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THE WOMEN'S
 FOUNDATION
 OF COLORADO

Girls' Leadership CouncilSM – Inspiring Future Leaders

We're excited to announce the application period for our 2014 Girls' Leadership CouncilSM (GLC) is now open. After a competitive application and interview process, 20 sophomore girls from across the state will be selected to participate in a one-week intensive summer program on the University of Denver campus July 27 – August 2, 2014. This year's Presenting Sponsor is Anadarko Petroleum Corporation.



Training components for the Girls' Leadership Council will include: Foundation-led research; the economic self-sufficiency of women and girls in Colorado; educational opportunities for women and girls; public policy and advocacy; diversity and inclusiveness; women in the workforce, including science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers; women in leadership and civic engagement; women in media; women in philanthropy and grantmaking; and team building and leadership-development activities.

The GLC girls will also have the unique opportunity to award grants and invest approximately \$20,000 in our partner nonprofit organizations working on issues affecting girls. At the end of the week, two exemplary participants will be selected to each receive a \$1,500 Dottie Lamm Leadership Award.

GLC alumnae tell us they learned how to be a better leaders, how to be self-advocates, and that a single supporter can change a girl's life. They called the week-long experience "incredible," "eye-opening," and "so worth it." If you know a sophomore girl who would be great for this program, encourage her to apply at wfco.org/glc. Questions? Email us at glc@wfco.org.

The Girls' Leadership Council is a program created by The Women's Foundation of Colorado and coordinated in partnership with Girls Inc. of Metro Denver. ♀

fast facts

Eligibility: Any high school sophomore girl in Colorado who will be a junior in the fall of 2014

Application period: The application closes March 3, 2014 at 5pm

Semi-finalist interviews: Saturday, May 17, 2014

Finalists announced: Late May 2014

GLC Week: July 27 – August 2, 2014 at the University of Denver

Message From Our President and CEO

If past success is the best predictor of future success, we are well poised for this year to be our best yet! We're building on last year's incredible results



Louise Atkinson

following the release of our 2013 Report on *The Status of Women and Girls in Colorado* to focus our strategies for community initiatives and investments and develop strong, important partnerships that will enable us to do more for women and girls and build additional resources to lead change.

In 2013, we invested more than \$1.1 million in organizations across the state doing outstanding work supporting our goals. Our ability to make these investments is due to the generous support of people like you who attend our events, join our PEP Club and Empowerment Council, invest in our organization through your workplaces and corporations, and give of your time and treasure to make a difference.

This year we're planning a variety of events and educational programming around the state – and many ways for you to get involved in our work. In the pages of this newsletter you'll read about some of them, including our 2014 Girls' Leadership Council; our focus on supporting low-income single moms

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Our mission is to build resources and lead change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential.

Leadership Update

We're pleased to announce our Board of Trustees 2014 Leadership and the appointment of six new Trustees.

Our 2014 Board Chair is **Cathy James Hart** of Denver, and she began her one-year term January 1, 2014. Cathy retired in May 2013 as Corporate Secretary and Vice President of Business Services at Xcel Energy Inc. She joined our Board of Trustees in 2010 and has been an active volunteer and supporter in many roles.



Cathy J. Hart, 2014 Board Chair

Cathy succeeds **Barbara Bridges** who founded Women+Film for The Denver Film Society, a nonprofit organization that uses films by and about women to entertain, educate and promote action. Barbara served as Board Chair from April 1 to December 31, 2013 and will remain on the Board of Trustees as Immediate Past Chair and Chair of the Governance Committee. Board Chair Elect for 2015 is **Anahita "Ana" Pazirandeh Kemp**.

New Trustees include:

- **Kelley B. Duke** of Denver
- **John Ikard** of Littleton
- **Richard C. "Dick" Kelly** of Westminster
- **Natalie Rekstad-Lynn** of Boulder
- **Patricia "Trish" Bowie Orman, Ph.D.** of Pueblo
- **Meredith "Meredi" Vaughan** of Colorado Springs

The new appointments bring the number of Board Trustees to 25 members and enhance the Board's representation for the regions in Colorado where The Women's Foundation of Colorado has established local committees. They began their three-year terms on January 1, 2014.

Community Initiatives & Investments

In 2013 we released our most comprehensive research report in the history of The Women's Foundation of Colorado. The 2013 Report on *The Status of Women and Girls in Colorado*, developed in partnership with the Institute for Women's Policy Research, examines the current data in five areas that shape the lives of women and girls in our state: **economic security and poverty; employment and earnings; educational opportunity; personal safety; and women's leadership.**

We are now taking what we learned in the research report and developing our focus areas for the future. Based on our research and input from our Community Conversations held around the state last fall, our three main areas of strategic focus and community investments for 2014 are Girls' Dropout Prevention, Girls and STEM, and Low-Income Single Mothers. We will look at each focus area and consider how our strategies of public policy, education, community investments and research can be used to make change in Colorado. Watch our website wfco.org for complete details in March 2014.

From the President and CEO

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who struggle the most with childcare issues; reducing the girls' dropout rates; and, furthering STEM education and career opportunities for women and girls in our state.

We're making a difference! A new 2014 report from the Colorado Department of Education shows dropout rates are decreasing. Our own research also shows teen birth rates are decreasing. More women are receiving higher education degrees, being employed in business and managerial occupations, and being represented in the legislature.

Yet we still have much work to do. We're focused, know what we're fighting for and are ready to make bold change. And we know when women and girls thrive, whole communities thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support of our organization. Together we are building resources and leading change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise C. Atkinson".

Louise C. Atkinson



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

21st Annual 2013 DENVER LUNCHEON

Luncheon Raised \$925,000 and Hosted Nearly 2,000 Attendees

Emmy Award-Winning Actress & Humanitarian America Ferrera Delivered Keynote Speech

We're thrilled to share that more than \$925,000 was raised to support our mission to help women and girls in Colorado achieve their full potential at our 21st Annual Denver Luncheon held October 24, 2013 at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. We hosted Emmy-Award Winning Actress and Humanitarian America Ferrera as keynote speaker and had nearly 2,000 attendees at the event. The Western Union Foundation helped boost fundraising efforts by matching all donations (up to a total of \$30,000) made during the podium ask at the luncheon.

"We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of generosity from our supporters at this year's event," said Louise C. Atkinson, President and CEO of The Women's Foundation of Colorado. "It's so inspiring to have the room packed with thousands of people who care so deeply about women and girls in Colorado and our organization's work to help them reach their full potential. The support and commitment we received will help change lives and bring dreams alive for women and girls across the state."

As one of the state's largest annual gatherings for women and philanthropists, our Annual Luncheon carries a long-standing tradition of hosting well-known keynote speakers who bring



Photo by Susan English Photography

a message of empowerment, collaboration and inspiration to support our mission. Our keynote speaker America Ferrera shared powerful personal stories that delighted and inspired the audience. Ferrera also talked about the importance of storytelling to create and display authentic meaning and purpose that others can believe, relate to and share to inspire cultural and social change.

"The truth of who I am gives me the power to connect with others," said America Ferrera. "I've been passionate about equal access to education for a very long time, and my humanitarian experiences have opened my eyes to the enormous benefits that communities gain when we invest in women and girls. Advocating for women and girls is not only the right thing to do it is the wise thing to do."

America Ferrera is best known for her fearless portrayal as 'Betty Suarez' on ABC's hit comedy *Ugly Betty*. She will appear in Diego Luna's film *Chavez* which releases March 29, 2014 and centers on the life of civil rights activist and labor organizer Cesar Chavez.

SAVE THE DATE
for the 2014 Annual Denver Luncheon
October 23, 2014

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is grateful to our many corporate sponsors:

PRESENTING SPONSOR



Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
Barbara Bridges CBS4
Cherry Creek Mortgage Comcast
DaVita
The Denver Post Community Hunt Alternatives Fund

Liberty Global MillerCoors
Rocky Mountain PBS SquareTwo Financial
Vladimir Jones
Western Union Foundation
Women With A Cause and Susan Kiely



Photo by Susan English Photography

Pictured are Trustees Kit Mura-smith, MaryAnn Franklin, Patti Klinge and Luncheon Co-Chair Sandy Stein with Connie McArthur.

Mark Your Calendars...

Please check our website wfco.org for complete event information.

February 20 | Larimer County WomenGive Annual Luncheon

March 6 | Celebration of International Women's Day in Denver with Biennial of the Americas and Denver Film Society

March 11 | Vail Valley Screening of "Losing Ground: The Cliff Effect" Documentary and Panel Discussion

March 19 | Boulder County Screening of "Losing Ground: The Cliff Effect" Documentary and Panel Discussion

April 8 | Equal Pay Day Events with 9 to 5 Colorado

May 27 | "Unique Lives & Experiences" Event with Naomi Judd and The Denver Post Community

June 22 | Pueblo Annual Summer Soiree Dinner

July 27 – August 2 | Girls' Leadership Council

August 8 | Vail Valley Annual Luncheon

September 24 | Colorado Springs Annual Luncheon

October 4 | Boulder County Benefit Concert Event at E-Town

October 23 | Annual Denver Luncheon

Corporate Partner Spotlight



Thanks to our outstanding sponsor!

We are grateful for our partnership and the generous sponsorship of Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, one of the world's largest independent oil and natural gas exploration and production companies. The company and its leaders are dedicated to helping women and girls reach their full potential through leadership, education and the pursuit of rewarding careers in STEM-related fields. In 2013 Anadarko was our Denver Luncheon Program Sponsor and supported our Girls' Leadership Council. They have now expanded their partnership with us by becoming our Presenting Sponsor of the 2014 Girls' Leadership Council.

Our 2013 Girls' Leadership Council participants had the opportunity to visit Anadarko's Denver offices last summer and learn first-hand about STEM careers. Many of the girls had no idea about the various career paths one could pursue in STEM, let alone the diversity of jobs they can pursue within the field of engineering.

"We were thrilled to see this group of young girls collectively become so excited and passionate about science as a result of their interaction with our company," said Amy Venturi, Director of Social Investment. "It's clear that up-close access and exposure to women working within leading STEM corporations like Anadarko is critical to their future pursuits of STEM careers. It's exciting to know companies like ours have a unique opportunity to help influence and shape the futures of women and girls."

Anadarko is committed to being an integral part of the communities where it operates through volunteer involvement and contributions to non-profit organizations. Diversity, education and learning are values of the organization, which affirms their commitment to supporting the work of The Women's Foundation of Colorado. They too encourage their own team members to "Think Big." Anadarko is keenly interested in promoting efforts that support careers in engineering and science. They have helped women across the globe develop skills that better enable them to find jobs and expand opportunities. Anadarko also encourages its employees to engage in civic leadership opportunities and typically supports organizations where its employees are giving of their personal time toward their passions. Learn more by visiting anadarko.com.

Public Policy – Creating Systemic Change

The 2014 Colorado Legislative session opened in January and hundreds of bills were introduced shortly thereafter. Follow the legislative session and our initiatives by signing up for our public policy updates through our website at wfco.org/publicpolicy. Our primary issue focus for our public policy efforts continues to be both services for and policies benefiting women and girls in poverty. We have a special emphasis on women achieving economic self-sufficiency and girls completing their education – two critical components of a woman's ability to reach her full potential.

Good News →

➤ **Congratulations to our President & CEO Louise Atkinson for being selected as the 2013 winner of the Denver Business Journal's Power Book Award in the Nonprofit/Education Category!** The awards recognize some of the top business newsmakers of the last year in 14 industry categories. These power players are metro Denver's most influential business leaders making the news in Colorado during the past year.

➤ **Welcome to our new senior staff!**

Ellie Westman Chin, Vice President of Philanthropy

Louise Myrland, MPA, Vice President of Community Initiatives & Investments

➤ **Congratulations!**

Kim Sporrer, APR was promoted in December 2013 to Director of Marketing & Communications.

➤ **Thank You!**

To MWH Global and The Madison Group which each provided a \$10,000 matching gift for our year-end giving campaign and Colorado Gives Day. Your gifts inspired a higher level of giving than ever before which will enable us to do more for women and girls!

To our outstanding regional and event volunteers! We simply could not do what we do without you.

PEEP

POWER OF EXTENDED PHILANTHROPY

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

The PEP Club is a unique group of WFCO donors who understand the Power of Extended Philanthropy (PEP). They recognize that when they commit to give over three years, The Foundation can make better plans, fund more powerful projects and make a sustained difference in the lives of women and girls. Contributions from PEP Club members comprise 20% of our annual operating budget, and this group has collectively contributed more than \$3 million since its inception. We celebrated the 10th anniversary of the PEP Club in 2013 and are grateful to the 260 donors who comprise it.

In addition to being a wonderful way to connect more deeply to The Foundation's mission, the PEP Club is a great way to network with like-minded women and men who are committed to making a positive impact through our work. PEP Club members receive invitations to educational gatherings and special email updates to keep them apprised of our initiatives and progress. Members also receive two complimentary tickets to the Denver Luncheon and a one-year valet parking pass to Cherry Creek Shopping Center.

To join the PEP Club or for more information, please contact Mandy Hughes, Major Gifts Officer at 303-285-2969 or mandyh@wfco.org. ☺

Turning Dollars Into Real Change

By Stephanie Bruno, Investment Committee Chair

This past year was a great one for equity markets and also for The Women's Foundation's endowment as we approach nearly \$20 million in investments. The endowment is managed with only a moderate amount of risk to achieve our long-term objective of a 5% real return after accounting for inflation. As of December 18, 2013 our year-to-date return was 8% which exceeds this objective. The portfolio is broadly diversified in an attempt to withstand varying market conditions and yet still achieve growth.

The outlook for fixed income markets is not as bright as interest rates have remained at record lows and are anticipated to begin rising. When interest rates rise, the value of fixed income portfolios generally decline as borrowers can then receive higher interest for their loans. Fixed income investments are a core piece of The Women's Foundation investment portfolio due to the diversification and stability they provide. Under the advice of our investment advisor, Synttrinsic Investment Counsel, and our investment committee, we have reduced our risk by shortening the duration of our fixed income portfolio.

This year the Investment Committee will review our capital market assumptions based on our short-and long-term goals. The investment committee is comprised of 10 members with broad and deep financial backgrounds including four trustees of The Women's Foundation.

Stephanie Bruno is a trustee and chair of the investment committee. She owns SBWA, LLC where she works to improve the impact of money in her clients' lives. She offers investment advisory services through Dynamic Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisor. ☺



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Empowerment Council Making Impact

By Sarah S. Miller, Empowerment Council Chair

The Empowerment Council experienced some true growth and restructuring in 2013. With the support of The Women's Foundation staff, we've really been able to identify our strengths and opportunities to make a greater impact on women and girls in Colorado. We are very excited to have a strategic year focused on educating ourselves and the community.

Thanks to the success of our educational event about the Cliff Effect in early 2013, we will be offering another meaningful, community focused event in 2014. We will again be hosting the VIP Reception at this year's Annual Denver Luncheon.

We have some big goals for fundraising and are excited to be hitting the ground running in 2014. In order to reach our goals, we know we need strength in numbers. If you are interested in the Empowerment Council, please connect with either myself or Co-Chair Monique Schafer via email to wfco@wfco.org. We are looking for smart, driven women who enjoy breaking the mold and strive to make this community a better place. We are excited to make 2014 our best year yet! ♀



The Chambers Center
1901 East Asbury Avenue
Denver, CO 80208

