

THINKING BIG. LEADING CHANGE.

THE WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION
OF COLORADO

SPRING 2010



2010 PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM

7 Policies to Help Women and Girls

Each year, the WFCO Board of Trustees chooses to take a stand on certain legislative and public policy issues. As we strive to be the voice of Colorado's women and girls, we must speak on their behalf whenever possible, and work to make change where it can do the most good. Listed here are seven issues where we will focus our efforts in 2010. These include bills being presented to the state legislature, as well as public policy issues of ongoing concern. We believe that each of these issues and policies represent ways to create the most positive impact for the most women and girls across the state.

HB 1002: Earned Income Tax Credit—A Win!

The Foundation supported making the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) the first TABOR refund mechanism. It was signed by the Governor on April 5, 2010. The EITC is a federal tax credit that helps low-income working families help themselves. It rewards low- and moderate-income families for their hard work and helps them close the gap between what they earn and what they need to get by and get ahead. Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty found the EITC reduces poverty among young children by nearly 25 percent.

continued inside...

A VEHICLE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

By Laura Pape

2009 WFCO Girls Grantmaking Group member

It is rare to find a volunteer opportunity where you can impact lives both directly and indirectly, where you can foster change through a combination of money and action, and where your efforts are focused directly on women and girls. Yet it is just this that I found at The Women's Foundation of Colorado. After an application and interview process, I was able to join nine other girls from across the state in the Girls' Grantmaking Council. This group would eventually challenge my views and philosophy on the

continued inside...

Save the Date.

THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 4, 2010

The WFCO Denver Luncheon, featuring actress **Alfre Woodard**, Colorado Convention Center, Denver. Visit www.wfco.org for tickets/tables/sponsorships.

Presenting Sponsor: FirstBank

Critically acclaimed actress **Alfre Woodard** is known for the challenging roles she's portrayed in film and on television, winning Emmy Awards, a Golden Globe Award, Cable ACE Award, and a Screen Actors Guild Award. Last November, Woodard participated in a nationwide mentoring initiative, stopping in Denver to stress the importance of supporting young women on their path to success.

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Change the World

Continued from the cover...

needs of women within my own community as well as inspire a new perspective on how I could help.

The purpose of the Girls' Grantmaking Council is to educate girls from across Colorado about how The Foundation is targeting issues facing women and girls. The group hears about a variety of issues, as well as their role in fostering change. After this, the group researches organizations that specifically target the girls' dropout rate. After reviewing grant proposals, visiting each, and much debate, the group gives away \$20,000 to organizations they see as most effective in keeping young women in school. This experience was nothing if not humbling. After making our grants, one organization, Parent Pathways, struck me as deserving of even more help. Parent Pathways is a high school that serves girls who are pregnant, and encourages them to finish their education. I decided to use my position as President of the Key Club at my high school to share the mission of Parent Pathways with the over 160 members in the hope that they would be inspired to help as well.

Connections like this would not have happened without The Women's Foundation. In fact, so much of who I am I owe to The Women's Foundation. The ways to make a difference are as varied as the problems you can address, and my work at The Women's Foundation of Colorado gave me an incredible vehicle to change the world.

Laura Pape is one of our amazing Girls' Grantmaking participants. She recently placed second in the Violet Richardson Award Essay contest through the Fort Collins Soroptomist International organization. The contest required applicants to write about a volunteer opportunity that significantly impacted them. This column is an excerpt of Laura's essay about her experience with The Women's Foundation's Girls' Grantmaking Council. She won a \$200 donation to The Foundation for her essay.

7 Policies that will help women and girls

Continued from the cover...

HB 1035: Eligibility Determination for the CCCAP—A Win

This bill declares the need for consistent and stable child care. It extends the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) eligibility from 6 months to 12 months. We



supported this because 12-month consistent eligibility helps working family members retain their jobs and prepare for self-sufficiency. At press time, this bill was awaiting the Governor's signature.

SB 006: Reductions in Barriers to Obtaining Identity Related Documents

In many instances, citizens and legal residents need both a certified birth certificate and a valid state-issued ID card to obtain employment and access public benefits. The cost of obtaining these documents may present a substantial barrier to indigent and low-income people and their children. We supports this bill because increasing access to employment, insurance, health care and public benefits will help women and families on the path to self-sufficiency.

HB 1021: Requiring Coverage for Reproductive Services in Insurance Policies

Individuals with employer-sponsored or individually-purchased health insurance plans are not guaranteed coverage for essential reproductive health care needs. This bill would require all health insurance policies to provide coverage for maternity care and contraceptive counseling, drugs, and devices in the same manner as any other condition that is otherwise covered under the policy. The Foundation supports this

legislation because the majority of those who are affected by this reproductive health gap in insurance are low-income women. Unplanned pregnancies are linked to health hazards for both the mother and child as well as to posing greater challenges in reaching self-sufficiency.

HB 1351: Pay Day Lending Restrictions

Payday loans are small loans (\$500 or less) that are secured with a post-dated check from the borrower. Payday loans, as currently structured, trap borrowers in a cycle of debt that is difficult to escape. In 2007, the average borrower paid \$573 in fees (including a flat rate finance fee plus APRs averaging almost 350%) on an average loan of \$343. From 2001 through 2007 about six out of every ten payday loan borrowers were women. The Foundation supports legislating limits on Pay Day Lenders as they prey on vulnerable women in need of funds for family necessities.

HB 1397: Paid Sick Days—POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

Currently, 976,941 Colorado workers (43%), do not have a sick leave policy. This means workers are faced with losing much-needed income or putting their jobs at risk when needing a day off to care for themselves or a sick family member. The Foundation supported paid sick leave because often women are the primary caregivers in their families, and keeping a job plays a vital role in achieving economic self-sufficiency. This bill was "killed"—a loss for Colorado's women and girls.

Equal Pay Day 2010

The Foundation supported the 2010 Equal Pay Day held April 22, 2010. The specific day represents how far into the year a woman must work, on average, to earn as much as a man earned the previous year.

If you are interested in learning more about these issues and how they affect low-income women and girls, please sign-up for the Foundation's e-advocacy system through "The Voice" at www.wfco.org.

YOU CAN HELP TURN DREAMS INTO REALITY

Your support of The Women's Foundation is vital to helping Colorado's women and girls

By Deb Luginbuhl, P.E.P. Club Member



As a fresh-faced college graduate in 1981, I had my heart set on working in sports television, almost unheard of for women in the early '80s.

Title IX had recently been passed and was now making a difference in girls' sports programs around the country. But I had not been an athlete in high school. Instead, I had decided that more women could be part of the decision-making process in the sports television industry.

As the oldest of five girls, it is natural for me to gravitate towards issues pertaining to women and girls. I was lucky to be able to choose my own path in life. Not all women

and girls believe they have that right. The Women's Foundation of Colorado advocates on their behalf so that economic self-sufficiency is a reality and not just a dream.

In order for The WFCO to make systemic change there needs to be a sustainable cash flow for unrestricted use. Committing to the P.E.P. Club (Power of Extended Philanthropy) made sense to me as a donor so that The Foundation can support its operations, plan for the future and make a sustained difference in the lives of Colorado's women and girls.

Having recently worked for an educational nonprofit in the Vail Valley, I have learned firsthand how vitally important renewable funding is for a nonprofit to do the work of their mission.

Our Vail Valley has nearly 20 P.E.P. members, all whom understand the value of supporting The WFCO's operations so that the

small but effective staff can carry out the mission. Our steering committee has over 30 committed community members, some of whom are also P.E.P. members. It is an honor to work with women in a collaborative and supportive setting on behalf of Colorado's women and girls. It is the same feeling I have as a P.E.P. Club member—I know that my pledge commitment is valued and put to good use. I plan on renewing my commitment!

I did spend over twenty years in sports television, primarily working for ABC Sports and ESPN. As a 17-year old I knew that it was possible, and I believe this is the role of The WFCO—showing that dreams can become a reality for women and girls.

Investing in our Future

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO INVEST IN THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

So much has changed in three years! While the global economy suffered the most turmoil that many of us have seen in our lifetimes, The Women's Foundation of Colorado has been working diligently over the past three years to manage our endowed funds as carefully as possible. We have shifted our focus to reducing risk and increasing diversification while boosting measurable performance.

As a result of this effort, The Foundation now utilizes 14 investment managers in seven different asset classes. Synttrinsic Investment Counsel—a highly regarded money management team that works exclusively with substantial private foundations and nonprofit agencies—provides sound advice to WFCO's Investment Committee.

This new structure helped The Foundation weather the incredible market turbulence of 2008 and 2009. By being diversified and moving to a 40% weighting in global and domestic fixed income investments, the performance vs. the blended index has been excellent. The endowment grew 23.6% at the end of 2009, vs. the blended index which rose 18.4%. In short, we were able to capture great returns with much less risk. Today the endowment is well over \$15 million and growing.

The investment committee continues to monitor the portfolio on a regular basis, and has been quick to adapt to the rapidly changing market conditions.

The endowment mirrors the strong financial shape of The Foundation today. Over the last three years we've been able to grow

our staff and increase the number of grants awarded. In 2009 we granted over \$1,000,000 for the first time in our history.

When you invest in the work of The Foundation, you are making an investment that is well-managed and reviewed to yield the greatest return so we can in turn, invest in the women and girls of Colorado effectively. Your investment in us is critical to our success.

Fred Taylor

*Northstar Investment Advisors;
Chair of the WFCO Investment
Committee; WFCO Board of
Trustees member since 2008.*

Mark Your Calendar



Pueblo: Fill The Purse Dinner Party

- **Sunday, July 18, 5:00 p.m.**
- **1521 Restaurant, 123 N Main St, Pueblo**

Join the Pueblo Regional Steering Committee as they host a dinner party to Fill the Purse. For more information or to register please visit www.wfco.org.

Colorado Springs: Fill The Purse, Make Change Breakfast

- **Thursday, September 9, 8-9:30 a.m.**
- **Cheyenne Mountain Resort, 3225 Broadmoor Valley Rd, Colo. Springs**

Join the Colorado Springs Regional Steering Committee as they host the Fill the Purse, Make Change Breakfast. Become a table captain at \$250.00 and recruit 9 other guests. For more information or to purchase a table, please visit www.wfco.org.

Vail Valley Annual Luncheon

- **August: Date/time TBD**

This year's luncheon will feature keynote speaker **Carlotta Wells LaNier**, member of the "Little Rock Nine". Complete details to come on www.wfco.org.

EC Summer Cocktail Party—THANKS!

The Empowerment Council's Summer Cocktail Party on May 4 was a great success, raising over **\$11,000** to support our work on behalf of Colorado's women and girls. Special thanks to Noel Cunningham and **Strings** Restaurant, who donated the venue and all the food, and our Patron Sponsors **Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck** and **Bank of Choice**. Also Supporting Sponsors **Denny Elwell Company**; **Hensley Kim & Holzer, LLC**; **Ireland Stapleton Pascoe & Pryor**; and **Reuter's**.

IT'S EASY TO BE GREEN

"Green" Grantmaking process increases efficiency

We have a commitment to environmental stewardship, and better serving our grantee partners. For just over a year we have been testing and tweaking a new software system, CyberGrants, and we are pleased to formally announce that we have joined the world of paperless grant submissions. Reducing our paper consumption has allowed us to streamline our work, making our processes more efficient:

- Less paper in—grantees are no longer required to mail in proposals, reports and financial information. Documents are now submitted online and filed electronically.
- Less paper out—all communications with grantee partners are conducted electronically. WFCO Board and committees are able to access grant proposals online, eliminating the need for copying and mailing.
- Increased number of grant applications received—CyberGrants ensures that proposals arrive to us safely and complete.
- Remote access—we are able to access grant documents easily even if we are travelling, to ensure that grantee questions are answered in a timely manner.
- Secure storage—our grant files are now maintained on a secure digital archive online. All grant documents are protected and backed-up on internal and external servers.

We are looking at ways to 'green' the rest of our office, and welcome suggestions.

Turning Dollars into Change

Your support allows us to make a strategic investment in equity and self-sufficiency for women and girls in Colorado. Your gifts ensure that our research, advocacy and grantmaking to women- and girl-focused issues are creating change that will have a positive lasting effect for all of Colorado. So please use the envelope provided and add your voice to those committed to Thinking Big, Being Bold, and Making Change!

CORPORATE CORNER

Xcel Energy

[The Women's Foundation of Colorado is proud to have Xcel Energy as a long-standing Corporate Sponsor.]

At Xcel Energy, our tag line is Responsible by Nature and we take it seriously. We're proud to be the number-one wind energy provider and the number-five solar provider in the country. We serve 1.3 million electric and 1.2 million natural gas customers in Colorado.

Responsible by Nature also means that we support our customers and communities responsibly. In 2009, we helped our customers save 573,000 gigawatt hours of electricity and we were named the number-one corporate charitable giver in Colorado.

Xcel Energy is proud to provide some of that support to The Women's Foundation of Colorado for organizations and initiatives that reflect our company values, such as education, economic self sufficiency and diversity. Ensuring that women and girls have the skills and resources they need to contribute to the economic vitality of the region and support their families is critical to the success of every community we serve in Colorado.

Cathy J. Hart
Vice President, Corporate Services
WFCO Trustee

TIDBITS TIDBITS

Welcome new Development Manager **Kim Wilson**. Kim joins the WFCO Development team to focus on the Denver Luncheon.

Special Thanks to our **Disney Volunteers**. The Women's Foundation participated in Disney's *Give a Day, Get a Day* promotion, whereby volunteers at authorized organizations could receive a free ticket to a Disney theme park in exchange for their volunteer service. Over one million people participated, including 9 new volunteers at The Women's Foundation: **Sarah Bertanzetti, Jennifer Carpenter, Meg Dunton, Chao-Yung Lin, Roberta Ragland, Chia-Ching Shih, Debi Shupe, Dan Shupe**, and **Sheng-Hua Yu**.