



# Our VOICES

SPRING 2006

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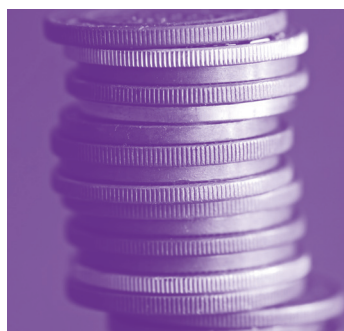
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## Boston Women's Fund A leader in social change philanthropy

By Trinh Nguyen, Director of Development

In May 2006, John J. Havens and Paul G. Schervish from the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy at Boston College released their report, "The Golden Age of Philanthropy? The Impact of the Great Wealth Transfer on Greater Boston." The report was prepared for the Boston Foundation, and was derived from their national 1999 report estimating that by the year 2055, some \$41 trillion will be passed on to later generations, and that \$6 trillion of this total amount will go directly to charities.

Their report on wealth transference in Greater Boston, estimates that from 2001–2055, "... Boston area households will transfer about \$1.25 trillion... [and] the total charitable bequests is projected at \$172 billion. Another \$187 billion in gifts will be made during the lifetimes of donors."<sup>1</sup>

Two months later, in early July, Warren Buffet, chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, made a historic philanthropic effort by donating \$44 billion to charity,

**Foundations like BWF are small in size but have a huge impact in creating equitable social and economic conditions. The primary reason for this success is BWF's direct connections to the field issues and the actual work of low-income women and girls.**

particularly to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and his three children's family foundations. While this may be a historic moment, and a great act of generosity, it raises an important question: *How much, if any, of this wealth transference will go towards social change and women and girls' organizing?*

While the larger mainstream charitable institutions are geared up to build capacity to receive this wealth, our smaller grassroots organizations will be left out of this "golden opportunity." What is more alarming is that there are few funds or intermediaries that provide education and information about the importance of social change philanthropy and the impact that such large transfers of wealth can make.

This is where the Boston Women's Fund (BWF) is even more integral to philanthropy than before. Coming from a time when almost no foundation funding was specifically targeted to women and girls, the Boston Women's Fund entered the philanthropic landscape in the leadership of a movement that has grown significantly. Since the founding of the Boston Women's Fund twenty years ago, major progress has been made in drawing the attention of philanthropists to the specific needs of women and girls.

Today, in addition to its grantmaking and technical assistance, BWF staff, board and volunteers work diligently to promote social change philanthropy. This means, besides working as a

*continues on page 9*

***Note: the page to the right  
is the foldout page, attached to the  
front cover.***

***The newsletter will have  
10 total pages.***

# Recruiting Young Sisters for Justice

By Melissa Cariño

Greetings! In my research for the new **Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy (YSFJP)** project, I've had opportunities to connect with both of the past coordinators as well as former Young Sisters for Justice. All give me incredible insight & guidance. One Young Sister, **Jennifer Sien Chin**, a first generation, bilingual Chinese-American, has done some exciting work since her participation in the project five years ago. I would like to share her story with you. . .

*Since graduating from the Young Sisters project, I have continued to be a philanthropist through the contribution of my energies to organizations working for positive community development and social change, and I have gone on to work for not-for-profits around Boston—including serving in development and fund-raising roles. I have worked with organizations in the fields of the arts, social services, youth and adult education, cultural economic development, reproductive rights, and global social change.*

*I served on the Board of BWF as well as the Program and Publications Committees. I also served as a Board member of an arts organization in Dorchester. Most recently, I helped coordinate sponsorships for the 2006 Roxbury Film Festival, which "presents films by and about people of color that inform, educate, enlighten, and provide a vivid reflection of the rich cultural diversity of our experiences."*

*In the past month, I was chosen to be a Fellow with the Associated Grant*

*Makers (AGM). The Associated Grant Makers Diversity Fellowship is an initiative to connect experienced professionals of color with opportunities in the philanthropic field. By bringing in the talents of people of color to grant-making organizations, it seeks to pave the way for more cultural and ethnic representation in the leadership of philanthropic organizations, aiding in their ability to be responsive and reflective of the communities that they serve.*

*As an AGM Fellow, I will be placed with two foundations in the Greater Boston area for 9 months, contributing my skills and knowledge, working on special projects, expanding my knowledge in the field, and building relationships. I will also complete a research project related to philanthropy.*

*Along with fellow Young Sisters alumnae and past and current staff, I will help support the continuation and growth of the Young Sisters in whatever way I can.*

Jennifer's story shows how the Young Sisters project helped shape both her personal and professional paths. Her story is just one example of the impact that this project makes over time. Let's celebrate our former Young Sisters for Justice, while simultaneously providing support for the next generation.

With that, we happily announce that we are now recruiting for 8 positions on our upcoming Young Sisters project!

*"Whenever someone asks me what major events or activities helped shaped who I am today, one of the first things I talk about is the Young Sisters For Justice (YSFJ) project. The project sparked my curiosity in a range of social issues, and it*

*taught me people skills and life skills that I have not forgotten. It helped me realize and define my personal values, which in turn have influenced my work and all else that I do in life. The impact of the program speaks not only to the design of it, but also to the dedicated people that created it and who still embrace it and carry on its vision."*

—Jennifer Sien Chin,  
former Young Sister



## Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy (YSFJP) OPPORTUNITIES: 8 Positions!

YSFJP is a 2-year session in which young women learn about **social justice, political education, community organizing & engagement, and social change philanthropy**. Young Sisters will be hired and paid for 20+ hours per month of work & participation. We are accepting applications from young women who are interested in broadening and deepening their understanding of and skills in social change work. We launch the Young Sisters program in the late Fall. So please help spread the word and promote the Project.

Strong YSFJP candidates will . . .

- Be between the ages of 15–20 at the start of the session
- Commit to the project for 2 years
- Come from the Greater Boston, Brockton, Lowell, Lawrence, or Worcester communities
- Demonstrate strong leadership skills & experience
- Engage in making positive change in the community
- Be involved in issues of social justice, community organizing, or civic engagement
- Be available many Saturdays

**Come join our sisterhood!** YSFJP flyers, job descriptions, and applications are now available for distribution. For more information, or if you are interested in getting involved with the Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy (YSFJP) project, please contact me, *Melissa Cariño*, at (617) 725-0035, ext. 3008 or [melissa@bostonwomensfund.org](mailto:melissa@bostonwomensfund.org).



## Ripple Effects: News from the BWF Community

### Rubber Blubber!

Girls can't picture themselves as scientists because they mainly see male scientists in the world. BWF Grantee, **Science Club for Girls (SCG)** tackles this head on with after school programs in Cambridge where young girls are mentored by women scientists in exciting science projects in fields such as forensics and oceanography. This past summer, the SCG hired 14 girls, through the summer youth employment program, to research, test, plan, manage and present innovative science projects to younger kids. They reached up to 100 children a week, teaching them the math behind origami paper folding or why Arctic animals can stay warm! You can find out the latter for yourself through their activity called "rubber blubber": put on rubber gloves, put Crisco on one glove and not on the other, next dunk both hands into icy water. Check which hand is colder! For many of the girls this was their first job, giving them skills in planning, supply management, communications, taxes and finances. For more information, contact Connie Chow [cchow@scienceclubforgirls.org](mailto:cchow@scienceclubforgirls.org)

### Why the South?

We have long benefited from the political analysis of BWF donor and

longtime friend, **Jean Hardisty**, founder of Political Research Associates and author of ***Mobilizing Resentment: Conservative Resurgence from the John Birch Society to the Promise Keepers***. In a recent essay on the U.S. South, Jean calls the progressive movement on their neglect of the South as a site for serious organizing and base-building. In fact, says Jean, the South is the "canary" for showing what we can expect in the rest of the country: more subtle but pervasive racism, the decimation of labor power, the shrinking of the middle class, "pretend" right-wing populism that actually benefits the powers that be and the escalating gap between the rich and the rest of us. But, most important, the South can lead us by the hand in the practice of resistance. We have much to learn from the wisdom, tenacious resistance and heritage of struggles by Black, Native and, more recently, immigrant survivors of oppression in the South. **Meizhu Lui**, Executive Director of United for a Fair Economy (UFE), says UFE is taking Jean's challenge seriously. UFE will introduce a Southern focus to their organizing work by using more resources in the South to tackle economic inequality—further compounded by racism.

Contacts: [www.Jeanhardisty.com](http://www.Jeanhardisty.com) and [www.unitedforafaireconomy.org](http://www.unitedforafaireconomy.org)

### Thinking Outside the Box

We've been hearing a great deal about the Governor's race, but how many of us know who is running for Lieutenant Governor? Yet it is the Lieutenant Governor who more often works with state human service agencies and chairs critical policy-making bodies that deal with issues that concern us such as homelessness, housing and violence. BWF Grantee, **Homes for Families** chose to question the candidates running for the Lieutenant Governor position! On their annual Visioning Day, where homeless and formerly homeless families and advocates plan the advocacy agenda for the year, parents from across the state posed questions and challenged the candidates on issues such as affordable housing, access to education and childcare.

### The Color of Wealth— A Racial Divide

Forty years after the civil rights movement, the assumption is that the issue of racial inequality is a thing of the past. When inequality rears its head, people are quick to judge it as an individual failure. Meizhu Lui, Barbara Robles, Betsy Leonard-Wright, Rose Brewer, and Rebecca Adamson, five women from diverse backgrounds, have written ***The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide*** (The New Press, 2006). ***The Color of Wealth*** shows very succinctly that the roots of the divide have a historical past that continue to this day and that are supported by government policies that put obstacles in the path of asset building. To order go to [www.Powells.com](http://www.Powells.com)

### Must Read!

The promise of diversity in higher educational institutions has not always

been easy to keep, with many pitfalls in the road from policy to practice. Yet genuine diversity, once achieved, is immensely rewarding, sometimes in unforeseen ways. The BWF Board Co-chair, **Frinde Maher** has written an in-depth study of the efforts of three universities, Stanford, the University of Michigan and Rutgers University-Newark, to bring people of color and white women onto their faculties. ***Privilege and Diversity in the Academy*** shows how these institutions have developed in new directions as a result of the newcomers' presence. The book focuses on institutional transformation, analyzing challenges to raced, classed and gendered structures of privilege in higher education. The Book is published by Routledge, N.Y., and should be available through Amazon in November or December, 2006—in time for the holidays!

### Teen Tools

Two important resources have been published from the writings of BWF Grantees. **The Hyde Square Task Force Health Careers Ambassadors Program (H-CAP)** worked for a full year to produce the ***Community Health Information Living and Learning (CHILL)***, a public health outreach tool to educate youth about health issues. Email Yi Chin for more information: [yichin@hydesquare.org](mailto:yichin@hydesquare.org). **Reflect and Strengthen**, a group of working class girls and women of various ethnicities, works to change the power structure. Their play ***Still Life: Confessions of a Butterfly*** explores identities through theater, dance, step, poetry, videography, song and Hip-Hop. They are putting this memorable play on DVD! For information, go to [www.reflectandstrengthen.org](http://www.reflectandstrengthen.org).

Please send your news to Hayat Imam at [hayat@bostonwomensfund.org](mailto:hayat@bostonwomensfund.org)



## From the Desk of Renae Gray

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the last of the warm weather.

I spent a weekend this summer immersed in the 8th Annual Roxbury Film festival. The festival offered a range of movies and focused on filmmakers of color and films portraying people of color. The festival presented several movies that I was pleased to view. An excellent film on Aristide, *Aristide and the Endless Revolution*, explores the events that led to the removal of Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti. *The Twelve Disciples Of Nelson Mandela*, a documentary about the first wave of South African freedom fighters who galvanized the anti-apartheid movement from exile, was inspirational. Finally, *Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, a film about hip hop culture, reveals the intersection of culture, commerce and gender. These films offered a short respite from the stereotypical ways in which people of color are portrayed in the media. I left the festival feeling both educated and entertained.

This summer, there have been two shootings in the park next to my home. The response of the city reminds me that it is so easy to revert to reactive practices. Close the park and mandate that police officers guard the park. Violence is all around us, Boston is dealing with its 48th

homicide this year, and the deaths are mostly youth/youth of color.

I am concerned about the impact that reactionary solutions have on the youth in our neighborhoods—particularly those who are not involved in violence—the majority of our youth. As a community, we must say no to the violence, while respecting the lives of young people. Our young people need jobs, education, and summer programming. I find myself wondering what do our young people have to say? Who's talking to them about their fears and concerns for their safety? Who sees them for the best of who they are and can be? How do our kids feel when they know that it is assumed that they are viewed as gang members or a menace to society? I hope that my community engages young people in discussion about their needs, feelings, ideas, and hopes. We need their input as we look for solutions to violence in our community.

The Fund is committed to providing financial support to young women's and girls' programming that is life affirming. In our current cycle, we fund 26 organizations totaling \$220,000. We support projects that organize, empower, and develop leadership skills. In turn the women and girls, involved in those projects, work to create change in their communities. They acquire new

skills and express a collective voice. In fact, our own Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy is a model of young women's leadership development within Women's Funds—as you will read later in our newsletter.

At the Boston Women's Fund we examine the intersection of race, class, and gender in our society. We just completed our first cycle of focus groups for the Kellogg initiative, which is designed to develop a better understanding of how women of color give and develop systems (best practices) for engaging women of color in social change philanthropy. In phase one, we interviewed a cross section of African American women, Chinese women, and Vietnamese women in focus groups. Next year we plan to use the information we gained from the focus groups to convene learning circles and workshops about giving, planned giving, and social change. We will share our findings with our community in the fall and spring.

This past year, I had the opportunity to attend a 6 month support group for Women of color in leadership positions in the Boston area. My first observation was that most of us know each other, but hardly get the chance to work together, share our stories, or talk to one another. The support group offered us a chance to talk together about both the success and challenges



of being leaders in Boston and in the social change network.

As we found patterns that can be informative, the Boston Women's Fund plans to host a conversation with MeiZhu Lui, Director of United for a Fair Economy, Tommie Hollis-Younger, Co-Director of Haymarket People's fund, and myself. Our topic will be organizing and fundraising for social change from the perspective of women of color. We hope that this will be an enlightening conversation. So, please join us. Look for the date in the calendar section of the newsletter.

Grantmaking is the cornerstone of the Fund. As most of you know we must raise our budget commitment to grantmaking on an annual basis. As we work to fulfill our commitment to young women and girls, we need your help. Please join us in our vision—a vision that gives voice to the voiceless—with the most generous gift you can make to the Fund.

Thank you for your support!

*Renae Gray*

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

For 20 years, the Boston Women's Fund has been the only foundation in northeastern Massachusetts to exclusively support community-based organizations run by women and girls. We fund low-income women, women of color, lesbians, women with disabilities, older women, girls, immigrant women, and transgender women who are working to create a society based on racial, social and economic justice. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded \$4 million to 200 grassroots groups empowering women and girls in areas like affordable housing, public policy, employment, healthcare access and voting rights.

To become involved, please call the Boston Women's Fund at 617-725-0035.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Catherine Joseph**, Director of Grants Program  
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**Mary Quinn**, Director of Communications & Data

## **Boston Women's Fund Spring 2006 Grant Awards**

*by Catherine Joseph & Patricia Simmons*

*As we return to two funding cycles each year, we wish the 10 organizations funded last fall the very best in their efforts to create social and economic justice in their communities.*

### **Adbar Ethiopian Women's Alliance**

**Cambridge \$12,000**

The Cambridge public schools welcome immigrant and refugee students from different countries and backgrounds and support them in the process of acquiring education. Despite the many supports, far too many barriers limit refugee and immigrant girls' ability to participate in their new environment and school. Through role modeling, mentoring and acquiring skills in newsletter production and computers, these teen girls will gradually take on leadership roles—learning how to advocate for themselves and their peers—thereby increasing their comfort level within their school.

Adbar's pilot program is designed to help Ethiopian and other East African girls at the Ringe and Latin High School to incrementally break down the barriers and realize their potential to become agents of positive social change and to build up their skills and leadership levels. Moreover, this program confidently believes that with increased knowledge, skills and leadership abilities—their comfort levels will be enhanced.

### **Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence**

**Boston \$5,000**

ASPIRE is a career and leadership development program for Asian American high school and college girls. Through mentorship, networking and culturally appropriate leadership development training, ASPIRE helps young Asian American women overcome social and economic injustice by building a strong base of professional and educational support. In 2005, ASPIRE launched its Youth Leadership Program designed specifically to recruit and mentor Asian girls from low-income urban communities. BWF's grant will support ASPIRE's plans to expand YLP and increase the leadership capacity of girls participating in YLP activities.

### **Association for Haitian Women**

**Dorchester \$12,000**

In a survey of 500 young women ages 15 to 24, it was found that 60 percent of young women were currently involved in an ongoing abusive relationship. Additionally, all respondents of this survey reported experiencing violence at some time in their dating relationship history. AFAB's teen dating violence project will train 12 female Haitian and non-Haitian students from Boston, Brockton and Cambridge public schools to participate in a peer leadership development project on teen dating violence issues. They will learn about the root causes of teen dating violence, how to recognize signs of an abusive relationship and where to find help and resources. The students will then relay this information to other teens via workshops, forums and events. This project will raise awareness of teen dating violence and provide opportunities for Haitian adolescent girls to play a leadership role in the schools and their communities.

### **Bosnian Community Center for Resource Development**

**Lynn \$12,000**

The Bosnian Community Center for Resource Development (BCCRD) provides culturally and linguistically appropriate services to nearly 8000 Boston area refugees from the former Yugoslavia. In its work with refugee women—many of whom are Muslim—BCCRD staff uncovered prevalent but often unacknowledged instances of abuse. In 2005, with BWF support, BCCRD implemented a Domestic Violence Initiative to provide education about domestic violence and victims' rights, and empowerment for women who are linguistically, culturally and economically isolated and vulnerable. With a second grant from BWF, BCCRD will continue to build the Domestic Violence Initiative by increasing community outreach and providing peer education and leadership opportunities for women who participated in the Initiative's first year.

### **Center for New Words**

**Cambridge \$9,000**

The mission of the Center for New Words (CNW) is to use the power and creativity of words and ideas to strengthen the voice of progressive and



**Close to Home**

marginalized women. The heart of their mandate is the nexus where word-based empowerment, diverse women's communities and activism intersect. Their BWF funded project, "Taking Our Place in the Public Conversation" is their vehicle to build community among women by collaborating with other local grassroots organizations to build bridges across neighborhoods, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation and gender divides. They run public forums and offer readings and talks with prominent public affairs commentators in targeted communities where women who are most affected can be informed about current issues and speak out. The BWF grant will support outreach for this initiative.

### **Close to Home**

**Dorchester \$9,000**

Close to Home is an innovative approach to domestic violence (DV) prevention that seeks to make domestic violence a community issue that necessitates community led intervention strategies. From its base in the Fields Corner section of Dorchester, Close to Home engages residents and neighborhood organizations to provide concrete support and safety to women, children and families affected by domestic and sexual violence, while also developing community driven responses to domestic violence prevention. BWF's grant enables Close to Home to expand its three-pronged strategy that includes community organizing, coalition building and building civic discourse. Close to Home will mobilize more women to develop leadership teams to carry out projects in their neighborhoods, provide training for and meet with community

organizations to implement community events, design and implement a public awareness campaign, and produce digital stories that allow residents to share personal experiences.

### **Cooperative Economics for Women**

**Revere \$8,000**

Since 1994, Cooperative Economics for Women (CEW) has organized with immigrant and refugee women to develop leadership skills and promote social and economic justice. From its base on Boston's North Shore, CEW works with Cambodian and other Asian women as well as Cape Verdean, Eritrean, Haitian, Middle Eastern and Latino immigrant and refugee women and their families. CEW's programs and organizing efforts address unmet needs related to community food insecurity, literacy, children's programming, and domestic violence. BWF's grant will support the Outreach and Advocacy Program with Immigrant Women designed to increase ESL services, educate women and community members on domestic violence services, and provide leadership training, advocacy and legal rights education.

### **Crossing Communities Collaborative**

**Boston \$3,000**

Ushering in and sustaining the activism of young women of color who are involved in social justice issues within their communities is the focus of Crossing Communities Collaborative. The Collaborative's mission and guiding principles are the development of positive community change through education, spiritual development and collaboration. They strive to organize on issues of social justice and to actively challenge racism while promoting spiritual awareness. They propose to embark upon an educational and organizing project using as a model, the successful struggles of the civil rights movement of the 1960's, the freedom schools that existed during that era, as well as the histories of women who were instrumental in providing constructive leadership. One learning plan will look at the history of organizing at the Bromley Heath Public Housing Development located in Jamaica Plain. Their tenant's association led by African American women of color and became a lightning rod for public housing tenant activism, both locally and nationally, in the early 1970's.

### **Homes for Families**

**Boston \$9,000**

Homes for Families recruits, organizes and fully involves the people most affected by the injustice of family homelessness: women and their children. Together, they advocate for access to education, training and jobs that pay living wage, and homelessness prevention resources which include access to and production of housing for extremely low-income households. BWF's grant supports HFF's Leadership Development Institute (LDI). The LDI enrolls and trains homeless and extremely low-income mothers to become trainers, community organizers and mentors of homeless parents. HFF's investment in leadership development empowers homeless mothers in their efforts to become economically self-sufficient and to create, good lasting public policy that is responsive to and representative of low-income families.

### **Hyde Square Task Force**

**Jamaica Plain \$5,000**

The WEPA Project of the Hyde Square Task Force is a community organizing initiative led by predominantly Latina and African American middle and high school girls in the Hyde/Jackson Square neighborhood of Jamaica Plain and Roxbury. Last year, the girls waged a successful campaign against sexual harassment on the streets of their neighborhood. This year, after receiving extensive training in leadership, community organizing and economic development, the team of 30 girls is organizing around two major issues in the community: sexual harassment in the Boston Public Schools and developing a new dance program that will be integrated into a new youth and family center in Jackson Square. A grant from BWF will go toward continuing their active campaign against sexual harassment in their community.

### **Matahari: Eye of the Day/South Asian Solidarity Network**

**Malden \$12,000**

Matahari: Eye of the Day creates community solutions to prevent and end human trafficking, gender-based



### **Tempest Productions' *Body & Soul***

violence and labor exploitation. Matahari has brought together South Asian activists and survivors to create the South Asian Solidarity Network (SASN). Working alongside migrant and U.S. born survivors, SASN members create the peer networks and practical foundations needed to overcome community pressures, find safety from violence, and establish economic independence. The SASN Survivors' Cooperative will use the BWF grant to bring together South Asian survivors of violence to: share experiences and heal from trauma through Peer Empowerment Healing Circles; will develop strategies and projects for economic independence; and convene community gatherings to engage in anti-violence and anti-oppression education and dialogue.

### **Massachusetts Coalition on Occupational Safety & Health**

**Dorchester \$5,000**

For over 30 years, MassCOSH has provided training and technical assistance to residents and numerous community and labor groups, helping them identify, prevent and address workplace health risks. Through MassCOSH, youth and adult immigrants, people of color and women in girls in low-paying unsafe and unhealthy jobs organize and advocate for safe and healthy workplaces and communities. Over the next year, BWF will support the efforts of their peer-led youth organizing project, called "Teens Lead at Work" as they go forward in their campaign to address the high rate of violence against youth working in retail stores, continue to organize to pass a strong Child Labor bill and investigate issues that particularly impact Dorchester's diverse youth, such as a Vietnamese youth working in nail salons.





**Women's Institute for Leadership Development**

**The Network/La Red**

**Boston \$12,000**

Since its inception, The Network/La Red has been a place for survivors of lesbian/bisexual and transgender (LBT) domestic violence to organize around battering in their communities. Through community education and organizing, The Network/La Red works to eliminate the isolation, ignorance, denial, and prejudices that perpetuate violence in same-sex relationships. BWF's grant supports the Network/La Red's Visibility Campaign to engage the lesbian/bisexual/trans community in taking ownership and responsibility for the issue of domestic violence through community collaboration, media advocacy, internet presence, and distribution of written materials. The Visibility Campaign speaks to those who have been battered as well as those who have not, and encourages them to take action. By fostering community responsibility for domestic violence, The Network/La Red seeks to build communities that are safer for all.

**Reflect and Strengthen**

**Dorchester \$12,000**

Reflect & Strengthen (R&S) is an organization run by and for working-class women, ages 14–30, from urban neighborhoods of Boston. Using a holistic approach, this ethnically diverse group of young women creates positive social change at the community level through creative expression, political education and community building. Reflect & Strengthens' programs include: *Girls Rap* which provides healing circles and support groups to nurture sisterhood and solidarity; *What's the 411?*—this program builds awareness of social justice struggles and the power of people to create

change, and *R&S Theater* which celebrates cultures and creativity, and offers opportunities to transform life experiences through artistic expression. BWF's grant is for general operating support.

**Somali Development Corporation**

**Jamaica Plain \$12,000**

By promoting mutual assistance, cultural identity and leadership, The Somali Development Center fosters the ability of Somali individuals and families to advocate on their own behalf and participate in the larger community. BWF's grant will support Phase II of SDC's Women's Empowerment Initiative which addresses the psychological needs of clients who have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This cultural practice, which is still supported by many Somali women, is examined through workshops on health, culture, religion, gender roles, female empowerment and legislation. In Phase II, the Initiative will move beyond the walls of SDC by training the current participants to become Community Educators. These Community Educators will hold house meetings in targeted neighborhoods to educate about the dangers of FGM and to introduce alternative notions of gender and self-determination to Somali women and girls.

**Southeast Asian Bilingual Advocates**

**Lowell \$12,000**

Southeast Asian Bilingual Advocates (SABAI) works to improve the health and well-being of Southeast Asians through, education, cultural brokering, advocacy, and building capacity for self-advocacy. Working at the grassroots level, SABAI strives to increase access to health care, social services and employment

opportunities through programs that are respectful of cultural, individual, family, and community beliefs and practices. BWF's grant supports SABAI's project for Women Accessing Employment and Women's Health. This project will help women to take action to address health and employment barriers by providing women-centered services in the Khmer language. This project builds on SABAI's ongoing work to empower women in Lowell's Cambodian community.

**Survivors Inc**

**Mattapan \$9,000**

Survivors Inc is comprised of a group of low-income women and allies who organize and educate around poverty, welfare and low income survival issues. They combine welfare office outreach and college campus organizing with local and broader grassroots efforts in their quest to build a low-income led and cross class movement for economic justice. Recently, they have hired Vietnamese welfare outreach workers who have helped them to organize within that community and who have begun translating sections of the organization's newspaper, *Survival News*, into Vietnamese. Special emphasis this year will go toward collecting data about the impact of the Department of Transitional Assistance work requirements. Their goal is to hold the state more accountable around providing meaningful training opportunities that create pathways out of poverty and raise everyone's standard of living. A BWF grant will support their data collection effort.

**Tempest Productions**

**Dorchester \$8,000**

Tempest Productions produces innovative theater that illuminates contemporary lives and social issues. Through its collaborative, community-based approach to theater production, Tempest Productions raises awareness and builds grassroots support for changing the status quo, especially on issues that affect women and girls. BWF's grant supports *Body & Sold: Talking with Communities, 2006*. Building on the success of *Body & Sold: Part 2*, a play about US domestic child prostitution and trafficking, *Talking with Communities, 2006*, is an interactive social justice theater project targeted at middle school girls at high risk of sexual exploitation. In collaboration with the new Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School in Dorchester and *A Way Back* in Roxbury, this theater project will engage middle school girls in education, discussion, creative expression and organizing for change.



## Transition House

Cambridge \$8,000

Transition House works towards the prevention and cessation of domestic violence through education, outreach and intervention. In the last year, their Dating Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) has established important connections with public and private schools in the Greater Boston area, because school faculty, like teachers and nurses are often the first line responders who can detect the early warning signs of teen dating violence and refer other girls who are at risk for dating violence. The BWF grant will be used to support the DVIP which provides extensive preventive education and direct clinical services to teens, mainly young girls, as a means of breaking the cycle of domestic violence and reducing its long-term harms. The project also has a teen peer leadership component that equips teens with the knowledge and resources needed to act as experts and referral sources.

## Women Express/Teen Voices

Boston \$8,000

Women Express believes in and cultivates the power of girls and young adult women to create social change through writing and art; primarily, through *Teen Voices*, a magazine by, for and about teen girls; SHOUT!—an out-of-school time journalism mentoring program; and, Girls LEAD, an outreach component to engage more local girls in writing and activist programming, Women Express creates opportunities for low-income teen girls of color to develop communication and journalism skills and to use these skills to express their point-of-view on critical issues. BWF's grant will expand Girls LEAD and enable more girls of color to participate in social activism and projects that create alternatives to mainstream media.

## Women of Color Fundraising Institute

Jamaica Plain \$12,000

The Women of Color Fundraising Institute (WOCFI) is a year long skill building and leadership development program which provides essential tools to help women-of-color led organizations remain financially sustainable and organizationally sound. WOCFI provides a supportive environment where community activists learn about fundraising and organizational development in a context that is relevant to the social change focus of their organizations. Building on the success of its graduates, WOCFI alumni provide

inspirational role models for incoming participants. BWF'S grant will provide general operating support for WOCFI's programs including: The Institute, the Alumni program, and Lifting as We Climb—a speaker and networking series.

## Women's Institute for Leadership Development

Boston \$8,000

For twenty years, the Women's Institute for Leadership Development (WILD) has worked to increase social and economic justice for low-income women and people of color by organizing for change within the labor movement. WILD empowers women to overcome and speak out against barriers, and to provide leadership that celebrates democracy and diversity in their workplaces, unions, communities, and in the Massachusetts labor movement. BWF's grant supports WILD's work to develop leadership of diverse union women and community activists and its work to strengthen its own organizational infrastructure and capacity. WILD's work in the community will focus on building relationships with Haitian, Asian, Native American and Cape Verdean activists, as well as increasing the participation of Latinas and African-American women.

## Women's Theological Center

Boston \$9,000

Spiritual leadership is often overlooked as a critical aspect of the leadership everyone must exercise in order for all members of society to be in a right relationship with each other. It is a form of leadership that can be practiced by anyone toward the creation of a just society. It does not seek to control but to create authentic relationships. By aligning the internal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural dimensions of our experience, those who practice their spiritual leadership purposefully work through systemic barriers such as racism and sexism in order to create and maintain what is called the "Beloved Community." WTC's programs include: *Leading from Spirit*, which provides trainings in spiritual leadership development; a *Spiritual Resource Center*, which provides services to deepen spiritual leadership practice; and, *Consulting Services*, and *Collaborative Projects* with other organizations to broaden the impact of spiritual leadership as a tool for creating justice. BWF's grant is for general operating support.

## E-Alerts & E-News

We want to know what you think! The Boston Women's Fund is considering sending newsletters and alerts by email to those who are interested. We are also concerned about adding to the bulk of email that so many receive. So, please let us know if you'd like to join a list serve with the Boston Women's Fund. Just fill out the form below and send it to us at:

**Boston Women's Fund, 14 Beacon Street, Suite 805, Boston, MA 02108**

- Yes, I'd like to receive more information from the Boston Women's Fund by email.
- I would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, but not alerts.
- No, I'd rather not receive information by email.

Comments/thoughts (attach a separate sheet if you need more room):

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Name:

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Address:

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Email Address:

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## The 2000 Club—It's Count Down 2K!

### Only 100 members to go to meet the challenge!

The 2000 Club began several years ago, in an effort to raise \$1,000,000 which is then matched by an anonymous donor. The total value of the 2000 Club is \$2,000,000.

Each 2000 club member commits to a donation of \$500 over a five year period. It takes 2000 memberships to raise one million dollars. We now

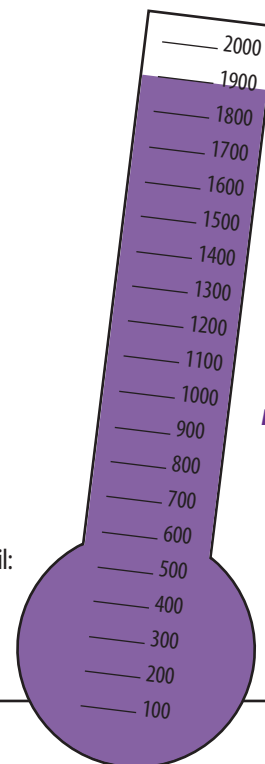
have 1,900 members. So begins the countdown of the last hundred as we move into fall!

Every member counts! With each membership, we are closer to our goal of \$2 million.

Help us over that last hurdle. If you haven't already signed up for the 2000

Club, please sign up today. Urge friends and family members to become 2k members. Then, join us on April 12 for our 2000 Club Celebration!

For more information or to sign up, call Mary at (617) 725-0035 or email: [mary@bostonwomensfund.org](mailto:mary@bostonwomensfund.org)



### 2000 CLUB

Help in our countdown to the final 100 members!

## BWF: A leader in social change philanthropy

continued from page 1

staff or board member, BWF women put extra time into participating in other philanthropic fields, thereby informing people who are influential in philanthropy about social change activities led by women and girls. Some affiliations that BWF has, particularly through board memberships include: The Greater Boston Funders for Women & Girls, Associated Grant Makers (AGM), The Chahara Foundation, Resource Generation, Haymarket People's Fund (supporting organization), Community Works, The National Network of Grantmakers (People of Color Caucus), RHICO Funders for Organizing in Neighborhoods (collaboration with LISC and MACDC), MABA-LGBT Political Group for Gays of African Descent, Center for New Words, Dorchester People for Peace, Metro-West NAACP, Women's Theological Center, Visions, Inc., and the Women's Funding Network.

Through these networks, BWF staff and Board members are in a position to educate and influence leaders in philanthropy about the importance of gender-based giving. In addition, BWF has within its network intellectual

leaders and scholars who communicate with other scholars and students on these important ideas. For example, Susan A. Ostrander has been involved in the work of the Boston Women's Fund for over 15 years where she has served on the board, Program Committee, and Development Committee. She is Professor of Sociology at Tufts University, where she teaches courses on wealth, poverty and inequality; nonprofits, states, and markets; community organizing; and gender. She has published widely in social science journals about social justice philanthropy, women and philanthropy, class elites, and higher education civic engagement. She is the author of *Women of the Upper Class* (1984) and *Money for Change: Social Movement Philanthropy at Haymarket People's Fund* (1995), both published by Temple University Press; and the senior editor of *Shifting the Debate: Public/Private Relations in the Modern Welfare State* (1987, Transaction Press).

BWF's work is a model that is recognized nationally. Two years ago, BWF participated in a study entitled

*"Community-Based Public Foundations: Small Beacons for Big Ideas"* by Rick Cohen at the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy. Mr. Cohen argued for more funding for foundations like BWF who are small in size but have a huge impact in creating equitable social and economic conditions. The primary reason for this success is BWF's direct connections to the field issues and the actual work of low-income women and girls.

BWF was also highlighted in the Women's Funding Network's recent article on *"Opening Doors: How women's funds have transformed money and willpower into community capital."* This article describes how BWF converted its limited financial resources into skills and grant dollars that have the most impact.

The work, in which we take extreme pride, is cultivating a generation of leaders in philanthropy. This coming fall, BWF will have eight dynamic young women from various neighborhoods of Boston participate in its Young Sisters For Justice in Philanthropy program. The program engages young

women in a two year session where they learn about social justice, political education, community organizing and social change philanthropy. After the two year experience with BWF, they too, will have an opportunity, with their track records, to sit on boards or work at foundations where they can help increase financial resources provided to organizations run by women and girls.

The Boston Women's Fund has committed more than 22 years to grant making. During that time, the fund has made milestone achievements in broadening social change philanthropy, supporting women's and girls' leadership, and increasing gender based funding.

We could not have achieved it without your partnership.

Thank you.

1. May 2006, John J. Havens and Paul G. Schervish, Ph.D., Center on Wealth and Philanthropy Boston College, *"A Golden Age of Philanthropy? The Impact of the Great Wealth Transfer on Greater Boston,"* welcome letter by Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO, The Boston Foundation.

# BWF Calendar of Events

## Organizing for Change—Be part of it!

### 2006

#### Fundraising for Change:

##### **A Conversation with Three Women of Color Leaders**

This conversation features:

Rena Gray, Executive Director, Boston Women's Fund;

Tommie Hollis-Younger, Co-Director, Haymarket People's Fund;

and Meizhu Lui, Executive Director, United for a Fair Economy.

Thursday, October 26, 4pm–6pm

Suffolk University Conference Room, First Floor,

73 Tremont Street, Boston, MA. Light Refreshments.

#### **Celebrating the Work of Grassroots Social Change Organizers**

The BWF proudly supports the inspiring work of women and girls, who make a difference in our communities and in our lives. Join us to celebrate and learn about the exciting work of these organizations.

Wednesday, November 15, 6pm–8pm.

Boston YWCA, 140 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA. Refreshments.

#### Organizing Institute:

##### **Social Change and Racial Diversity**

Join us in an insightful sharing and dialogue on the difficulties and successes on the journey to racial diversity in the decision-policy making bodies of our organizations. Join in and foster change!

Part of our Brown Bag Series. Details to be announced.

Please check website for additional information at [www.bostonwomensfund.org](http://www.bostonwomensfund.org)

### 2007

#### **Save the date! 2000 Club Celebration**

Join us to celebrate the completion of membership recruitment for the 2000 Club Endowment Campaign.

Thursday, April 12, 2007

Additional information coming soon.

**Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy (YSFJP) OPPORTUNITIES: 8 Positions! (see page 2)**



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

14 Beacon Street, Suite 805

Boston, MA 02108

Tel: 617-725-0035

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[www.bostonwomensfund.org](http://www.bostonwomensfund.org)

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