



## We've come a long way, baby.

In the early 80s, a groundswell of support for women, by women, was spreading across the United States.

To harness that energy, the **Women's Funding Network** was formed in 1985 to organize the more than 60 Women's Funds across the country and amplify the voices of women who had identified a singular focus for their charitable dollars: Women. The mantra that was heard was simple: *We want to support women. We want a world that is just and fair for women and girls.*

Just one year later, in 1986, that voice — and those words — could be heard ringing throughout our community as the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee opened its doors. And in fact, we are proud to wear the title of

**oldest and largest** public foundation in the state of Wisconsin dedicated to women's and girls' programs.

Since those early days, we have made great strides in Milwaukee through our support of women-led initiatives and programs around four major focus areas: Economic Justice, Social Justice, Leadership, and Education. Our grants to address these issues have **increased more than 30-fold** in our 25 years of operation, **thanks to you** — our strong donor base throughout the greater Milwaukee area.

*We have* come a long way. But injustices still exist. Women still make less money on average than men (see below). Women still don't have the support they need to raise their

children in safe and healthy homes. Women still don't hold an equitable amount of leadership roles — from the private to the public sector. Which means our voices, concerns and interests are still underrepresented in the top levels of business and government.

But with your help, we will continue to address issues of inequality. We will continue to support the work being done in our community to create a world that is just and fair for women and girls.

Because we know what you know: when you invest in a woman, you invest in her family, and ultimately, her community. ▪



### A Quick Look at the Issues, Then and Now:

#### Economic Justice

In 1986, women made only 64 cents to every dollar earned by a man. In 2011, (on average) women are now earning 80 cents for every dollar earned by a man.

#### Social Justice

Back in 1986, we were still fighting to explain why research in the area of women's health was needed. Today we're actively working to address Milwaukee's Infant Mortality crisis.

#### Leadership

Despite decades of positive growth, only 2 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs are women and we hold a very modest 17 percent of seats in congress.

#### Education

In 1986, about half the students on college campuses were female. Today the number of women graduating (at all levels) is at a high point — 57 percent of all graduates.

# Grant Partner's Advocacy Initiative Aims to Re-define Mental Illness



Grand Avenue Club Executive Director Rachel Forman (right), with Janet McCray, program participant and advocate for change.

More than 26 percent of Americans ages 18 and older — about one in four adults or 57.7 million people in total — suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder. Despite the widespread nature of mental illness, stigma and misunderstanding still surround it, especially with regard to women.

Because of that, the Grand Avenue Club of Milwaukee is advocating for change: its program **"Hearing Our Own Voices"** is working to re-define the way women with mental illness are viewed by the community.

As one of the Women's Fund's current grant partners, the Grand Avenue Club plans to achieve success by identifying emerging women leaders who are committed to influencing public policy and working with them to develop their leadership skills. These women will then lead the charge to achieve

transformation in mental health policies and practice on a local, state and national level.

The short-term goal is to influence the priorities of the 2011 Milwaukee County budget and decisively impact the major Mental Health System Redesign Project of the city's Public Policy Forum. Long-term, the Grand Avenue Club hopes to impact state- and national-level awareness, attention and funding for mental illness initiatives.

According to Rachel Forman, executive director of the Grand Avenue Club, **"the vibrancy of our women-led community has propelled our female members to transform their personal pain into social issues and social change."**

We're proud to stand alongside our grant partner, the Grand Avenue Club, as it continues the important work of social change in the realm of mental health. ■

## International Women's Day Celebration

On **Tuesday, March 8**, the Women's Fund joined the Grand Avenue Club to celebrate with women across the globe on International Women's Day. A national holiday in many countries, International Women's Day has been celebrated since the early 1900s, honoring the progress of women throughout the world.

The evening celebration included the opening of *"Mystique: Views of the Feminine"* — an exhibition of women's art, inspired by women's hopes for "bread and roses too." The exhibit features works by internationally and nationally-renowned artists, as well as local artists from the Grand Avenue Club Art Collective and runs through May 13 at the Grand Avenue Club.

# 'Building Sisterhood' is the Focus of our Next Social Change Exchange



Women's Fund Executive Director, Elaine Maly with Paula Penebaker, President and CEO of the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee are co-hosting the 'Sisterhood' Social Change Exchange.

Historian and author Gerda Lerner said, "... it is when women began to think of themselves not only as a coherent group, but when they began to act in society as such a group, that the concept of sisterhood becomes so much more than simply a rhetorical term."

In conjunction with the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee, the Women's Fund will host a panel-led discussion and exploration of the concept of building sisterhood. We believe that by building stronger relationships among the women of our community we can mobilize our efforts into even greater action and success.

"To create real and lasting social change, we all need to work together, regardless of whether the issue is our personal struggle," said Elaine Maly, Executive Director of the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee. "We want to build a community of women who truly care about one another. To do that, we need to have compassion for one another, and the way we learn to understand each other is by finding a place to be together. It will take all of us — working together across zip codes and color lines — to create real and lasting social change."

We invite you, the members of the Women's Fund community, to join us in this conversation that we hope will strengthen our bonds of sisterhood. ▪

## Social Change Exchange

March 31 ▪ 4 to 5:30pm

Just prior to our Annual Celebration  
Vogel Hall, Marcus Center for the  
Performing Arts

Panelists include:

- **Nicole Angresano**, Vice President Community Impact, United Way of Greater Milwaukee
- **Ava Hernandez**, Program Manager & Director of Training & Learning, Public Allies Milwaukee; Co-chair, Latinas en Acción
- **Yvonne Lumsden-Dill**, Director, Women's Leadership Institute, Mount Mary College

This event is co-hosted by the  
YWCA of Greater Milwaukee

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**Elaine Maly**, Executive Director of the  
Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee

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# You're invited to our Annual Celebration

Thursday, March 31, at the **Marcus Center for the Performing Arts**

## **Annual Celebration** 5:30 to 7:30pm | Bradley Pavilion

Celebrate with us the accomplishments of the past 25 years and help us honor **Patty Cadorin**, this year's recipient of the Lynde Uihlein Award for service to the Women's Fund. Additional 25th Anniversary highlights include: an **Art and Jewelry Auction** to benefit our family of grantmaking programs; a **Limited Edition Anniversary Bracelet** created by Cathy Jakicic as a thank you gift for on-site donations of \$100 or more; and an inspirational performance by the Milwaukee Choral Artists, directed by Dr. Sharon A. Hansen, and a **rendition of the women's anthem, "Love and Justice,"** performed by a 50-voice women's choir. **There is no charge to attend. Appetizers will be served. Cash bar.**

**RSVP** Please respond by **March 23** via [womensfundmke.org](http://womensfundmke.org), (414) 290-7350 or [info@womensfundmke.org](mailto:info@womensfundmke.org)

## **Social Change Exchange** 4:00 to 5:30 pm (*prior to the Annual Celebration*) | Vogel Hall

See inside for details about this panel-led discussion and exploration of the concept of Building Sisterhood. *Reservations are not required.*

Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee • (414) 290-7350 • [womensfundmke.org](http://womensfundmke.org) • [info@womensfundmke.org](mailto:info@womensfundmke.org)



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**25** Celebrating  
25 years of  
investing in  
one another.