



Preview

Something Ventured

*An Innovative Model
in Philanthropy*

WASHINGTON WOMEN'S



FOUNDATION



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Washington Women's Foundation

A New Community Asset

Women are joining to combine resources to address philanthropic needs of the community. In just six years, WWF has tripled membership and generated nearly 3 million dollars for grant-making.

Building A Powerful Association of Community Investors

The mission is thriving. The Washington Women's Foundation is committed to educate and expand the pool of women in philanthropy, to build and strengthen community through individual and pooled investments, and to demonstrate the impact that can result from informed focused grant-making. In just six years, WWF has tripled membership and generated nearly 3 million dollars for grant-making. A broad base of informed philanthropists is growing and effecting change by making large-impact grants. The Washington Women's Foundation introduces a pool of new money and a more-informed donor base to create a powerful association of community investors to address the emergent issues of our time.

Now more than ever, our communities are tapping private investors to support organizations sponsoring the arts, education, environment, health care and social services. Needs are ongoing and expensive. Numbered are the days and limited is the effectiveness of penny drives and bake sales. The Washington Women's Foundation has designed a new model in philanthropy that provides members the opportunity and the tools to participate in large-impact grant-making.

“We approach this work not simply as volunteers helping to carry out an existing plan but as leaders, enabling projects which might

Expanding the pool of women in philanthropy

otherwise not be possible,” said Rhoda Altom, a founding board member.

The foundation achieves a greater level of impact by drawing on the aggregated financial and collective informational resources of members. These resources allow the foundation the ability to anticipate and respond to community needs with strategic placement of funds.

Purpose

- Provide education and tools to support and encourage women’s interest in participating in philanthropy.
- Demonstrate the impact of large-scale, focused grant-making.
- Inspire women to become leaders in philanthropy.

The Washington Women’s Foundation is throwing the doors wide open on what has been traditionally thought of as women’s issues. The foundation does not limit grant-making to women and girls as beneficiaries. Instead, it looks for critical need, bold new ventures and innovative approaches to solving age-old problems affecting men, women and families.

In the WWF we say, “We may not all individually be wealthy women, but we hold great wealth in common.” The pooled fund makes it possible for a \$2,000 contribution to have a \$1,000,000 impact. All WWF members become major donors.

“Deep pockets or not, women have the power to effect change. Big-ticket philanthropy isn’t just for the charity ball crowd anymore. Women’s foundations across the country are pooling funds from early- and mid-career women, allowing them to donate small amounts and collectively make a big difference. Instead of writing five- or six-figure checks to establish charitable funds, young women ante up from \$50 to \$2,000 for these group funds and get an early start on altruism.”

—EILENE ZIMMERMAN
WORKING WOMAN JUNE 2001