

Program Department 2006 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.

2006 Flex Fund Grantees

\$5,000	Work Options for Women	Denver
\$5,000	Girls Scouts of Mountain Prairie Council	Fort Collins
\$5,000	Education and Life Training Center	Fort Collins
\$5,000	College Summit-Colorado	Denver
\$5,000	Women's Crisis and Family Outreach Center	Castle Rock
\$5,000	Girl Scouts of Chipeta Council	Grand Junction
\$2,500	YWCA of Boulder County	Boulder
\$5,000	Women's Resource Agency	Colorado Springs
\$5,000	African American Leadership Institute	Denver
\$2,500	Aspen Youth Center	Aspen
\$2,500	Women's Resource Center	Durango
\$2,500	Boys and Girls Club of Craig	Craig
\$5,000	Yampa Valley Community Foundation	Craig
\$5,000	Mi Casa	Denver
\$5,000	Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo	Pueblo
\$2,500	Urban Science and Technology For All	Denver
\$5,000	Response	Aspen
\$800	A Brand New Start School	Denver
\$73,300	TOTAL Flex Fund Grants	

Project Spotlight: Work Options For Women

In 1996, when welfare reform legislation was signed into law, mandating that welfare recipients acquire employment within 24 months or face being cut off from all assistance, the founder of Work Options for Women (WOW), Toni Schmid, recognized the effect it would have on women. From her 14 years of experience

meaningful employment that pays a livable wage, many would need substantial training and support. Inspired to create a unique service-learning project to fulfill this need, she partnered with Jane Berryman, a professional chef who had worked in some of Denver's best known restaurants. Together, they created a multi-faceted job-training and social services program to enable women to permanently leave the welfare rolls. Because the food service industry offers hard-working individuals without significant formal education an opportunity to progress up a career path and earn sustainable wages, it made sense to create this program to reach out to impoverished women and help to break the poverty cycle for generations to come.

Using office space and a commercial kitchen donated by the Archdiocese of Denver, Work Options for Women was born in 1997, with the mission to help low-income women gain the skills and confidence they need to work their way out of the cycle of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

Each year, WOW aims to help at least 30 women achieve freedom from welfare. Based on its success, WOW was offered a concessionaire contract with the city of Denver. In August 1999 the organization began operating the employee cafeteria at the Richard T. Castro Human Services Center and serves more than 300 customers daily, a tenfold increase over its operations at the Archdiocese.

TARGETED FUND

Public Policy Reform and Advocacy for Women and Girls through The WFCO Targeted Fund

Through our Targeted Fund, we 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.

The WFCO is convening 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 determined and achieved measurable outcomes through tactics funded, in part, by the WFCO.

Women's FAN Membership

Project Self-Sufficiency	Fort Collins - Loveland
Colorado Women's Agenda	Denver
Latina Initiative	Denver
Project Wise	Denver
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute / Colorado Center on Law and Policy	Denver
9 to 5 Colorado	Denver
The Bell Policy Center	Denver
Colorado Coalition for Girls	Denver
Women's Lobby	Denver
Women's Resource Agency	Colorado Springs
Rural Communities Resource Center	Akron and Yuma
Stride	Denver
The Women's Foundation of Colorado	Denver

2006 Public Policy Grants

	<u>Economic Public Policy Reform</u>
\$36,000	Women's FAN participation grants (stipends)
\$59,780	Women's FAN Grants for the Asset Test
\$35,200	Women's FAN Grants for the Cliff Effect Work
\$34,000	Columbia University contract
\$2,200	REFT for Training Assistance contract
\$10,000	REFT Coalition Evaluation
\$10,000	White House Project
\$15,000	Bell Policy Center
\$10,000	COFPI
\$5,000	The Colorado Coalition for Girls Strategic Planning Grant
\$5,000	Project Wise and the Women's Funding Network Grant
\$1,000	Latina Initiative's Serious Women, Serious Action Conference
\$223,180	TOTAL Public Policy Grants

Project Spotlight: SB 134 and The Cliff Effect

Senate Bill 134, The removal of the Asset Test on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families: *In 2006, Women’s FAN members partnered with the All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition (AFDC Coalition) to help pass SB 134. SB 134, sponsored by Senator Paula Sandoval and Representative Betty Boyd (now Senator Betty Boyd), raises the Temporary Assistance to Need Family (TANF) asset limit from \$2,000 to \$15,000 and excludes retirement, education and health savings accounts, among other savings vehicles, when it took effect in October of 2006.*

SB 134 encourages low-income families who can to save and create a small personal safety net for emergencies and the future. SB 134 will ensure that low-income families don’t forfeit prospects for long-term economic security because they need short-term, temporary assistance.

The Colorado Public Support “Cliff Effect” Research: *In 2006 and 2007, Women’s FAN members will collect stories and specific data surrounding the public supports “Cliff Effect”.*

In Colorado, as in other states, a full-time job at low wages is not enough to make ends meet. Federal and state “work supports” assist low-wage workers and their families with benefits such as earned income tax credits, child care subsidies, health care coverage, and food stamps. These benefits are means-tested, so as earnings increase—particularly as they rise above the official poverty level—families begin to lose eligibility even though they are not yet self-sufficient. The result is that parents can work and earn more without their families moving closer to financial security. The cause of this situation lies in the current structure of work support programs, including rapid “phase-out” rates, which lead to what is known as “cliff effects.”

WFCO also hired Columbia University to perform a statistical analysis of seven Colorado counties The counties where the research will focus are: Urban: Denver, El Paso, Pueblo, Mesa / Resort: Eagle / Rural: Alamosa and either Yuma or Morgan.

Along with Women’s FAN qualitative research work, this project will contribute to efforts to improve Colorado’s work support programs, ensuring that they effectively reward and encourage employment. Results from this research will provide concrete information about “cliff effects” in Colorado that result from the interaction of family earnings, expenses, and the benefits such as TANF, food stamps, child care supports and many more. . A professional trainer has been hired to assist FAN members with data collection and interview techniques.

WFCO will have a preliminary report on this research available in July 2007. Next steps may include educating local policy makers and voters to the “Cliff Effect” issue and creating public policy solutions to remedy the cliff.

**DONOR
ADVISED &**

The WFCO has several Donor Advised Funds (DAF) and Special Interests Funds (SIF) in its endowment portfolio. Most Funds engage the donors to allocate their

SPECIAL INTEREST FUNDS

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 Special Interest Fund

Objective: To provide grants to national or international organizations that either:

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

\$2,200	Seeking Common Ground
\$10,000	CARE Rwanda
\$5,600	Pathfinder International
\$2,200	The Centre for Development and Population Activities
\$5,000	Friendship Bridge
\$25,000	TOTAL Grants made in 2006

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.

\$18,000	Micro Business Development Corporation
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Swanee 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.

\$15,000	Yampa Valley Teen Parent Program
\$5,000	Project Wise
\$5,000	Downtown Visual Arts (DAVA)
\$5,000	The Pinon Project
\$5,000	Project Self Sufficiency
\$4,000	Single Mothers of Color
\$40,000	Total Grants

Influence of Denver XI Fund DAF

Objective: To provide support to Colorado-based nonprofit organizations that work in women and economic self sufficiency.

\$2,518	The Center for Work and Employment
\$2,518	Project Wise
\$2,518	Jeffco Action Center

\$7,554	Total Grants
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THE DOTTIE LAMM AWARD PROGRAM

Dottie Lamm was the WFCO’s first Board President and is a highly respected community leader in Colorado. In 1987, The Women’s Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) created the Dottie Lamm Award as an opportunity to engage young women in social service work, to honor their academic and community service efforts and to create future leaders in our community. This award honors Dottie Lamm’s commitment to women and girls issues throughout the State of Colorado by recognizing young women and the work they perform.

Objective: To identify two young women (statewide) that will serve as the Dottie Lamm Awardees. Each young woman received a \$1,500 academic award and a \$1,500 grant fund to allocate to a nonprofit organization that works for women and girls and economic self sufficiency. In 2006, the Dottie Lamm Awardees were Emily Rotbart and Jessica Starr. The following are two grants that the Awardees made as part of the program:

\$1,500	Girls Inc
\$1,500	Denver Indian Family Resource Center

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:

\$10,000	Street’s Hope
\$10,000	Crescent View Academy
\$12,500	Denver Urban Ministries
\$12,500	Samaritan Center of the Rockies
\$15,000	Project Wise
\$10,300	Wellspring Spiritual Retreats
\$7,200	Regis University
\$15,000	Warren Village
\$92,500	Total Grants

Project Spotlight: Wellspring Spiritual Retreats

Wellspring is a nonprofit organization founded in 2002 by Mary Hardy and Celeste Wood. Our mission is to provide safe, nurturing hospitality in which women experience rest, renewal, re-creation and rejuvenation of body, mind and spirit through creative spiritual process. We teach wilderness skills so women can enter into a comfortable relationship with God, Nature, self, and others. We honor women’s voices, experiences and the sacred feminine through inclusive worship and ritual as alternative to patriarchal tradition.

Wellspring Mountain presents retreats for adult women of all ages, cultural backgrounds and ethnicity to foster discovery of what God is calling us to be and do in the world as equals; to help women re-connect with God, with themselves, and with each other in a safe, nurturing, supportive environment; to empower women to rediscover their natural place within God’s Creation; and to equip women to grow, change and heal through creative activities such as writing, art, sacrament, music, sacred movement, spiritual direction and lots of fun and laughter.

**TOTAL GRANTS
FOR 2006**

Total Grants for 2006

Amount	Fund
\$ 73,300	Flex Fund for Direct Service Organizations
\$223,180	Targeted Fund for Economic Public Policy Reform Grants
\$ 6,000	Dottie Lamm Award
\$108,390	All Donor Advised and Special Interest Funds
\$ 92,500	Ruth Ray Hunt Faith, Feminism and Philanthropy Grant
\$ 13,665	Staff Discretionary Fund
\$ 19,000	Miscellaneous Grants and Support
\$536,035	TOTAL Grants for 2006

** Not all grant information in Total Grants for 2006 is listed individually.*