



FACT SHEET
November 14, 2006

WomenGive would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsor for this event:



What is WomenGive?

WomenGive is a partnership between the United Way of Larimer County and the Women's Foundation of Colorado. It is a leadership philanthropy membership group with the purpose of promoting philanthropy among women and to impacting the economic self-sufficiency of women and girls in Larimer County. The annual membership is a minimum of \$500. We encourage women and their daughters or granddaughters to become involved together.

What has WomenGive accomplished?

To this date WomenGive has raised money and pledges totaling \$58,500, and have registered 90 members! Our goal is to raise at least \$100,000 per year. WomenGive has formed an Advisory Council consisting of 20 women and hosted an inaugural membership luncheon in September, 2006. We have formed committees and are on track to begin implementing our program in January, 2007.

YOUR DONATION

Where does my money go?

Thirty percent of dollars raised will go to the Women's Foundation of Colorado to support changes in public policy that will eliminate barriers to self-sufficiency across the state, including Larimer County. Ten percent of our dollars will be held in reserve in case of additional needs or expenses for those we are serving. The remaining 40% will be used to assist mothers with childcare assistance and emergency expenses so they can continue to further their education.

What does The Women's Foundation do and why does 30% of my contribution go to their organization?

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is committed to the same goal as WomenGive: economic self-sufficiency for women and girls across Colorado. Here in Larimer County we can assist individuals to take the steps necessary to move toward self-sufficiency, and partner with local programs that also assist women and girls. We know there are some roadblocks to self-sufficiency that require policy changes at the state level. The Women's Foundation of Colorado is working through a statewide effort to begin to make change that will not only help women and girls in Larimer County, but also across Colorado. This is a critical piece of the pie to making a lasting difference for women and girls.

How much of my contribution goes to United Way of Larimer County for administration or overhead costs?

There will be no overhead taken out of the WomenGive dollars by the United Way of Larimer County. Their interest is ensuring that the initiative is successful and that we are able to make the most impact possible with the WomenGive dollars.

Does my contribution qualify for the State of Colorado Child Care Contribution 50% Tax Credit?

Unfortunately, not in our pilot year. We continue to research the feasibility of this. In the meantime please consult your tax accountant.

OUR PROJECT

What is the scope of the problem of poverty in Larimer County?

- 11.9% of all people in Larimer County live at or below the poverty level.
- 12.2% of all children in Larimer County live below the poverty level.
- 31.8% of all female single head of household families are at or below the poverty level.
(2005 Census data)

Why is WomenGive focusing on Education?

People living at the poverty level have a very large financial chasm to get to self-sufficiency. For example, for a family of 4, the difference between the poverty level and a self-sufficient income is \$27,911! Research has shown that education is the single most important way to increase earning power. For example,

- Female college graduates earn about 55% more than women who have not completed high school.
- Women with college degrees earn approximately \$1.1 million more over their lifetimes than high school dropouts.

By removing the barriers to education for single mothers and allowing them to receive the necessary credentials we will assist them in gaining employment which has the potential of a self-sufficient wage.

Why are we focusing on child care?

Multiple barriers exist for single mothers who would like to attend school. These barriers include a lack of affordable housing, problems with transportation, and a lack of emotional support systems. While there continue to be capacity issues, agencies, programs, or initiatives currently exist to address them. Through our research we learned that the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is not available to parents while they are in any training program other than a one-year certificate program. We also learned that there is very little other assistance to help parents ensure that their children are safe and well cared for while they attend school. Since no other agency or program is working on addressing this gap, the WomenGive committee elected child care as our initial focus area. We hope that in the future we will be able to fill other gaps as well.

Are there other elements to this program?

There are two additional aspects to our assistance to single mothers. First, we will provide a Financial Management/Life Skills component. This is a way to provide important skills that are essential to becoming and remaining self-sufficient. Second, we will provide to each selected participant a way to apply to a small emergency fund. This is in case other critical needs arise during their schooling that, if not addressed, could lead to abandoning their schooling.

Who is eligible for this emergency fund and how will they be chosen?

Access to the emergency fund will be limited to those women receiving child care assistance from WomenGive. A committee of WomenGive members will be formed to develop a selection process for participants. We intend to work with agencies that serve low-income single mothers to receive referrals for this assistance.

Who is eligible to receive this assistance?

We will seek low-income single mothers who would like to further their education by acquiring their GED, a certificate, or a 2-year degree. For our initial pilot we will seek students working through Front Range Community College. They will need to commit to earn a 2.5 or higher GPA and actively participate in the Financial Literacy/Life Skills part of the program. Their children must attend a 501©3 child care facility.

If they are taking classes other than at Front Range do they qualify?

For our initial pilot we are limiting our participants to Front Range Community College students. Our hope is to expand the eligible educational facilities as we move forward.

What happens after the first year of this program?

During the first year of this program our intention is to assist 5 or more mothers in advancing their education. Our goal is to increase the number of families that we can help. The number of families that we can impact is based upon the amount of donations that we receive. We will measure our success at the end of the first year and decide how we may need to change our project to best assist those in need. We will also explore any possibilities that exist to develop a larger solution for this issue that can help many families at once. We plan to address other barriers to education as we make a difference in providing child care.

Why not give my money directly to specific agencies?

Most of the agencies that were consulted agreed that the lack of child care assistance for parents who are students is a major reason for preventing their clients from moving forward. While agencies have capacity needs to address an increasing demand on their programs ALL agencies who work with low income parents see the need to find a way to provide this assistance. No agency currently has a program that provides this assistance.

GETTING INVOLVED

What are my opportunities for getting involved with WomenGive?

WomenGive currently has 4 committees that are seeking interested and active members. They are:

- **Events**—Plans each of our activities throughout the year. Chairwomen: Cecilia Everson 217-9788 cecilia.everson@mutualofomaha.com and Sheila Benshoof 377-6053 sbenshoof@thegroupinc.com
- **Membership**—Works to recruit new members from across the community. Chairwoman: Meg Brown 407-9000x201 mbrown@fbgpc.com
- **Marketing**—Works to get the word out about this unique program. Chairwoman: Paula Edwards 493-4240 paulaedw@comcast.net
- **Strategic Giving Task Force**—Works on the plan to develop and implement our child care assistance project. Chairwomen: Suzanne Jarboe-Simpson 224-6137 sjarboesimpson@fcgov.com and Lorna Reeves 493-4111 lreeves@cachebankandtrust.com

Other committees will be formed as we move forward. If you are interested in serving on a committee please contact Mary Robertson at mrobertson@uwaylc.org.

Are there opportunities for other levels of giving?

Membership in WomenGive is based upon a minimum of a \$500 annual donation, preferably in addition to what you are already giving to United Way or Women's Foundation of Colorado. Anyone is welcome to give at a higher level than \$500 and many of our current members have done so.

What are the annual events of WomenGive?

Our intention is to host 6 events each year:

- September Annual Membership Luncheon
- October Make a Difference Day volunteering project
- November Women's Foundation of Colorado Annual Luncheon
- February Social Event
- April Lunch and Learn (to learn more about self-sufficiency and our program)
- July Social Event