

Girl Scouts of Western Washington

\$100,000 in 2008

20^{for}20

stories years

Building On 20 Years
Our Foundation is strong because of you!



In 2008, Girls Scouts of Western Washington (GSWW) received a \$100,000 Pooled Fund Grant in support of their *Fostering a Future* program **to help girls in foster care gain confidence and build skills to meet the unique challenges they face.** *Fostering a Future* successfully served nearly 70 girls over the 3-year grant period and allowed GSWW to learn a great deal about how best to engage girls in high-needs, underserved populations. As a result, GSWW refocused and strengthened its efforts to serve girls in foster care alongside (instead of separated from) other girls in underserved, low-income communities.

GSWW now serves more than 1,000 girls – including girls in foster care – in King, Pierce and Snohomish County communities where a majority of students live in poverty, struggle academically and have limited access to expanded learning opportunities. Implementing an extensive, organization-wide diversity and equity initiative and expanding their financial assistance program have allowed more girls access to GSWW's programs.

GSWW says, "WWF's generous Pooled Fund Grant Award provided us with the support we needed to learn from our experience and hone our program to successfully reach more girls in high-needs populations and **help empower them to unleash their potential, build their futures and transform their world!**"



Grace Chien WWF Board and member since 2009, Retired CEO of GSWW

As a CEO of GSWW, Grace appreciated WWF's "thoughtful and exceptional" grant making process firsthand. Immediately after joining WWF, Grace had limited time to take advantage of WWF's programs, but she says, **"I believed wholeheartedly in WWF's mission and wanted to be a part of this movement."** Now in retirement, Grace enjoys being involved on grant making committees. "I have had the pleasure to learn and work with women from diverse backgrounds and areas of interest towards the common goal of making our community a better place."

Kris Shanafelt WWF member since 2007

After living in California for 40 years, Kris returned to Seattle and joined WWF in order to "focus on the most immediate needs of our community." In 2006, Kris joined GSWW as a lifetime member and volunteered with a local troop, not realizing the close connection WWF and GSWW would share. When asked why she continues to support WWF, Kris says, "WWF offers a feeling that through our combined efforts, change for the better will prevail for so many in need. Our work is not yet finished! **WWF continues to give me hope that we can make the our world a better place.**"

Catherine Gelband WWF member since 2013, Board President of GSWW

Catherine joined WWF after seeing the collective giving model in action at GSWW. "WWF's process inspired Grace Chien and me to work with older Girl Scouts who pooled their cookie money and made a grant together. It was my first experience with the collective giving model." Participating in the WWF grant process herself was a powerful experience. Catherine says, "The site visits especially influenced my philanthropy - I am more likely to visit the organizations I support. **I can't over-emphasize the impact of working with such a talented and engaged group of women.** Like so many members, I have a pretty jam packed schedule and I never begrudge my time at WWF."

Patti Meyers WWF member since 2007, Former Board President of GSWW

Prior to joining WWF, Patti focused her philanthropy and leadership on youth development. She says, **"WWF introduced me to and increased my awareness of the many other areas of need in our region."** Additionally, she credits WWF with making her a more effective philanthropist. "My participation taught me how to evaluate nonprofit organizations, and I was constantly struck by the dedication, knowledge and passion of the women around the table. **The benefits of a group of women pooling their resources to leverage their impact and create positive, long-term change in so many diverse areas of our community is why I continue to support WWF.**"