

THINK BIG. BE BOLD. STAY FOCUSED. ACCOMPLISH MORE.

FALL 2011

THE WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION
OF COLORADO



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011 THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLORADO LUNCHEON

Acclaimed tennis legend & activist

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

Colorado Convention Center, Denver.

Visit wfco.org for tickets/tables/sponsorships

A champion on and off the court, Martina is not only a tennis legend, but an inspirational leader who demonstrates tenacity, candor and motivation. She has won 59 Grand Slam crowns and a record nine Wimbledon singles champions. As one of the first openly gay sports figures, she has spent much of her career overcoming prejudices and stereotypes. Since coming out in 1981, she has been an inspiring and vocal advocate for equal rights and a strong supporter of many charities benefitting the LGBT community.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Louise C. Atkinson, President & CEO



As I complete my one-year service anniversary, I feel fortunate to be a part of such an incredible organization. It is with great pride that I join the many women and men across the state who care about our mission. We have just completed our

continued inside...

Although Colorado's economy continues to show recovery, the threshold for families to be self-sufficient is increasingly out of reach. The Colorado Center on Law and Policy's 2011 Self-Sufficiency Standard Report, will address what it takes to make ends meet, define "adequate income" in different parts of the state, and review policies Colorado can pursue to help more families succeed. The Report, to be published in November, will be a benchmarking tool for these policies.

2011 SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD REPORT

THE WOMEN'S
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

strategic plan which challenges us to, “Think Big, Be Bold, Stay Focused, and Accomplish More.” The process demonstrated that The Women’s Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) has the strength and the strategy to continue to create change. While we respectfully honor our past, we look forward to a bright future!

For WFCO to be sustainable in the 21st century, we must have a clear mission and vision, a well-articulated strategy, a solid business model, and a strong supporting capacity. Working on behalf of Colorado’s women and girls is a tall order. There are so many good people to rally behind, worthy places to lend our support, and important issues to embrace. We must be strategic in our thinking, planning, and giving. This is why we took action to formulate a strategic plan and begin its implementation.

Our multi-year strategy enables us to be recognized as the “voice for women and girls” on many issues that impact their ability to reach their full potential. We will establish ourselves as the organization that elevates those issues and focus on three key initiatives for the immediate future: the Girls Drop-Out Rate, the Cliff Effect (especially as it relates to public policy), and Research. We will raise awareness and prove the power of collective action. We will use our research to encourage others to invest in the areas highlighted by our findings. We will build philanthropy, with and for women, and educate the community. Rural voices will be heard, needs addressed, and our financial model will be grounded in long-term sustainability.

There is so much opportunity for this whole, big, beautiful girl-filled state and we will never forget those who have entrusted the future to us! I look forward to having continued collaboration, engagement, and focus with each of you. Thank you for supporting us during this very exciting time.

BUILDING A BETTER COLORADO. TOGETHER.

The Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado (GLFC) supports Colorado nonprofit organizations like The Women’s Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) who understand the value of inclusion within their organizations. All of our work, whether it is collaborating with a grantee on an event sponsorship grant or participating in a local chamber of commerce, is aimed at creating a deeper understanding that Colorado is an even better and more desirable place to live, work, and play when each and every person has the opportunities and resources they need to thrive.

With an eye on that goal, we not only partner with nonprofits and other foundations, but also with local government agencies, business owners, and

individual allies to strengthen our communities in Colorado. Over the last 15 years, the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado has invested more than \$26 million in hundreds of high-impact nonprofits such as WFCO that provide basic services and valuable programs to a diverse range of people and places across the state.

Mary Lou Makepeace, Gill vice president for the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado says, “It’s a productive partnership between the GLFC & WFCO as we work together to ensure women and girls in Colorado have opportunities to live healthy, vital lives.”

Learn more about the Gay & Lesbian Fund at gayandlesbianfund.org.

TIDBITS TIDBITS TIDBITS TIDBITS TIDBITS

- Thank you to Brittany Limes and Martha Wolday for their internships this summer. Brittany gained extensive experience with foundation operations, while Martha worked on benchmarking how foundations across the country design their endowment and planned giving programs.
- We appreciate the work of our Task Force including: Kit Mura-smith, Dr. Cile Chavez, Margie Gart, Jody Camp, Jonathan Resnick, Elisa Canova and Paula Edwards. You are truly an amazing team.
- Thank you to Karla Reines, Meredith Baxter, and Corona Insights for your leadership and courage. Our five-year plan is outstanding.
- Welcome Laurie Hirschfeld-Zeller to the role of vice president, community investments and initiatives; and Pam Montgomery as our Denver Luncheon events manager.
- Congratulations to Roweena Naidoo, Senior Manager of Community Initiatives. Roweena was selected as a 2011 Lead the Way Fellow, through the Women of Color Policy Network at NYU - a unique capacity building and leadership initiative for women of color mid-level managers and emerging executive directors.
- We bid a fond farewell to Jody Camp and Marijke Swiestra. Thank you for your commitment to WFCO.

2011 DOTTIE LAMM AWARD & GIRLS GRANTMAKING COUNCIL

Dottie Lamm had been tirelessly committed to women's and girls' issues throughout Colorado when in 1987 WFCO honored her with the creation of the Dottie Lamm Award. The annual award serves as an opportunity to engage young women in social service work, honor their academic and community service efforts, and create future leaders.

This year's awardees are Alicia Nikifarava of Grandview High School in Centennial, and Lizzie Pittman of Columbine High School in Littleton. Each will receive a \$1,500 academic scholarship and will join five other young women as inductees in to the 2011 Girls Grantmaking and Leadership Council: Aspen Bellefeuille (Woodrow), Joanie Ellis (Fort Collins), Anica Neumann (Littleton), Jordan Shamon (Denver), and Abi Whitmore (Centennial).

**ALICIA NIKIFARAVA,
LIZZIE PITTMAN,
ALL THE GIRLS**

The goal of WFCO's Girls Grantmaking Council is to create future female leaders and inspired philanthropists by equipping participants with the skills they need to become girl-focused spokespeople for their generation. To that end, the group engages in a challenging grantmaking project, allowing them to discover the satisfaction and power of assisting their communities. They receive extensive training and hands-on experience in philanthropy, the grantmaking process, and critical issues facing women and girls.

After participating in our competitive and rigorous program, participants become more

aware of the issues affecting their "sisters" throughout our state, and gain empathy and understanding of all girls and their complicated struggles to complete their education. This year, the Girls Grantmaking Council awarded \$20,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations in Colorado working to ensure girls do not drop out of school.

WFCO is honored to have Lockheed Martin, UMB Bank, and The Xcel Energy Foundation as our sponsors of this important program.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: THE GIRLS' DROPOUT RATE WFCO PARTNERS WITH THE COLORADO COALITION FOR GIRLS

The girls' dropout issue has been identified as a key strategic initiative for The Women's Foundation of Colorado in the new strategic plan. Though the rate for girls is slightly lower than for boys, a significant number of girls are still dropping out of school in Colorado. While both boys and girls pay dearly for making this decision, the costs are especially steep for girls. They have more difficulty finding employment, generally have lower earnings, poorer health, and often need to rely on public support for their families. Faced with these additional economic and health challenges, the expense absorbed by the community, state and nation for a female dropout far exceeds the cost of her male counterpart.

In 2008, The Women's Foundation of Colorado set out to explore and answer the question, "Why do Colorado girls drop out of high school?"

We funded three research reports concerning the rate for girls (available on wfc.org). Our third report, "Girls' Dropout Prevention" by Dora Lodwick of The REFT Institute, Inc., summarizes recent dropout data from the Colorado Department of Education. It also highlights the economic and social effects of this problem by reviewing several recent studies, including two earlier reports supported by The Women's Foundation of Colorado (Bennet & MacIver, 2009; Lodwick with Teske, 2009); and makes best practice recommendations for keeping girls on the path to graduation.

The reports revealed that while research is performed on why all students (both girls and boys) drop out of school, there is little research that uses a gender lens to pinpoint why girls drop out. In addition, much of the existing

literature is heavily oriented to urban areas, leaving the stories of rural and resort areas mostly untold. It was important for WFCO to obtain not only a state-wide perspective, but also how distinctly different communities — rural, resort, urban and suburban — are grappling with this issue.

This summer, we partnered with the Colorado Coalition for Girls to travel the state to share what our extensive reports revealed, and learned about the experiences of various Colorado communities. "Community Conversations" were held in Colorado Springs, Denver, Durango, Fort Collins, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction and Vail. A supplemental report of the findings will be available in October.

2011 DENVER LUNCHEON

SPEAKER: MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

CO-CHAIRS: BARBARA BRIDGES, CINDY PARSONS
& NATALIE REKSTAD-LYNN

CORPORATE CO-CHAIRS: MARYANN FRANKLIN,
ANNE MCCARTHY & CARLOS MARTINEZ

ADVISORY COUNCIL: ARLENE HIRSCHFELD,
SUSAN MCINTIRE & DEAN PRINA

VIP RECEPTION:
10:30 – 11:30 A.M.

REGISTRATION & SEATING:
11:15 – 11:45 A.M.

Program begins promptly at 11:45!

LUNCHEON:
11:45 A.M. – 1:15 P.M.

Parking is available in the Convention Center or Denver Center for the Performing Arts parking decks; additional street parking nearby. Please allow plenty of time to reach your seat from the parking areas. RTD light rail lines D, F, and H all stop at the Convention Center.

JOIN TEAM WFCO!

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is thrilled to be launching "Team WFCO," in honor of Martina Navratilova for this year's Susan G. Komen Denver Race for the Cure®, October 2, 2011. The Race coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the one-year anniversary of Martina's announcement that she is cancer-free. Consider becoming a member of Team WFCO in honor of our 2011 Denver Luncheon keynote speaker, leader, legend, and survivor, Martina Navratilova.

Contact Nicole Godley with the Denver Metropolitan Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for more information at godley06@gmail.com.

Register online at komendenver.org. Click on Race for the Cure, then Register Online and input team name, "TEAM WFCO in honor of Martina Navratilova."

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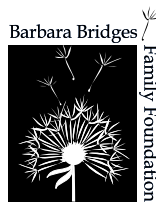
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