



Initiative on Women & Philanthropy

In recognition of the leadership and philanthropic work done by women throughout New England, we celebrate these current facts and observations.

- ◆ Women not only care and give, they give a great deal!
- ◆ Women give to religious organizations more than men.
- ◆ Women are more philanthropic than men, even though they earn less.
- ◆ Women control over half of the total wealth of the U.S.
- ◆ Women volunteer at significantly higher rates than men.
- ◆ Women are not a niche audience, they are the audience. (Witter & Chen, 2008)
- ◆ Differences in communication and conversation patterns make word of mouth more powerful for women than men. Women are skilled at "spreading the Word" through social networking.

(Source: Women as Philanthropists by D. Mesch and A. Pactor from the Women's Philanthropy Institute, Center of Philanthropy, Indiana University, PPT shared at UM Foundation National Meeting, 2008.)

- Research into women's giving reveals the following affirmations!
- Religion is the most important factor in shaping women's philanthropy and social change.
- Women's organizations made their greatest impact on public policy-making agendas through "maternalist" programs for mothers and children.
- Women's organizations historically had more authority in weak decentralized states or communities than in highly centralized ones.
- Participation in voluntary associations enabled women to build "parallel power structures" to those of men.
- Transnational philanthropy (similar to the covenants that exist within the UMC) played a crucial role in opening a "space" for indigenous women's civil society activities. (Source: *Women, Philanthropy and Civil Society*; Indiana University Press, Bloomington, In, 2001)
- Sustained movements. From the time of early Christianity, women's financial support has sustained several movements devoted to social change, especially in the last century, programs that invested in the development of women and girls.
- Women from diverse backgrounds have learned to be bold and strategic donors, effective fundraisers and powerful social change agents. Women's funds identified women of means who were already giving money, cultivated new donors and linked those women to each other and to a movement of progressive change.
- Women's funds developed new mechanisms based on models used in poor countries, such as funding circles and collaboratives, for raising and giving money.

- Women’s funds created new institutional models for philanthropy with diversity on boards and staffs and closer partnerships among grant seekers, grantees and funders. They broke down a big wall that existed in philanthropy by demonstrating that grant making will be much wiser when people most affected by issues take part in creating solutions. The link here is to Liberation Theology which involves the oppressed in their own liberation.
- Women’s funds raised feminist and womanist issues in the broader community, advanced gender-specific funding strategies and demonstrated the importance of direct local funding, laying the groundwork for how many large foundations now do their funding.
- Women have, in addition to raising funds directly, encouraged other funders to increase their giving to women’s organizations.
- Funds have developed leadership among women and girls. As a result of women’s giving, women have moved into leadership positions in other foundations, businesses, nonprofits, politics and other arenas.
- Women’s funds have helped fund connections between women around the world, working to create a more just and equitable society.

Adapted from: *Women, Philanthropy and Social Change: Visions for a Just Society*, Tufts University Press, Medford, Mass, 2005, Elaine Ciff, Editor
 Research by Laurel Scott, 2009

*Women do not seek recognition, yet we seek to celebrate these leaders.
 Nominate a woman philanthropist and we will tell her story!*

Nominees Name:

Nominee Contact Information:

Your Name:

Contact Method

Tell the Story:

Send email with above information to Bonnie Marden at Bonnie@umfne.org or mail to:

UMFNE, PO Box 370, Hampstead NH 03841-0370.

Questions? Call Bonnie at 800-595-4347 X106