

**Think big. Be bold.
Stay focused. Accomplish more.**

**THE WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION
OF COLORADO**

25th Anniversary Luncheon

Celebrating 25 Years of Powering Change for Colorado's Women and Girls

More than 2,000 people attended The Women's Foundation of Colorado's 25th Anniversary Denver Luncheon on Friday, September 21 at the Colorado Convention Center and enthusiastically enjoyed the entertainment and our keynote speaker Actor and Women's Advocate Geena Davis while also raising critical funds for Colorado's women and girls. Attendees knew they were in for great fun when Denver's own Hazel Miller and "America's Got Talent" second-place winners The Silhouettes, who donated their time and talents, kicked off the Luncheon with a rousing rendition of "Seed to Sow."



Keynote Speaker Actor Geena Davis inspires the audience at our 25th Anniversary Luncheon.

Several past Board Chairs shared compelling statistics about the current status of women and girls in Colorado and why they continue to support The Women's Foundation of Colorado's important work, all while creating the 25th Anniversary commemorative sand art. Our future leadership was also represented, as all 10 girls from the Girls Leadership Council took the stage and touched our hearts. To demonstrate an example of the great need for our work, they asked us think about which of the 10 of them could be the two that drop out of school, which five of them could be raising children without a spouse or partner and which of them could potentially join the nearly 350,000 women currently living in poverty in the state of Colorado.

Actor Geena Davis captivated us with a mix of personal stories infused with her tremendous wit and humor, all the while driving home important information about the oftentimes negative portrayal of women in the media

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Message *From Our President & CEO*

The holiday season is a time to reflect on what an incredibly exciting year it's been for The Women's Foundation of Colorado.



Louise Atkinson

As you know, all year we've been celebrating our 25th Anniversary and taking the time to recognize our successes while also looking ahead with great anticipation for our future. Our 25th Anniversary Denver Luncheon was a huge success, and we were so pleased with the turnout and the extremely generous donations to support Colorado's women and girls. Thanks to all who also joined us for our Champagne Celebration for our 25th birthday party at RedLine Gallery in Denver. We cherished this opportunity to pay tribute to the 150 women and men who have served in a leadership capacity as past board members (our Honorary Trustees) over the years.

The Statewide Engagement Strategy Committee hosted its first annual leadership retreat on October 20 in Denver. About 25 representatives from active committees around the state built relationships, worked with our staff and provided ideas and action steps to implement a long-term state-wide approach.

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Celebrating 25 Years of Powering Change

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Jigyasa Sharma of the Girls' Leadership Council shares a story during the Denver Luncheon.

and the lack of female representation in positions of leadership. Davis is also the founder of The Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media.

Our sincere thanks to all who attended and/or supported our event, including The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Board of Trustees; Past Board Chairs (especially those who participated in the sand art ceremony); Honorary Trustees; Honorary Luncheon Chairs Ambassador

Swanee Hunt, Dottie Lamm and Daniel L. Ritchie; Luncheon Chairs Elsa Holguin, Marilyn Taylor and Elaine Torres; Corporate Committee Chairs Colleen Dougherty and Kelley Duke; and 2012 Luncheon Sponsors FirstBank; Gay and Lesbian Fund, a Program of The Gill Foundation; Hunt Alternatives Fund; Barbara Bridges Family Foundation; Wells Fargo; TriZetto; DaVita; CBS4; Comcast; Rocky Mountain PBS; The Denver Post; Cherry Creek Shopping Center; Fastlane Productions; MorEvents; Southwest Airlines and Macy's.

If you would like to support those companies that support women and girls, you will find a complete listing of our Luncheon Sponsors and supporters at www.wfco.org/get-involved/sponsors-partners/. ♀



Past Board of Trustees Chairs Marilyn Taylor, Dottie Lamm and Anna Jo Haynes contribute to the commemorative sand art creation.



Event Photos: Eric Stephenson Photography

From the President & CEO

(continued from front page)

During our 2012 Listening Tour, the voices of more than 300 women and girls in 10 Colorado communities came together over the course of 34 days to engage in inspiring conversation about the meaning of a woman's full potential and the barriers to achieving it. The results of the Listening Tour are being put to work as we frame our 2013 research report.

We're now in the midst of planning "The Summit," a unique gathering to take place in mid-June in Denver. We will present our latest research findings on the Status of Women and Girls in Colorado as well as recommendations for moving forward. Look for more updates in the near future.

As I reflect on 2012, I continue not only to "imagine the potential" of the women and girls in Colorado but also the role The Women's Foundation will play in their realizing that potential, and I am so optimistic about our future.

We are so proud that The Women's Foundation of Colorado has become the largest women's organization in the state, where equality, education and respect for women are top priorities. We look forward to another 25 years and beyond of success stories for women and girls.

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support as we move our mission forward, and know that you are appreciated always.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Louise C. Atkinson".

Louise C. Atkinson

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Empowerment through Experience

Inspiring Future Leaders: Girls' Leadership Council

We're incredibly proud of the 10 participants of this year's Girls' Leadership Council (GLC), a prestigious program designed to inspire girls to be future leaders and philanthropists. Through this program, the girls participate in challenging, hands-on experiences designed to allow them to discover the satisfaction and power of building both their communities and their own leadership skills.

Each year 10 high school sophomore girls participate in the GLC's one-week intensive summer residential program on the beautiful University of Denver campus. This year's GLC was held July 29 through August 4. The girls were selected in May at the end of their sophomore years in high school through a statewide, highly competitive and rigorous application and review process.

The 2013 GLC application will be available online in February 2013. Please consider whether there is a sophomore girl in your life who is ready to take the next steps to empower her leadership through working with The Women's Foundation of Colorado.

Congratulations to our 2012 Girls Leadership Council Members including:

- Viviana Andazola, York International High School, Thornton
- Darylann Aragon, Pueblo Centennial High School, Pueblo
- Audra Burke, Edison High School, Rush
- Virginia (Ginny) Sharoyne Creager, Frederick High School, Longmont
- Ashlen Lemon, Heritage High School, Highlands Ranch
- Nefretarie Eudora Lockley, Regis Jesuit High School, Denver
- Aztzin Lopez, Denver Center for International Studies, Denver
- Kimiko McBryde, Denver School of Science & Technology, Denver
- Navil Perez, York International High School, Thornton
- Jigyasa Sharma, St. Mary's Academy, Highlands Ranch



Check out our website wfco.org for a video of the girls describing the program and its impact in their own voices, thanks to the generosity of Board of Trustees member and GLC Committee Chair Kit Mura-smith. Finally, "Like" us on our Women's Foundation of Colorado Facebook page to see pictures and learn more about the program. ♡

Mark Your Calendars...

- Our Annual Summit is being planned for mid-June 2013 on the University of Denver Campus. More details coming soon!
- The 2013 Denver Luncheon is planned for Thursday, October 24, 2013 at the Colorado Convention Center.
- Pueblo Fundraising Dinner is planned for Sunday, June 23, 2013 at Pueblo Community College.

Statewide Best Practices To Keep Girls in School

Girls' Dropout Prevention Initiative

In 2011 we launched the three-year Girls' Dropout Prevention Initiative to test our findings on intervention best practices for dropout prevention among at-risk middle school girls.

Between 2010 and 2011, The Women's Foundation of Colorado designed the initiative to partner with six diverse and highly rated non-profit organizations focused in the areas of afterschool sports and youth mentoring.



In addition to the programs supported, the organizations were required to collect and analyze behavioral, academic and school engagement data identified as predictive of dropping out of school. These programs are supported by an evaluation plan provided by the Omni Institute which was selected to track and analyze the data. After three years of programming and data collection, a report on the findings of the initiative will provide us with a report card on the effectiveness of a variety of different approaches to dropout prevention starting in middle school – when we see the first signs that a girl may be on a path to drop out of school.

The unique design of this initiative is the combination of qualitative and quantitative data. While many dropout prevention efforts focus on just one method of intervention, The Women's Foundation of Colorado's initiative includes a variety of organizations representing the diversity of our state and focuses on two of the best practices identified in our research on girl-specific dropout prevention.

In September, the participating organizations met to compare notes at the close of their first program year and reflect together on what has been learned in a year of practice. Preliminary findings are good – we have seen modest improvement in grades and a strong sense of commitment and belonging from the girls served by the program. Ms. Gayle Embrey, who joins our Board of Trustees in 2013, addressed the grantees during the convening.

The convening concluded with a public presentation by Dr. Lauren Rauscher of California State-Long Beach on "The Promise of Positive Youth Development for Girls' Dropout Prevention". This presentation, together with other information on the Girls' Dropout Prevention Initiative and the research on which it is based, are available on our website at wfco.org. The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Girls' Dropout Prevention Initiative is possible through the generosity of the Embrey Family Foundation. ♡

Record Year of Grantmaking

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is proud to announce we have achieved a record-breaking granting year. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have invested \$1.2 million in nearly 100 nonprofits doing exceptional work for Colorado's women and girls, the highest level of granting in our 25-year history. Areas of investment include STEM, financial literacy, public policy and direct services. We are grateful to these statewide partners for their support in the delivery of our mission.

Scream
ADVERTISING & PR THAT'S HEARD

Thanks to our PR partner!

We're grateful for the partnership we've had for the last five years with local, woman-owned Scream Agency in Denver as they've provided creative, advertising and public relations services. Scream has delivered:

- More than **125 million media impressions** for The Women's Foundation of Colorado through local, regional and statewide media outlets including print, broadcast and online. Scream has helped to tell our stories to *The Denver Post*, *5280*, *The Denver Business Journal*, local papers and every TV station in Denver.
- Scream donated more than \$40,000 in pro bono services.
- From creating event themes and building media buzz, to pushing the Equal Pay Day rally at the capital, Scream has helped our message be widely heard.

Learn more about them at screamagency.com.

TidBits ➔

➔ Our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of our amazing volunteers for the countless hours they dedicate to numerous projects such as the Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Vail Luncheons, various trainings around the state, Girls' Leadership Council, Empowerment Council, the Listening Tour, data entry and so much more.

➔ Special thanks to the members of our new Women of Color committee who have inspired us as we continue our many statewide initiatives, along with Dorien Rawlinson for her help with our sand art creation and the many ways she assisted with the Denver Luncheon.

➔ Welcome Kim Sporrer, APR to the role of Marketing and Communications Manager for The Foundation.

➔ We are currently seeking Spring interns for a few key projects, along with volunteers to help with administrative support such as data entry and mailings. Please contact Jessica Black at jessicab@wfco.org if interested.

➔ A new website is currently being developed and will launch early 2013 with many new, wonderful features and information sources. Look for updates in the near future.



Furthering Our Mission Leadership Update

The Women's Foundation welcomes four new members to its 2013 Board of Trustees: **Christine Chin** of Fort Collins, **Colleen Dougherty** of Cherry Hills Village, **Gayle Embrey** of Carbondale and **Deb Luginbuhl** of Edwards.

The new appointments bring the number of Board Trustees to 25 members and enhance the Board's representation for the Colorado regions where The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) has established local committees. The new Trustees begin their three-year terms on January 1, 2013.

"The addition of these new Trustees will further diversify the outstanding talents and wide-ranging experience our Board of Trustees brings to The Women's Foundation of Colorado," said Carol Burt, Board of Trustees Chair for The Women's Foundation of Colorado. "Each of these remarkable women is a widely respected and experienced leader. Together they will provide our Board and management team with new insight and talents to further our mission across the state to help the women and girls of Colorado achieve their full potential."

The Foundation also extends its deepest appreciation to outgoing Board of Trustees Members Paula Edwards and Lisa Pease. We are grateful for their leadership, courage, enormous contributions and their commitment to women and girls. ♡

Managing Risk to Support Mission Turning Dollars Into Real Change

By Stephanie Bruno, Investments Committee Chair

The Women's Foundation of Colorado has a professionally managed portfolio that is risk appropriate and well diversified across asset classes. The management of our investment assets is overseen by an independent volunteer investment committee of nine experienced members including two board members. We also have an independent investment advisor, Syntrinsic Investment Counsel, who provides guidance and recommendations to the committee based on the investment objectives outlined in our investment policy statement. During the last three years, the Foundation has gained 8.1% net per year, while the index has gained just 6.3% per year.

Going forward, the investment committee remains vigilant in its efforts, evaluating the capital markets with a thoughtful eye and an emphasis on managing risk. "We are particularly proud that these compelling returns have come through a portfolio with very high transparency and liquidity and reasonable costs," says Benjamin Valore-Kaplan of Syntrinsic. ♡

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THE WOMEN'S
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Making a Difference

Your Opportunity to Invest Wisely in the Future of Colorado's Women and Girls

Our mission was created from an unfortunate reality and it demands change. Currently in Colorado, approximately 32,000 baby girls are born each year, and the statistics preceding these girls are daunting. This year alone:

- More than 6,000 girls will drop out of high school
- Nearly 350,000 women will live in poverty
- Almost 50% of women will be raising their children without a spouse or partner
- 90% of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients will be women
- Across the nation, only 8% of general funding will be designated for programs benefiting women and girls

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is working tirelessly to change this reality. In 2012 much progress was made, not only in providing support and assistance to

those in need but through the passing of childcare Cliff Effect legislation (Senate Bill 22). We've also identified and addressed additional roadblocks on the path to self-sufficiency, including piloting new interventions for high school dropout prevention and developing new opportunities specific to women and girls interested in pursuing careers in a STEM-related field (science, technology, engineering and math) and financial literacy.

Next year will be a particularly exciting year, as we complete a major research study designed to identify new strategies to overcome obstacles and roadblocks for women working to become economically secure and increase funding for programs dedicated to supporting women and girls' issues. ♀

Please join us – your support makes all the difference for Colorado's women and girls. Donate now online at wfco.org.



wfco.org

**Happy
Holidays!**

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