

With You We Can Do Even More

Why Us?

... because together we can do more to improve the conditions for women and girls faster.

Why Now?

Thank you for your gift.

Survival Guide

In reflecting on the great work we've been able to do with your help, we also ask, and answer, the question 'How, exactly, do we keep moving the needle toward gender equity?'

Celebrate the Wins

When the newly-elected United States Congress opens in 2019, it will have nearly 24% women, a 5% increase toward gender parity. That's certainly a step in the right direction.

Persist

Since 1995, the Fund has invested in programs specifically designed to foster self-worth and esteem in girls. Now more than two decades later, together with nonprofit partners, the Fund is investing in programs that change attitudes and behaviors, increase skills and knowledge and foster changes in circumstances.

Connect with your Tribe

Did you know the Fund has invested heavily, in both financial resources and leadership, in the success of the statewide Connecticut Collective for Women and Girls? The Collective has convened quarterly action sessions for the growing statewide membership of allies and advocates for women and girls. Its success is a top priority for the Fund, which made a second year commitment of \$20,000 for 2019.

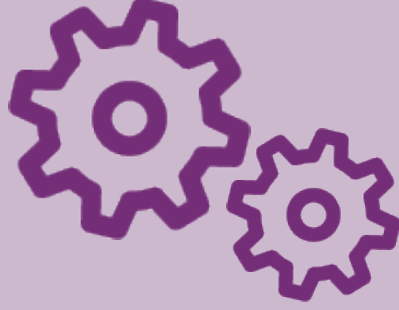
Stay Engaged

The transformation to a more equitable society for women is on the horizon, made possible by a highly-engaged citizenry. If you have marched as never before, or worked on getting out the vote, or made calls to your elected officials, researched and attended programs to learn more, you are doing great work. Thank you!



Photos iStock

Inside ... Special Grant Impact Report



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The Community Fund for WOMEN & GIRLS

A component fund of  The **COMMUNITY** Foundation for Greater New Haven

Special Report



Photo: Judy Sirota Rosenthal

Advisory Board Chair Says 'Thank You'

Dear friends and supporters,

I am at the close of my term as chairperson of the Fund for Women and Girls and it is bittersweet. The Fund has held a special place in my heart for well over a decade and I am proud of what we have accomplished over the past few years while I was chair.

In 2016, when I was nominated to chair the Advisory Board of the Fund I was simultaneously honored and apprehensive. How could I chair an organization that I so admired and, which has been led over these many years, by so many passionate and energetic women, the opportunity seemed daunting. When I looked around the board room, however, I knew I would be surrounded and supported by the sturdy foundation of the Fund's twenty-three-year impact and the many passionate, committed and fierce women who came before.

Two years flew by and as I reflect on all our board has accomplished I could not be prouder.

We redesigned the grant guidelines to focus more clearly on a gender lens and this focus has impacted local organization programming. As a result, thousands of women and girls in Greater New Haven were influenced through Fund supported activities.

The Fund began advancing multi-year funding that targeted investing in organizations tackling strategic and policy efforts through substantial multi-year grants.

We are more diverse across religion, race and ethnicity and age than we have ever been in our twenty-three years. As a result, we give voice to a range of identities and beliefs, and we unite over our commitment to feminism, equity and fighting injustice.

The Fund has moved towards a more activist stance. The last two years challenged even the strongest and most positive of us. Gun violence has increased. Hate crimes have been on the rise. Women, who are more likely to be poorer than men, are plunging deeper and deeper into poverty. Young children wait in detention centers to reunite with their families.

The Fund's innovative work—impacting the lives of many women and girls each year—gives me hope. Our work, to promote the social and economic advancement of women and girls, continues to be necessary. We must doggedly press on since there is so much work to do, and because "a better world for women is a better world for all of us."

I am sad to leave the board but, as I have observed, no one ever really leaves the Fund. The alumnae are active and involved, helping to shape grantmaking and leadership, raising and donating funds, and acting as Fund ambassadors in their neighborhoods and towns. Count me in!

Thank you for the opportunity to work with each of you. I have learned so much and am grateful for the chance I had to contribute my small part to something extraordinarily special and transformational. We are building a strong, united community of women, courageous and powerful, fighting for a just world.

With all my gratitude,

Fanna Wagner



... INCREASING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

LEAP's "Learning to Code" computer class and "Making a Splash" swimming program increased girls' self-confidence, self-esteem and academic abilities. In computer class, girls learned how to code by developing an app. Along with enhancements in thinking, processing and communicating, girls gained a sense of empowerment creating an app that redefined beauty standards to reflect a more realistic female image. Through swim class, girls challenged cultural expectations and pressures, managed their fears, gained greater self-awareness and embraced the stages of puberty.

Success:

- **85-100%** of girls understood coding concepts and were able to write code, girls developed proficiency in programming and robotics
- **7%** increase in the number of girls who were confident about swimming following the fall 2017 class

Bridges case management and educational services provided teen girls with information on pregnancy prevention and reproductive health.

Success:

- **82%** increased knowledge on misconceptions of sexual/reproductive health
- **85%** had increased understanding of the cost of raising a child



... CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES

New Haven Farms Women's Community Health Ambassador Program provided summer work positions and cultivated a network of women in the Fair Haven community to build a culture of advocacy around their health and wellness goals. Participants received farm fresh produce and culturally relevant recipes to continue the work at home. Ambassadors demonstrated leadership by keeping others motivated while motivating themselves to stay active.

Success:

- Participants achieved an average **weight loss of 2.63%**
- There was a **44% increase** in the number of participants who reported their health as good, very good or excellent at the conclusion of the program

Literacy Center of Southern Connecticut continued and expanded the Adult Women's ESL (English as a second language) program and Mother's Advanced Class.

Success:

- **8** women retained employment; 2 obtained a driver's license; 1 secured employment

St. Martin de Porres launched a co-curricular girls leadership program involving athletics and centering on developing leadership skills and self-confidence in female students.

Success:

- **13** girls joined the Peer Ministry taking on leadership and mentoring roles

TOGETHER, WE ARE ...



Fund leaders with Tarana Burke in 2018.
Photo Judy Sirota Rosenthal



Photo courtesy of LEAP

reducing gender-specific barriers
creating a ripple effect that benefits the
individual, her family, neighborhood and
surrounding communities
warriors in the fight against systemic
causes of inequity
designing programs to meet needs and
create opportunities
advancing women and girls



Photo courtesy of CWEALF



2015 - 2017 GRANT IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



... CHANGING ATTITUDES & BEHAVIORS

Christian Community Action's Mothers (and Others) for Justice program continued and expanded its empowerment work with teenage girls. Participants found a "safe place" where they could de-stress from tough situations like incarcerated parents and abusive partners. The program taught girls how to amplify their voice and constructively talk through and manage challenges in their personal lives.

Success:

- **70%** of girls increased confidence in their ability to voice their opinion using techniques learned in the program
- **75%** were better able to manage conflict

Believe in Me Corporation implemented a gender responsive expressive healing program for women in recovery. The program incorporated art therapy to reach gains in self-understanding, emotional change and personal growth. Participants learned coping and problem solving skills and increased their ability to use support systems.

Success:

- **93%** of women reported an overall improvement in attitude and social functioning



... CHANGING SYSTEMS

Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) and **Women & Family Life Center (W&FL)** apply the knowledge gained from participants in their programs to inform larger policy agendas, share insights to improve programming and take follow up action.

Success:

- CWEALF coordinates the Connecticut Collective for Women and Girls, a Fund-led statewide partnership that builds capacity and knowledge of its members to address gender inequity
- CWEALF led the campaign for paid family and medical leave changes in Connecticut; pay equity legislation prohibiting the use of salary history in the application process passed in 2018 due to their efforts
- **100%** of CWEALF's Bilingual Community Advocacy project and Advocacy Fellowship program clients improved their understanding of their legal rights and the legal process; 83% reported that they were provided with solutions or steps they could take to resolve their legal issues
- Peer social service agencies learned from W&FL stories and data on how best to serve and advocate for women, particularly survivors of domestic violence, needing benefits, legal counsel and affordable housing options
- W&FL hosted small workshops and one-on-one financial consultations with low-to-moderate-income women to empower them toward financial stability/sustainability resulting in 98% of participants feeling more confident about solving their own financial needs