone is encouraged to listen for words, phrases and images which particularly resonate or catch one's attention. Above all, this unique creative space is a safe environment where there is no attempt to critique.

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## From the Desk of Renae Gray

Dear Friends,

January 2007, I found myself shedding tears of joy as Deval Patrick was sworn in as the first African American governor of Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It's difficult to express how moved I am to observe a new leader who values inclusion and acts on it. The election of Governor Patrick offers us the hope of making a difference with this new administration. I can't remember the last time I experienced excitement about electoral politics.

In this newsletter, we share information with you about: "Making the

Case," a new social change evaluation tool; the latest highlights from our findings from the women of color focus groups; and new information about reconstruction work in New Orleans involving some of our friends and donors.

It is our pleasure to announce that the Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy co-facilitate a workshop at this year's National Women's Funding Network annual conference. In addition, as we develop conclusions from our research on women of color in philanthropy, graciously funded by the Kellogg Foundation, we look forward

to presenting our findings at Kellogg's Cultures of Giving conference in Seattle, Washington and at the National Conference of Blacks in Philanthropy in Washington D.C.

Recently, New England Women's Business Owners (NEWBO) joined the Boston Women's Fund, assisting us in our final 2000 Club recruitment. They are hosting an event honoring BWF and Liz Walker. We benefit technically and financially from their partnership. Thank you, NEWBO!

Our grantmaking goal this year is \$500,000. Please give as generously



as you can, helping us meet our goal so that we may fund those groups whose work has so much impact in the community.

Help us to keep hope alive.

In partnership,

*Renae Gray*

## Ripple Effects

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VT chooses to meet in the warm and inviting kitchen of OTR, to make the group as accessible and welcoming as possible to any woman who wants to participate. Women who are curious but feel uncertain do not have to join in immediately. They decide when they are ready. Some astonishing contributions are made by women who may drop in one week, or several weeks at a stretch, before moving on with their lives. For homeless women and women living in crisis, this is both a respite and a rare reward. Through her writing, each woman has a chance to experience her strength and have her voice heard in a respectful and caring setting. Publication on the internet is a source of pride and the production of the print journal gives a sense of tangible achievement.

Using a Boston Women's Fund grant to the Center for New Words in 2006,

CNW will apply the VT writing group model more widely. In the next few months, CNW plans to hire a skilled facilitator to implement a weekly writing program at the YWCA residences.

### Women's Wage Equality

The Boston Women's Fund joins the Massachusetts Coalition for Women's Wage Equality, spearheaded by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, committing to move women, making 77 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts, to full economic equality. We are informing our grantees about public hearings to highlight the problem of unequal wages as well as supporting key pieces of legislation. Mark your calendars for the Equal Pay Day observance at the State House on April 23, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



## Interested in Helping to Rebuild Communities Devastated by Hurricane Katrina?

It's not too late. There is still much to do. A number of local groups give of their time, talent, and resources to help low and moderate income people rebuild their homes in communities that receive little relief from the government. To learn more about the organizations working on these efforts, call Renae Gray at the Boston Women's Fund, (617) 725-0035 x3003 or email [renae@bostonwomensfund.org](mailto:renae@bostonwomensfund.org).

Thank you!

## Effective Collaboration

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I was an English teacher. I know that reading is fundamental. Reading is, as you can imagine, the most fundamental thing that the Allocations Committee does. Proposals are viewed through a variety of lenses. We read proposals using a social justice lens. We read for women's and girls' issues. We read using low income, immigrant, trans-gendered, bi-sexual and lesbian lenses. And then the reality hits that no one individual can read the proposals through the number of lenses that BWF requires. Then, we rely on the planning and design wisdom of Catherine and the BWF staff.

I was born in the fifties to African American parents. I know very little about being a young Latina mother in 2006, looking for educational, motivational and affordable after school care for her young daughter? But, I don't have to. What I must do is respect the knowledge and experience of my young Latina Allocations Committee colleague who does know about that.

I am clueless as to what it is like for aging lesbians to access social services. I do have an understanding of the challenges facing generally marginalized populations. But I know that I can count on the Allocation Committee Social Engineering, if you will, to have a committee member who can see and speak through the lens of their grantee constituencies.

I know from multiple allocations cycles, that the Diversity Form often mystifies prospective grantees. But, applicants should know that as they struggle with the form, Catherine in

her selection of Allocations Committee members uses the same criteria. In fact, the Allocations Committee requirements are even more stringent. The applicant checklist is only concerned with race/ethnicity and gender. The Allocations committee is comprised of women who are "seasoned," younger, immigrant, lesbian, bisexual, in addition to the variety of races and ethnicities. The Boston Women's Fund does not require anything of its grantees that it does not insist on for itself.

### Putting It All Together

What that means is that the fund assembles a broad spectrum of women, ideas, histories, perspectives, values and backgrounds. We are made up of women with a variety of expertise. We include women with a variety of interests. We are comprised of women with a variety of passions. At the same time, I don't want to leave you with the very false impression that everything about the Allocations Committee is focused on differences. The women on the committee are very similar.

The Allocations Committee is comprised of women who are committed to making women's and girls' voices heard. They are committed to supporting organizations and programs, whose good works, support and nurture women and girls, while providing leadership development opportunities.

We go the extra mile to make each other understand, or at least think about, what it means to walk a mile in the prospective grantee constituents' shoes.

And if it gets to the point where we just can't wrap our heads around it, can't understand it, can't see the vision, we conduct site visits for clarification. I remain impressed with the committee's collective insistence that issues and programs be illuminated. Never do we assume that because we do not see or understand it, the issue or program has less value.



Mary Frances Mitchner

### What is Cutting Edge, Anyway?

The Boston Women's Fund was born on the cutting edge and it has remained that way. I have noticed, even in my short time affiliated with the Fund, the ripple effects experienced by some BWF grantees.

A few cycles ago, the foundation funded an initiative at the Somalian Development Center that would allow a group of women to come together and begin a discussion about a ritual to replace what we call "genital mutilation." Just a few weeks ago, out west, a father was sentenced to ten years in prison for performing this genital mutilation on his daughter. Our grantees take on life altering issues.

A few months ago, the *Banner* ran an article about the collaboration between the Center for New Words and Simmons College Center for Leadership in reaching out to the broader community with a program on Feminism, Racism and Hip Hop. The Boston Women's Fund made that happen.

The *Boston Globe* wrote a positive and lengthy article several months ago about one of our grantee organizations for their work in building bridges between African American and Latino women, their communities and constituencies. These are important, vital issues that most foundations do not fund.

The very foundation of the Boston Women's Fund, its principals and values, demand that we reach out and support society's most vulnerable and marginalized.

I am sure that I speak for all of the Allocations Committee members of the past, present and future when I say, considering the incredibly important work that our grantees do, the Saturday and Sunday meetings don't seem that early or that long. We appreciate the opportunity to serve.



## **Fundraising with Intention: Engaging Women of Color as Donors at BWF**

**By Trinh Nguyen**

***We believe that educating and organizing a diverse donor base is a critical strategy for amassing broad support for social change movements.***

**—One of seven core values of the Boston Women's Fund**

The Boston Women's Fund is proud to have a diverse donor base that includes philanthropists who give from \$5.00 to \$1 million.

Since 2005, BWF has been a partner of the Kellogg Foundation's Cultures of Giving Program, a national effort to recognize and engage donors of color in social change philanthropy. Due to our reputation, qualifications, and strong belief in this effort, BWF is the only member in the New England region chosen by the Kellogg Foundation to participate in advancing this work.

In addition to building a knowledge base in the field of Philanthropy & Communities of Color, we are also educating and organizing a diverse donor base for the women's and girls' social change movement. Between June 2006 and January 2007, the project, *Our Public Spirit (OPS)*, sought to deepen the relationship with women of color donors in the Greater

Boston area through both research and peer-to-peer learning. Led by the Women's Theological Center (WTC), 117 women of color participated in the research phase through surveys, interviews, and focus groups. The women were carefully selected through networks of sororities, associations and donor circles. We also reviewed more than a hundred manuscripts, reports, books, newspaper clippings and on-line articles on the topic of philanthropy and communities of color.

Among some of the valuable findings, there were several areas that are relevant to BWF's current fundraising work. These findings are derived from the focus groups, surveys and interviews with women of color—mainly African Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders (API) in the Greater Boston community. The following are excerpts from the larger publication and findings:

- **Average Annual Gift**

For African American women, a high percentage of the church (67%), business and professional women (94%) and activist participants (50%) gave at least \$1,000 or more. The African American business and professional women gave more money than other groups annually. Sixty two percent of them gave \$5,000 or more. Among the Asian groups, 44% of the Chinese and API women gave \$1,000 or more annually, and 31% of API women gave \$5,000 or more.

- **Race Specific Giving**

Both African Americans and all of the Asian Pacific Islander participants gave a significant percentage of their philanthropic dollars and time to race or ethnic organizations or causes.

- **Definition of Philanthropy**

We found that, while giving is a huge part of the cultures of both African American and Asian Pacific Islander women, most do not see themselves as "philanthropists," or donors.

- **Other Giving Patterns**

In terms of giving patterns, giving to religion, ranks the highest among all categories, followed by giving to families and children, identity-based work, race or gender specific causes, health related causes, giving to the "less fortunate," the elderly, and lastly, to community and social change organizations and other non-profits.

Of the women we interviewed, we found that very few were familiar with social change and gender specific work. Some women were actually engaged in social change and women's and girls' organizing, but did not have the language or a framework for looking at their efforts within a larger social change movement. In addition, most of the women who were participating in social change work, had limited knowledge about giving vehicles to support social change. Of the 117 participants, only a few had heard of the Boston Women's Fund.

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## Fundraising with Intention

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### IMPLICATIONS FOR BWF'S WORK

As BWF partners with women of color as donors to fund the women's and girls' social change movement, we need to explore the following:

#### 1) Recognizing, Promoting and Redefining "Philanthropy"

Provide donor education such as a series of workshops with topics that include the history of philanthropy in communities of color, tools for planned giving, financial management, the benefits of investing in social change and women's and girls' organizing, and organized/strategic philanthropy.

#### 2) Building Connections & Broadening Networks

Create a leadership circle and/or advisory council of women of color to tap into a network of potential supports. This effort will help to build trust and relationships so that, in the long term, this network will help bring new supporters to the BWF family.

#### 3) Promoting Social Change Philanthropy as a Collective Movement

Recognizing that many women of color donors give to ethnic specific organizations and/or causes, we need to articulate a more transparent message about cross cultural coalition building as an essential ingredient for collective work. Social change cannot happen with one or two groups. Rather, it requires a diverse partnership to improve the lives of all women and girls.

#### 4) Creating Innovative Giving Vehicles

Many of the donors we interviewed give primarily to "immediate causes," particularly relating to the categories described above. However, given a structure for long term planned giving, participants are open to giving long term (or pledging, since it is closely aligned with "tithing") to organizations that they trust and can partner with. In addition, women of color are interested in receiving more information about supporting social change organizations so that, as a

**Like all of BWF's programs and grantees throughout our history, we are true to a process of inclusion, accountability, and respect. This enormous and innovative endeavor will pave pathways for other philanthropic institutions to follow. This is consistent with our mission: Creating social change led by women and girls.**

community, we can tackle systemic/root issues that cause poverty, homelessness, and other social problems instead of making contributions to organizations that only deal with meeting an "immediate" need. While BWF supports social service organizations, we encourage grassroots organizing because it has a longer impact in promoting economic, cultural and social justice.

#### 5) Committing to a Long-term Partnership

This work would not be possible without the loyal support of our current donors. We are at an important juncture in diversifying our funding base to support social change for women and girls long-term. Identifying prospects, informing them of the impact of BWF's work, building and maintaining relationships, strengthening grassroots partnerships

with grantees, and bridging the donor communities to the social change movement takes years and commitment. We encourage you to continue your support of BWF as we build a stronger base for the years to come.

Like all of BWF's programs and grantees throughout our history, we are true to a process of inclusion, accountability, and respect. This enormous and innovative endeavor will pave pathways for other philanthropic institutions to follow. This is consistent with our mission: Creating social change led by women and girls.

*NOTE: A public document of this work including excerpts from this article will be published in late April of 2007. For information about our project, or to volunteer, please contact BWF at (617) 725-0035.*

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## Boston Women's Fund Mission

The Boston Women's Fund supports community-based organizations run by women and girls in the Greater Boston Area. We work with low-income women, women of color, women with disabilities, older women, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women, immigrant women, and girls who are working to create a society based on racial, social, and economic justice. The Boston Women's Fund raises money from a broad base of donors across economic backgrounds to provide grants and develop programs that strengthen the grassroots initiatives and leadership of women and girls.

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# Thank You!

We extend our deepest appreciation to all those who have supported our **Annual Fund** through March 15th, this Fiscal Year. Your support is crucial to the Fund and to social change organizing efforts by women and girls.

## Institutional Donors

Alchemy Foundation	Cynthia Barr	Karen Ebbitt	Karen Kahn	Muriel Nichols	Helen Sidman
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New Directions Foundation	Barbara Buck	Zelda Gamson	Debbie Lubarr	Marjorie Posner	Beatrice Stahl
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	Lisa Corrin	Dorothy Herzog	Nancy Menzin	Aviva Rothman-Shore	Tauby Warriner
	Margaret Covert	Lucille Hesse	Jen Merovick	Andee Rubin	Cheryl Weber-Mattes
	Mary Covert	Emily Hewitt	Martha Merson	Guitelle Sandman	Roslyn Weiner
	Anne Covert	Myra Hindus	Paul Michalides	Betty Sawyer	Judith Weinstock
	Julie Crockford	Debra Hirshberg	John Michalides	Emmett Schaefer	Judy Weiss
	Diane Cummings	Meg Hobbs	Charlotte Miller	Penelope Schaefer	Claire Wilcox
	Jason Daniels	Adele Hoffman	Lorie Miller	Kay Schlozman	Barbara Winne
	Glorianna Davenport	Judith Horwitz	Catherine Mooney	Barbara Schwartz	Susan Winning
	Shelly Dein	Jean Humez	Rosario Morales	Jeanne Segal	Margaret Winslow
	Alice Dembner	Diana Humphrey	Patricia Morris	Ben Selling	Toni Wolfman
	Ruth Dimond	Holly Humphreys	Deanne Morse	Ellen Semonoff	Robin Wolk
	Lisa Dodson	Janet Hunkel	Judith Morse	Ellen Semonoff	Amy Woods
	Carl Dreyfus	Randy Hustvedt	Karen Moss	Risa Shames	Rochelle Wortis
	Wendy Drobynk	Laura Inouye	Helen Munzer	Mary Shannon	Helene Yan
	Paula Dube	Susan & Mark Irvings	Susan Myggatt	Joanne Shapiro	Roberta Zallen
	Marc Duci	Martha Izzi	Patricia Nelson	Rebecca Sherman	Tammy Zambo
	Alicia Dwyer	Diane Juliar	Raisa Newman	Ronnie Sherwood	Elizabeth Zimmermann
				Martha Sibert	Denise Zwahlen

## Individual Donors

Anonymous (5)	Julie Crockford	Debra Hirshberg	John Michalides	Emmett Schaefer	Claire Wilcox
Katherine Achter	Diane Cummings	Meg Hobbs	Charlotte Miller	Penelope Schaefer	Barbara Winne
Geeta B. Aiyer	Jason Daniels	Adele Hoffman	Lorie Miller	Kay Schlozman	Susan Winning
Anne Alach	Glorianna Davenport	Judith Horwitz	Catherine Mooney	Barbara Schwartz	Margaret Winslow
Inka Allen	Shelly Dein	Jean Humez	Rosario Morales	Jeanne Segal	Toni Wolfman
Charlene Anderson	Alice Dembner	Diana Humphrey	Patricia Morris	Ben Selling	Robin Wolk
Alma Antoniotti	Ruth Dimond	Holly Humphreys	Deanne Morse	Ellen Semonoff	Amy Woods
Roberta Apfel	Lisa Dodson	Janet Hunkel	Judith Morse	Risa Shames	Rochelle Wortis
Rita Arditto	Carl Dreyfus	Randy Hustvedt	Karen Moss	Mary Shannon	Helene Yan
Elizabeth Augustine	Wendy Drobynk	Laura Inouye	Helen Munzer	Joanne Shapiro	Roberta Zallen
Janet Axelrod & Tim Plenk	Paula Dube	Susan & Mark Irvings	Susan Myggatt	Rebecca Sherman	Tammy Zambo
Betty & Art Bardige	Marc Duci	Martha Izzi	Patricia Nelson	Ronnie Sherwood	Elizabeth Zimmermann
	Alicia Dwyer	Diane Juliar	Raisa Newman	Martha Sibert	Denise Zwahlen

If we have omitted anyone, please let us know and accept our apologies.

## The Boston Women's Fund 2000 Club Nears the Finish Line

The Boston Women's Fund 2000 Club is one of the most innovative fundraising efforts in the country. Uniquely participatory, the 2000 Club is a *grassroots* effort to build an endowment, which in turn fosters the sustainability of the Fund. We ask 2000 people from all walks of life to pledge \$100 per year for five years, thereby raising one million dollars.

As of March 15, 2007, we have 1,935 members—only 65 members to go! So, join us now in the final stretch, by making your pledge today! Then, join us in the fall for our 2000 Club victory celebrations.

**We welcome the following 2000 Club Members**, who've joined us this Fiscal Year (between July 1, 2006 and March 15, 2007):

Joan Bamberger  
Kristina Barnes  
Eleanor Blume  
The Board of the Center for New Words  
Teakia Brown  
Madeline Caviness  
Joyce Cheatham  
Trip Coggin in honor of Deanna Goode  
Liane Crawford  
Charlotte Crockford  
Kate Crockford  
Lisa Dobberteen  
Gretje Ferguson  
Paula Garrity

Reverend Mary Giles Edes & Stephen Kull  
Jeremy Goldhaber-Fiebert  
Eve Haller  
Jean Herbert  
Jean Hey & Shelley Brauer  
Radha Jalan  
Dorothea Keeling  
Gloria Lopez  
David Ludlow  
Sally Lunt  
Brinton Lykes  
Phil Lynes  
Neelam Maheshwari  
Ann Miller  
Lorie Miller  
Linda Monteiro  
Alberta Montgomery

Billie Montgomery-Cook  
Patricia Morris  
Susan Naimark  
New England Women Business Owners (NEWBO)  
NEWBO Roundtable #1  
NEWBO Roundtable #2  
Hang Nina Nguyen  
Louise O'Neal  
Michele Oshima  
Deborah K. Perkins  
Rosemary Porto  
Ellen M. Poss  
Amelie Ratliff  
Barbara M. Rockwell In Loving Memory of Lisbeth M. Woods  
Charlotte Russell  
Roberta Salper  
Susan Sambrano  
Patricia Simmons  
Elizabeth Skehan-Russell  
Karen Treska

If we have omitted anyone, please let us know and accept our apologies.

## Making the Case

*continued from page 1*

In the past, we used year end reports to anecdotally talk about the success of the organizations that we fund. While this anecdotal data was excellent, we endeavor to correlate that qualitative data with statistical and numerical data, measuring the number or amount of short term and long term social change made by projects/organizations using certain criteria (called "shifts"). This tool can be used to measure outcomes for an organization or a project. One of the goals of the MTC tool is to build a strong case for the organization's work, grounded in results that demonstrate the process and impact of social change. The new tool uses both short term and long term indicators. Projects choose which indicators they are going to measure.

Our grantee partners often take on intractable social problems that exist within a constantly changing context. Therefore, we want to use an evaluation tool which is flexible enough to adapt to changing circumstances. Our funding runs the gamut of providing seed money to fledgling organizations to having consistently funded organizations for more than 10 years. So an evaluation tool must take our funding approach into account and produce measures or indicators that are flexible enough to cover our funding range.

Requiring measurable outcomes will help organizations to shift their focus from how many activities they have completed to how the participants

have changed as a result of their activities. This tool should support grantees in making the transition to more accountability and increase their capacity to demonstrate impact with measurable outcomes and indicators. Ultimately, we hope that using this formula for both internal and external evaluation will assist groups in obtaining support from other funding sources as well.

BWF expects to learn from and act upon information garnered from reports completed with the new evaluation tool. For example, do nonprofits have the capacity to do the things that we are asking them to do? Should we switch to multiyear funding to make sure that grantees are able to achieve the desired impact? What kind of technical assistance would help them to reach their goals?

A supportive partner relationship with our grantees means that we have to invest in their projects in as equal a measure as we are asking of them. If a grantee does not achieve outcomes laid out in its grant agreement, our approach is to work with the grantee to understand the obstacles to success and what resources are needed to obtain better results. To partner with grantee organizations means that we value the fact that grantees, who are working at the community level, are the experts. Our role is to provide them with the resources they need to do their jobs.

We expect MTC to strengthen our partnerships with grantees and provide a training ground for their funding expansion.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Release & Presentation of "Our Public Spirit" May 30, 2007

*Save the date!* The Boston Women's Fund presents "Our Public Spirit," a report describing our research findings about women of color and philanthropy. "Our Public Spirit" celebrates the diversity of giving, while providing concrete information about developing relationships with women of color donors. Watch for details.

## Celebrate BWF's 2000 Club! October 19, 2007

*Save the date!* An evening event honoring 2000 Club members, whose contributions make our endowment a reality, is planned for October 19, 2007. We are recruiting our final 60 members. So, if you haven't joined yet, contact Mary Quinn at (617) 725-0035 x3010 for details. Then, join us in celebrating the success of this innovative grassroots initiative!



### **Boston Women's Fund**

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