Grassroots’ Organizing in the Age of Trump

In late April 2017, a reporter from WBUR, Boston's local NPR station, reached out to the Boston Women’s Fund (BWF). She wanted to hear about the responses of community organizations in Boston to the Trump administration’s policies during its first one hundred days.

For this conversation, we invited past and current BWF grantees, and other like-minded organizations to join the conversation. Despite the short two-hour notice, representatives from BAGLY, Community Change Inc., Matahari and the Boston Tenants Coalition were able to gather around our conference table at our BWF offices to share insights of how their communities were navigating the unpredictable political landscape.

Although excerpts from our group interview did not make it on air that evening, this would be the first of several conversations we would have with community groups throughout the year about how the shifting political environment was impacting their work and the well being of their constituent communities.

Given the rhetoric of the 2016 presidential campaign, it came as no surprise to local organizations that the Trump administration had spent its first few months, and later the remainder of the year, reversing decades of progress on wide-ranging issues: women’s access to healthcare, reproductive rights, weakening environmental and workplace protections, rolling back civil rights for the LGBTQ community, sabotaging the Affordable Care Act, emboldening a white supremacist movement, targeting immigrant and refugee communities, fanning the flames of Islamophobia, and discrediting the press for critiquing the administration.

(continued on page 10)
Trump’s first “Muslim travel ban” was signed into law through executive order in January. Although several iterations of President Trump’s Muslim bans have been struck down by the courts on grounds that they are discriminatory and violate constitutional guarantees of due process and equal protection, the Trump administration is still fighting to enforce a revised version of its Muslim travel ban.

Organizations also talked about the fear of living under the threat of immigrant raids. Locally only the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Somerville and Lawrence have declared themselves safe havens for immigrants and refugees, where local law enforcement would not collaborate with the Department of Homeland Security’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency officials to detain undocumented immigrants. Nevertheless the declaration of sanctuary does not completely shield communities from federal law enforcement.

In September 2017, ICE reported that it had arrested nearly 500 undocumented immigrants across the country, 50 from Massachusetts, in a four-day action called “Operation Safe Cities”. A spokesperson from ICE explained that it specifically targeted immigrants in Massachusetts because of the ruling of the state’s Supreme Judicial Court that protects undocumented immigrants from being held by local law enforcement solely because of their immigration status.

In response to the increased number of immigrant raids and the use of more aggressive tactics by ICE agents, members of community groups talked about offering Know Your Rights presentations to their constituents. As a past BWF grantee noted, “we’ve launched a community defense campaign where we are arming ourselves with tools and strategies to make sure that families are not separated because of detention, deportation or mass incarceration.”

The situation for immigrant communities further deteriorated in October when Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ announced the repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Subsequently, the administration has stopped accepting or processing new or renewal DACA applications. Existing DACA permits will start to expire in March 2018. Sessions also announced that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act would no longer protect transgender people from workplace discrimination.

Furthermore, at a time when Massachusetts and other states are in the stage of implementing policies to ensure equal pay for women, the Trump administration signed an executive order reversing the Fair Pay Act and Safe Workplaces Order signed by President Obama in 2010. The Act originally required companies that were seeking federal contracts to ensure that they were providing equal pay to their male and female workers, provided wage transparency, and made it easier for women to seek justice for sexual harassment.

Last month, President Trump passed a new rule stating that employers can exclude coverage of contraception from their insurance policies if they have a religious or moral objection to it. In response, the Massachusetts Legislature

“In response to the increased number of immigrant raids and the use of more aggressive tactics by ICE agents, members of community groups talked about offering Know Your Rights presentations to their constituents.”
Greetings BWF friends and supporters:

Much has taken place since our last newsletter. The day after Trump’s inauguration, over 175,000 people converged on the Boston Common for Boston’s Women’s March for America. We gathered to send a message that turning back the clock on women’s rights was not an option, civil rights are non negotiable, immigrants and refugees are welcomed and Islamophobia is unacceptable.

For BWF grantees and their communities, the display of unity on that January day, albeit powerful, continued the work they had already engaged in as part of their ongoing struggle for social and economic justice. We have a lot to learn from their strategies of resistance.

In late April, BWF sat down with a group of grassroots organizations to hear more about their experiences during the first one hundred days of the current administration (page 1). In Grantee Updates you can read more about how BWF grantees have mitigated the impact of the quick and swift regulatory policy changes on their communities (page 6). This year, BWF continued to create opportunities for women and girls throughout Boston to come together:

• BWF is a lead partner in the creation and launch of the Boston Girls Empowerment Network (BGEN), a coalition of girl-serving organizations and agencies in the city of Boston. BGEN focuses on building the collective capacity, collaboration, and advocacy among member organizations.
• This past summer BWF and BGEN co-sponsored the Girls’ Leadership Initiative, a six-session workshop series that served 35 mostly low-income girls of color in Boston (page 4).
• In support of the Massachusetts Pay Equity Law going into effect in 2018, BWF hosted a Salary Negotiation workshop offered by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and attended by 50 women in Boston.

Internally, BWF board, staff and volunteers began extensive training and development. This fall we began our training on the historical roots of race and systemic racism in the United States. Donna Bivens, former Project Director of the Boston Busing/Desegregation Project, and Paul Marcus, former Executive Director of Community Change Inc. led us, beginning a series of workshops. BWF plans to offer a similar workshop to our supporters.

Next year:
• BWF will host a grant cycle and convene an Allocations Committee to award up to $50,000 in grants to local grassroots organizations led by- and serving women and girls.
• Provide technical assistance and professional development training to our grantees, and BGEN member organizations through BWF’s Organizing Institute.
• Co-produce Giving Boston, the first in-depth cross-racial and gender research report on women donor attitudes and behaviors in the Boston metropolitan area in partnership with New England Blacks in Philanthropy, the Latino Legacy Fund, Hispanics in Philanthropy and Asian American/Pacific Islanders.

Finally, we remember with sadness the BWF supporters who passed away this year. Among them were Renae Gray, M.K. Merelice and Barbara Pontecorvo. Renae Gray was a cofounder, board member and Executive Director at the Boston Women’s Fund. Her dedicated legacy and those of other supporters live on through the work of BWF to empower women and girls.

BWF is grateful to the women and girls on the frontlines of working for social and economic justice. Now more than ever, we need to stand together, support women and girls working to effect change for their communities and foster the development of the next generation of leaders.

Warmest Regards
Janet Santos
Executive Director
Virginia Meaney
Board Chair
In summer 2017, the Boston Women’s Fund (BWF) and the Boston Girls’ Empowerment Network (BGEN) co-sponsored the piloting of Owning My Voice, Speaking My Truth: An Introductory Workshop Series on Girls’ Empowerment & Advocacy through the lens of Media Literacy. The program was designed and delivered by TiElla Grimes, Adjunct Professor at Wheelock College who participated in BWF’s Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy program as a young woman. TiElla is also the founder of Immense Expressions Consulting.

The following is an excerpt of our online interview with TiElla about her experiences growing up in Boston, her time in the Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy program, and her inspiration for Owning My Voice, Speaking My Truth. In the interview below we refer to Owning My Voice, Speaking My Truth as the Girls Leadership Initiative.

You are from Boston, in what part of Boston did you grow up? What was it like? How would you describe being a girl in Boston back when you were an adolescent compared to nowadays?

I was born in Roxbury (South End) and raised in Dorchester. I honestly liked where I grew up and it’s still home for me today despite the negative perceptions held about my neighborhood. It is important for me to mention that the lens in which I view my girlhood is from the perspective first as a Black girl and secondly as a girl. Although race and gender are different lenses, the intersection of the two that has had an impact on my experience growing up.

As a Black girl growing up I have had my fair share of experiences that girls of a different background could relate to, and that have had an impact on my self-esteem and self-confidence. One of many moments that I have experienced involved being cat-called while walking down the street, judged for my appearance (I was overweight), and inappropriately touched while walking down the street and more. The stereotypical messages that girls receive around body image, self-esteem, relationships, etc. that I have heard when I was growing up is what girls are hearing today. What is different today is how they are receiving these messages. With advanced technology, such as the Internet and social media, this is changing the rate at which girls are receiving them and that is having a different impact on this generation of girls.

Tell us about the girls’ leadership program that you hosted this summer. Who were the girls? What was the focus of the curriculum?

The girls’ advocacy series featured 6 workshops focused on advocacy: self-advocacy, community advocacy, legislative advocacy and media literacy. The girls participated in a variety of activities and conversations about youth culture, media, the importance of values, the communities we live in, the power of speaking your truth and more. The series was conducted across 3 sites in the Boston area—the Perkins Community Center in Dorchester, the Condon Community Center in South Boston and the Freedom House in Dorchester. The girls were from diverse backgrounds—African-American, Latina, Mixed and White. The girls’ ages ranged from 11-17 years old.

What major lessons do you want the girls to take with them from the program?

What I want the girls to walk away from the program with is information and tools they can utilize to improve their sense of self; empower them to speak their truth; understand the importance of networking and building with others; the importance of deconstructing the media messages they engage with and remind them that there is power in being your authentic self. In addition, I want the girls to walk away with a renewed perspective of self-esteem, self-confidence and self-advocacy.

What are the top three misunderstandings we have about the girls you work with?

The top three misconceptions that come to mind:

The experience of girls of color: The narrative attributed to girls of color is usually negative and portrays them as a problem. This contributes to a lack of brave spaces that are conducive to creating agency for girls to express themselves and to feel heard.

What major lessons do you want the girls to take with them from the program?

What I want the girls to walk away from the program with is information and tools they can utilize to improve their sense of self; empower them to speak their truth; understand the importance of networking and building with others; the importance of deconstructing the media messages they engage with and remind them that there is power in being your authentic self. In addition, I want the girls to walk away with a renewed perspective of self-esteem, self-confidence and self-advocacy.
The devaluation of issues girls’ face and the impact that has on them holistically: Girls are dealing with issues of violence, lack of safety, depression, family concerns, anxiety, stress, peer relationships, peer pressure, bullying, cyber-bullying, homelessness, foster care, etc. These issues do have an impact on the social and emotional well being of girls.

The use of stereotypes and how they are used to tell stories: Not every girl’s story is going to be the same. There are factors that contribute to their socialization that varies based on their culture, race, ethnicity, class, environment, etc. and it is important to be aware of the assumptions we have when working with the girls. We have to be mindful of our own socialization process and the values and beliefs that we hold that may be different from the girls served.

What was it like being part of the Young Sisters program at BWF?

It was a sisterhood experience I never could have imagined. I was 20 when I joined, and I remember the excitement when I slid my application through the mail slot on the door. At that time I was looking for an opportunity to learn something new. I didn’t know anything about philanthropy other than assuming giving money to charities was the only form of philanthropy. Through the program I learned that I had always been a philanthropist; I used my talent and gave my time to causes I had believed in. Meeting the other young sisters and the relationships that we built with each other is something I have valued and carry with me since the program.

I still keep in touch with many of the young women from Young Sisters including Melissa Cariño, former Program Coordinator of Young Sisters. We are connected via social media as well as once in a while we still hold a Sister Session where we all come together for dinner and build.

What three lessons, memories or experiences remain with you from the Young Sisters Program? Do you still keep in touch with other former young sisters?

The first retreat we had will always be dear to me. It was the first time all of us came together to build our team. On our first night there was a conflict and I remember feeling like “oh no, this will not be a good vibe moving forward” but then that same night we resolved it amongst each other. From that night forward, our bond became stronger and tighter like real sisters.

One lesson that I learned that I always carry with me is the four T’s of philanthropy: time, talent, treasure and tradition. I felt I could never be a philanthropist because I didn’t have money. When I learned about the four T’s, I instantly thought, “I’ve always been giving back through time and talent. I’m a philanthropist.” That moment felt really good.

One experience I will always appreciate is traveling to Chicago for a planning committee meeting for the 2007 Women’s Funding Network Annual Conference: Make Grants to Change the World taking place in Seattle, WA. I was a part of the young women’s planning team for the conference alongside Amy Lee and Hannah Brown (both young sisters). I will always remember the night out on the town we had. We walked around and took pictures. The night was filled with moments of laughter, sightseeing and bonding. I truly enjoyed being a tourist.

(continued on page 9)
Updates From Our Grantee Partners

Association of Haitian Women’s Organization (AFAB-KAFANM)
The Association of Haitian Women in Boston (AFAB-KAFANM) works on youth and women’s leadership development. AFAB has been actively working to help its community members to organize against the threat of having their Temporary Protective Status (TPS) revoked. TPS was granted to Haitian immigrants coming to the U.S. following the earthquake in Haiti in January 2010. Currently, 58,000 Haitians living in the U.S. have TPS; with an estimated 16,000 of them residing in Massachusetts.

In 2017, Homeland Security extended TPS status to Haitian immigrants through January 22, 2018. The Haitian government has also requested that the U.S. government extend TPS for another 18 months, citing the catastrophic natural disasters taking place in Haiti during the interim 7 years have exacerbated conditions on the ground.

Boston Tenant Coalition
The Boston Tenants Coalition (BTC) spent a large part of 2017 guiding and preparing tenants from the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) to be active participants in Boston’s fair housing assessment hearing and planning process. Under the Fair Housing Act of 2015, cities and municipalities receiving funds from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are required to fight racial housing segregation by ascertaining discriminatory housing patterns and coming up with a plan for corrective action.

BTC also partnered with Homes for Families, a past BWF grantee, to design a housing survey. BHA would eventually distribute it to all tenants and collect responses from 2500 tenants. Survey feedback along with tenant testimonies will form the basis of the city’s official findings that will guide Boston’s housing plans for the next five years.

Throughout the year, BTC also continued to provide leadership development to the Franklin Field Tenant Task Force in Dorchester, while taking steps to organize tenants and create task forces in other neighborhoods across the city.

The Brazilian Women’s Group
The Brazilian Women’s Group (BWG) has taken a lead in supporting community members during this period of uncertainty. It has provided four Know Your Rights clinics to inform our community members that they have rights despite the government’s continuous attempt to criminalize immigration. BWG worked with community members to ensure they have an emergency plan in place for their families, in the event that a relative is detained and deported. Moreover, BWG hosted discussions for women on mental health, not exclusively focused on depression but overall wellness strategies such as yoga, to cope with this difficult political environment.

Monthly, the Brazilian Women’s Group hosts lawyers who assist community members on matters of immigration, detention, and worker’s compensation. BWG also keeps its constituents well informed through a local community newspaper column, hosting a weekly call-in show on Saturday mornings, as well as, being regular guests on a radio program on-air on Mondays and Thursdays.
The City School
In response to the current political climate, The City School created additional workshops to educate and train students about immigrant rights and anti-Muslim rhetoric. A seminar on immigration was incorporated into The City School’s Summer Leadership Program. Students participating in this seminar also engaged in Community Action Projects. Additionally, The City School entered into an agreement with Boston Mobilization to expand its reach to young women in the surrounding communities of greater Boston.

Women Encouraging Empowerment
In response to core constituents and members experiencing heightened fear and increased incidences of harassment, discrimination and threats of persecution, Women Encouraging Empowerment (WEE) established the Revere Immigrant Solidarity Network (RISN) in March 2017. RISN is an immigrant-led coalition that counts on U.S.-born residents to stand in solidarity with immigrant neighbors, and to support our collective response(s) to potential raids, detentions, deportations and any other actions that increase the risk of violence and hate.

Aside from responding to the crisis of the moment, RISN creates opportunities for WEE to build a strong local base for future organizing efforts. RISN has begun to develop a rapid response team: all our members have received training on digital security, and some members were trained to be dispatchers for a soon-to-be operational statewide rapid response hotline. WEE intends to continue taking a visible stand as immigrants (recent or not) and allies working in solidarity to build a community of inclusion and equality.

She Rise Up @ Beantown Society
She Rise Up (SRU) @ Beantown Society works with young women of color experiencing violence and gentrification in their neighborhoods. Young women at SRU continued to lead workshops and discussions for girls at the Curley Middle School on topics such as relationships, gender stereotypes, sexuality, school, and future plans. She Rise Up also held “Don’t Wait ’Till We’re Dead,” its annual talent show, and hosted the youth stage at the Wake Up The Earth festival in May, to name a few milestones.

SRU was not immune to the challenges created by the current political climate. Program leaders reported having to pause to create space for the girls to check-in about how the federal executive orders were affecting them, their family and their respective communities. She Rise Up also took the moment to teach its young girls how elections work, both locally and nationally, and the implications of Executive Orders.

“Young women at SRU continued to lead workshops and discussions for girls at the Curley Middle School on topics such as relationships, gender stereotypes, sexuality, school, and future plans.”
Conversation with Donor-Activist Emily Nielsen Jones

Recently, the Chair of the BWF Development Committee, Jule Parkman Meyer, conversed with Emily Nielsen Jones, an avid supporter and ardent donor of the Boston Women’s Fund. The following is an excerpt from their conversation.

Emily Nielsen Jones is co-founder and president of Imago Dei Fund, that promotes human equality, justice, and peace around the world.

Jule Parkman Meyer (JPM): How would you describe the central driver of your philanthropy?

Emily Nielsen Jones (ENJ): I would say that from a young age I have had a strong inborn sense of fairness that has been a thread throughout my life journey, which continues to flair up today as I try to make sense of the massive and severe inequities which create so many divisions and needless wounds in our world.

I feel acutely that philanthropy itself is laden with contradictions that are enabled by unjust and excessive accumulation of capital. But we all just have to dig deep and wrestle with what is ours to do and not follow the American conventions which idealize an ethic of hoarding that is not healthy for our individual and collective wellbeing.

As we began ramping up our philanthropy and doing it in a more intentional and global way, it didn’t take long to see that gender injustice is a root oppression undergirding so many problems in society.

In a short period of time, I came face-to-face with the harshness and severity of universal patriarchal gender norms and felt a big “kick in the butt” to do my part to support indigenous women’s movements around the world, however I could.

JPM: What is it about BWF that got you giving and keeps you excited about our work?

ENJ: I had seen the power of supporting inspired and motivated women around the world to lead the change in their communities. I wanted to learn more about the women’s movement here in Boston and knew most cities have a local women’s fund, so I went online and did some research and reached out to your executive director. I was drawn to your mission of partnering with women-led organizations that empower girls and women to change systemic oppressions around the world however I could.

JPM: What advice do you have for people who want to invest in women and girls? And any other bon mots, words of wisdom and accolades you feel moved to share?

ENJ: I guess I would say dive in with your heart open, in a way which enables you to feel the injustices of our world, so that your philanthropy does not feel like “charity” but more like activism, like you are just doing your part in a movement that you are part of. Look for friends and allies on the journey whom you can learn from and who spark something inside you to stretch and do more than you thought you could do and who mirror back what is uniquely yours to do.

“I was drawn to your mission of partnering with women-led organizations that empower girls and women to change systemic oppressions.”
You are currently leading the girls leadership program? How does the Young Sisters program impact your work with girls nowadays?

The space that was built for us (young sisters) to collaborate, learn, create and thrive is the space that I strive to create for the girls and young women that I have served over the last 10 years. It is important to create a brave space that allows the girls to take ownership of the conversations as experts of their experience. I want the girls to build a sense of community with other girls and engage in activities that build their critical thinking skills, advocacy skills and knowledge. What I carry most from the program is the relationships that were built and the projects that we lead as leaders, creators, event planners, presenters and artists. I love to pay it forward to young women and creating opportunities where they can too.

You presently teach courses at Wheelock College, and also work with adolescent girls through the BGEN/BWF’s leadership program. When did you know that you wanted to work with young people, but specifically, girls?

My mentor Susan X Jane has had a major influence on my decision to work with young people. When I was 15 years old, I was a part of a former media literacy program, Youth Voice Collaborative (YVC) at the YWCA Boston, working as a peer leader. The support I received and the space that was created for me to express myself, I could never forget. That was the first program I have ever joined as a youth and has had an influence on the career decisions I have made.

In YVC, I found my voice, discovered my talents and learned how to use them to engage with others. I have always sought to help youth tap into their greatness. After I graduated from college, I had the opportunity to give back to YVC by working as a Programs Associate under the leadership of Susan. During that time, I had the opportunity to assist with a conference, Girls Get Real, and it was then that I knew I wanted to learn how to do more events like that for girls. Through networking and collaborations, I went on from the YWCA to obtain a job as the Program Director of the Build Her Up program, a girls’ health and leadership program under the Institute for Global Youth Development Programs. From there on the rest is herstory.

“The space that was built for us (young sisters) to collaborate, learn, create and thrive is the space that I strive to create for the girls and young women that I have served over the last 10 years.”
is working to pass An Act Relative to Advancing Contraception Coverage and Economic Security. The bill would require all Massachusetts insurers to continue to include contraceptive coverage at no out-of-pocket cost to women.

“We know that this 100 days is just a continuation of a lot of the different injustices that have been perpetrated against marginalized communities since the inception of this country.”

Of grave concern among all organizations has been the Trump Administration providing a national platform for white nationalist ideology. This has also begun to take hold in Massachusetts. A participant in the group interview mentioned how, “In Revere, the city that I live in, councilors have become more vocal and honest concerning how they feel about immigrants and the changing demographics. A counselor in the City of Revere, felt comfortable enough to publicly remark how immigrants ‘multiply like cockroaches.’”

Following President Trump’s response to the tragic events in Charlottesville, white supremacists were further emboldened, nationally and locally. In August, the Boston Common was the location of a “free speech” march led by local white supremacist groups. The demonstration was dwarfed by a counter protest of more than 40,000 people who had made their way to the Common on that warm Saturday afternoon. Before the year is over, the Boston Common will be the location of a second “free speech” white nationalist rally.

As was pointed out during the group interview with WBUR, “We know that these 100 days is just a continuation of the different injustices that have been perpetrated against marginalized communities since the inception of this country.”

However, many organizations report that the exhaustive and rapid fire pace of the administration’s political maneuverings has altered our shared sense of time. “Has it only been a hundred days?” many reiterated. Still, exhaustion has never been an option for women and girls fighting for social and economic justice. Monique Nguyen of Matahari, a past BWF grantee, reminisced about being a part of a march organized by the National Domestic Workers Alliance to amplify the voices of people impacted by immigration and abusive labor practices. “What really kept us all going and encouraging each other is to chant, “¿Cansadas? (Are you tired?).” The response to the call was a unison response of “¿Qué es eso? (‘What is that?’) “Are you tired? (‘What is that?’).”

They kept repeating this chant over and over. This is how a group of women and girls ranging from age 8 to 75 managed to walk 100 miles from a detention center in Philadelphia, PA to Washington DC. “And we did that with joy,” Monique continued to share “with hope for our families and inspiration. We are going to keep going so Trump better watch out.”
Announcements

Share your thoughts with BWF
Thank you so much for your continued involvement with the Boston Women’s Fund! In order to best serve your needs, we’d love to get a sense for how you would like to stay up to date with the Boston Women’s Fund’s initiatives and events.

Please take the 5-minute survey and you’ll be automatically entered into a drawing to win a $50 gift card!

Support Community Works
The Boston Women’s Fund (BWF) is one of 30 member organizations of Community Works, the only network in Massachusetts working to collectively fundraise through payroll deduction campaigns to support social justice organizing.

Many campaigns are currently underway. Please help spread the word to your colleagues and friends at the following workplaces: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employee Charitable Campaign (COMECC), Brandeis University, Eastern Bank, Harvard University, Emerson College, Lesley University, Tufts Health Plan, and Tufts University. Please take one minute to make a difference for social justice in your community!

(continued on page 12)

“...with hope for our families and inspiration. We are going to keep going so Trump better watch out.”

Our Mission

The Boston Women’s Fund is a progressive foundation that supports community based organizations and grassroots initiatives run by women and girls in order to create a society based on racial, economic, and social justice.

Board of Director
Virginia Meany, Chair
Chi Bahk, Clerk
Sarah Argeropoulos, Director
Jule Parkman Meyer, Director
Antonia Roberts, Director
Sabine Saint-Lot, Director
Katherine Symmonds, Director
Claudia Thompson, Director

Volunteers
Laura Duerksen
Colleen Kelly
Crystal Morrow
Abigail “Abby” Moses
Sam Ngo
Deborah Plunkett

Staff
Beatrice Greene, Administrative Assistant
Janet Santos, Executive Director

Newsletter Contributors
TiElla Grimes, Writer
Jule Parkman Meyer, Writer
Virginia Meany, Writer
Janet Santos, Writer
Katherine Symmonds, Writer
Mary Jane Medved, Designer

Acknowledgements
The Boston Women’s Fund would like to thank Jane Bowers, Julie Crockford, Gay Harter, Emily Nielsen Jones and Susan Ostrander for their advice and support.
Support BWF in a Matching Challenge Grant of Up to $20K
An anonymous donor has come forward to offer a matching challenge grant of up to $20K by the end of the year. Money raised will go towards our grant cycle in Spring 2018. Donate now and double the impact of your gift and enable the Fund to receive the full $20,000 grant award.

This Giving Tuesday on November 28th, 2017, Support BWF
On #GivingTuesday, Facebook and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will be matching up to $2 million of funds raised for US nonprofits through Facebook’s charitable giving tools.

Please double the impact of your gift and help BWF make the most of this amazing fundraising opportunity by donating to BWF on November 28th beginning at 8AM EST. Donations can be matched up to $50,000 per nonprofit, with a max of $1,000 per fundraiser or donate button, until the $2 million in matching funds run out.

Additionally, Facebook is waiving all fees for donations to nonprofits on #GivingTuesday.

Join Us @ the Boston Women’s Fund’s Holiday Open House
14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108
4pm to 7:30pm, December 14th, 2017
Come hear from our grantees, greet board and staff and meet other Boston Women’s Fund supporters and friends. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

RSVPs appreciated, but last minute drop-ins welcome! RSVP at admin@bostonwomensfund.org or at 617-725-0035