

# Program Department 2005 Year End Report

THE WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION  
OF COLORADO

*Give the money*  
to spread the knowledge  
*to power the change*  
to alter the future  
*for women and girls*  
in Colorado.

## FLEX FUND

### Direct Service Support through the WFCO Flexible Fund

Through its **Flex Fund**, the WFCO continued to grant funds to organizations throughout the state that are addressing various aspects of economic self-sufficiency, either by providing direct services or through systems change efforts for both women and girls. The WFCO worked closely with local community foundations and steering committees to ensure that it continually evaluated the work of local not-for-profit organizations and selected the most capable.

#### 2005 Flex Fund Grantees

Amount	Organization	Location
\$5,000	STRIDE	Denver Metro
\$5,000	Boys and Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley	San Luis Valley
\$5,000	Urban Science and Technology for All	Denver
\$5,000	The Denver Indian Family Resource Center	Denver
\$5,000	Girl Scouts of Chipeta Council	Grand Junction
\$2,500	Yampa Valley Community Foundation—Girls to Women Steamboat	Steamboat Springs
\$2,500	Yampa Valley Community Foundation—Girls to Women Craig	Craig
\$5,000	Women's Resource Center in Colorado Springs	Colorado Springs
\$1,500	The Red Cross	The Red Cross
\$1,500	The Ms. Foundation	The Ms Foundation
\$2,500	The Aspen Women to Girls Program	Aspen
\$5,000	Women's Resource Agency in Durango	Durango
\$5,000	STRIDE Phase 2	Denver Metro
\$4,730	The Inn Between	Boulder
\$10,000	Project Self-Sufficiency Mental Health	Ft. Collins/ Loveland
\$5,000	Boys and Girls Club in Pueblo	Pueblo
<b>\$65,230</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

#### *Project Spotlight:*

#### *Project Self-Sufficiency of Loveland and Ft. Collins*

The mission of Project Self-Sufficiency (PS-S) is to assist low-income, single parents in their efforts to build and maintain strong, healthy families; achieve economic independence; and become free from community and government assistance.

When Deana came to Project Self-Sufficiency (PS-S), she was a single parent struggling to support her children. She worked closely with her PS-S advisor to set career and personal goals. Deana worked very hard to continue her education, resolve family problems, and remove barriers to self-sufficiency. She lived with nineteen other single-parent families at the Willow Place Apartment Complex in Loveland. The Willow Place families support one another as they move toward their career goals and raise their children.

Deana is now a graduate of Project Self-Sufficiency with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a position as a Human Resource Manager with a large retail company in Northern Colorado. She is a homeowner in Kersey, Colorado. Daughter Brittiney is 15 and active in many high school activities. Son Christopher is 14, a computer wiz, basketball player, and enjoys playing the drums.

*Written by Mary Carraher, Executive Director of Project Self-Sufficiency Loveland and Ft. Collins.*

## **TARGETED FUND      Public Policy Reform and Advocacy for Women and Girls through The WFCO Targeted Fund**

Through our **Targeted Fund**, we will identify a target area of focus for the majority of our grant funds for multi-year efforts. This allows us to maximize our impact in a specific area with multiple grantee partners focused upon the same issue. For 2005 to 2008, and potentially beyond, we have chosen to focus on **economic public policy reform**, as we believe that changes in public policy will have the greatest positive impact in assisting women in their efforts to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

To achieve this, The WFCO convened a group of 12 nonprofit agencies in a collaborative effort to create a statewide, coordinated strategy for economic public policy reform. The result of this was the formation of the Women and Family Action Network (Women's FAN). In 2006, this group will determine and achieve measurable outcomes through tactics funded in part by The Women's Foundation of Colorado.

The following groups are participating in the Women's FAN:

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Organization</b>
\$3,000	Project Self-Sufficiency
\$3,000	Colorado Women's Agenda
\$3,000	Latina Initiative
\$3,000	Project Wise
\$3,000	Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute / Colorado Center on Law and Policy
\$3,000	9to5 Colorado
\$3,000	The Bell Policy Center

\$3,000	Girls Inc of Metro Denver / Colorado Coalition for Girls (dual representation)
\$3,000	Denver Women's Commission / Women's Lobby (dual representation)
\$3,000	Women's Resource Agency
\$3,000	Rural Communities Resource Center
	STRIDE
<b>\$33,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

Each member of the Women's FAN was given a \$3,000 stipend to help defer travel and staff costs over the course of six-months.

As a fundamental part of The WFCO's work, a portion of our funding is dedicated to advocacy on behalf of the vulnerable girls and women in our state. The WFCO believes that changes in public policy will have the greatest positive impact in assisting women in their efforts to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, nine percent of women in the state of Colorado live under the poverty level. These rates of poverty probably understate the degree of hardship among women. Although the poverty line is the federal standard of hardship in the United States, some researchers have begun to use alternative measures of hardship and economic well-being, including basic family budgets or living wage standards.

In addition to supporting Women's FAN activities, the WFCO used the Targeted Fund to support other Colorado-based nonprofit work. The following is a list of grants made through the Targeted Fund:

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
\$25,000	The Bell Policy Center	General Operating Support
	Project Wise (*Funded under Ruth Ray Hunt DAF)	Women's Community Organizing Project
\$5,000	CANPO	Referenda C and D Training
\$25,000	9to5 Agency	General Operating Support
\$10,000	Colorado Center on Law and Policy	The Calculator Project
\$10,000	Latina Initiative	General Operating Support
\$16,500	The White House Project (* Partially funded under the Ruth Ray Hunt DAF)	Go, Run and Vote
\$20,000	The Colorado Women's Agenda	General Operating Support
\$25,000	The Colorado Center on Law and Policy	Demographic Study
<b>\$143,500</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

### **Project Spotlight: Colorado Center on Law and Policy**

Founded in 1998, The Colorado Center on Law and Policy is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that advocates on behalf of the poor, working poor and other vulnerable populations. Its mission is to promote justice and economic security for lower income Coloradans through legislative, administrative and legal advocacy, and to provide the critical advocacy formerly provided by federally-funded legal

services programs.

One advocacy issue that the CCLP works on is the Self-Sufficiency Standard. Although the Federal Poverty Measure (FPM) is the most common and widely used measure of economic distress, it is not necessarily the most realistic, accurate measurement of what a working person or family needs to earn in order to be self-sufficient; *i.e.*, to meet their most basic needs without any public or private assistance or supports. The Standard is a more accurate and realistic measurement of how much it takes to make ends meet in today's economic environment. It is based on the cost of all basic necessities, rather than just food, which is what the Federal Poverty Measure is based upon.

In 2004, the Self-Sufficiency Standard was published, funded in part, by the WFCO. In 2005, The WFCO funded the Demographic Study portion of the study that will calculate exactly how many women, men and children are living under these standards throughout the state of Colorado. The Demographic Study will be complete by August 2006.

## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

The WFCO has several Donor Advised Funds (DAF) in its endowment portfolio. Most Funds engage the donors to allocate their funding to projects of their interest. The following is a list of some of The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Donor Advised Funds:

### Beyond Our Borders DAF

**Objective:** To provide at least one grant annually to a national or international organization that either:

- Provides direct services to women and girls who have the least resources to enable them to participate fully in society, or
- Builds the strength and capacity of the organizations that directly serve women and girls, or
- Advocates on behalf of the well being of women and girls.

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
\$5,000	Friendship Bridge	Trust Bank for Loans for Women
\$5,000	Urgent Action Fund	General Operating Support
\$5,000	The Feminist Majority	General Operating Support
\$5,000	Arghand Organization	Micro enterprise work
\$5,000	Goodrich Memorial Foundation	School Furniture
<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

## Fund for Women’s Entrepreneurship DAF

**Objective:** To provide support to Colorado-based nonprofit organizations investing time and support to micro enterprise and micro credit programs to women and girls.

Amount	Organization	Purpose
\$16,000	Micro Business Development Corporation	Women’s Lending Pool
<b>\$16,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

## Ruth Ray Hunt DAF, as directed by Lillian Hunt

**Objective:** To provide support to Colorado-based nonprofit organizations that support programming for women and girls in the fields of advocacy, social justice and self-esteem.

Amount	Organization	Purpose
\$4,000	Single Mothers of Color	Financial Planning Workshops
\$5,000	CWEE	Education
\$5,000	Response Women’s Shelter	Training
\$5,000	Project Self-Sufficiency	General Operating Support
\$5,000	Vail Valley Youth Foundation—Into the Wilderness	Self Esteem Workshops for Girls
\$3,500	The White House Project (* Under Public Policy Reform)	General Operating Support
\$12,500	Project Wise (* Under Public Policy Reform)	General Operating Support
<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	

## THE RUTH RAY HUNT FAITH, FEMINISM AND PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM

*In Honor of Mrs. H.L. (Ruth Ray) Hunt through a grant from The Ruth Ray Hunt Memorial III Fund and The Ruth Ray Hunt Memorial IV Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas, and the Dallas Women’s Foundation.*

**Objective:** Despite seemingly common goals between faith-based and non faith-based women’s organizations, there appears to be a disjunction between these two groups that, if remedied, could crossbreed and inspire very effective responses to the needs of women, their families and their communities. The underlying and long-term goals of **The Ruth Ray Hunt Faith, Feminism and Philanthropy Program** are to contribute to the empowerment of women at all levels of society and to continue improving the use of capital and human resources to address the needs of women. However, before the women’s funding movement and faith-based women’s efforts can be melded to common purpose, dialogues must be initiated in welcoming environments that give a “green light” to expanded collaborations

and to making such partnerships plausible and possible. The following is a list of project funding through **The Ruth Ray Hunt Faith, Feminism and Philanthropy Program:**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
\$17,500	Illiff School of Theology	Lecture Series
\$31,407	Warren Village	Giving Circle Grants
<b>\$48,907</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	



Women of the Giving Circle spent weeks reviewing, and assessing grant proposals from Warren Village Staff. They used their personal experiences and history at Warren Village to determine where to direct their funds.



Giving Circle members used community change jar collections to raise a portion of their \$1,407 efforts.

### **Project Spotlight: The Warren Village Giving Circle**

The Warren Village Giving Circle was established through support from the Ruth Ray Hunt Faith, Feminism and Philanthropy Program. Residents and alumni of Warren Village formed a Giving Circle to identify, evaluate and recommend projects that enhanced the community of Warren Village. The Giving Circle is a philanthropic empowerment tool used to enable women residents to become more aware of and informed about the role of philanthropy in the provision of services to Warren Village, Inc.

In 2005, Giving Circle participants learned the process of applying for and receiving grant funding from a grant maker. Giving Circle participants learned about the philanthropic needs at Warren Village, Inc. and how programs are funded each year. Giving Circle participants made a commitment to become donors themselves through community fundraising activities. They learned to use their confidence in the programs to foster new or increased support from others.

Giving Circle participants raised \$1,407 through community collection jars and individual fundraising efforts. These funds were leveraged by The Women's Foundation with \$30,000, making a total of \$31,407 for grants in support of good program work at Warren Village. Giving Circle members identified 17 projects for granting and will monitor and evaluate each project in 2006.

The WFCO is proud to have supported this unique program. Empowering women to act as philanthropist for programming they are passionate, knowledgeable and proud of, made this project a success.

## TOTAL GRANTS FOR 2005

### Total Grants for 2005

Amount	Fund
\$65,230	Flex Fund for Direct Service Organizations
\$33,000	Targeted Fund for Women's FAN Participation
\$143,500	Targeted Fund for Economic Public Policy Reform Grants
\$25,000	Beyond Our Borders International DAF
\$16,000	Fund for Women's Entrepreneurship Micro Credit DAF
\$40,000	Ruth Ray Hunt DAF directed by Lillian Hunt
\$4,050	Roaring Forks Giving Circle
\$48,907	Ruth Ray Hunt Faith, Feminism and Philanthropy Grant
\$13,400	Staff Discretionary Fund
\$750	Miscellaneous Grants and Support
<b>\$389,837</b>	<b>TOTAL Grants for 2005</b>