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BWF mission & core values

mission

The Boston Women's Fund supports community-based organizations run by women and girls in the Greater Boston Area. We work with low-income women; women of color; women with disabilities; older women; lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people; immigrant and refugee women; and girls who are working to create a society based on racial, social, and economic justice. The Boston Women's Fund raises money from a broad base of donors across economic backgrounds to provide grants and develop programs that strengthen the grassroots initiatives and leadership of women and girls.

core values

- We believe that change starts at the grassroots level, and systemic change is necessary to achieve social justice.
- We believe that power and wealth must be redistributed to attain equity and systemic change.
- We believe that the fight for women's rights is an integral part of a larger struggle to end oppression based on race, class, gender, age, religion, ability, or sexual orientation.
- We believe that all movements fighting racism must be racially and culturally diverse in both membership and leadership if progressive change is to occur.
- We believe that women and girls can and must be leaders within all movements if progressive change is to occur.
- We believe that educating and organizing a diverse donor base is a critical strategy for amassing broad support for social-change movements.
- We strive to reflect our commitment to shared leadership, equity, and cultural diversity in all aspects of our organization's operations.

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BOSTON WOMEN'S FUND



Frinde Maher

message from the board co-chairs

Dear Friends:

We are writing this in the midst of headlines documenting the most severe economic crisis in generations. As you know, in times like these we must expect that public funding of projects and initiatives addressing the needs of women and girls will be among the most severely curtailed. We also expect these conditions to prevail for the foreseeable future. At the same time, we have to anticipate that the landscape of philanthropy is likely to be transformed, as potential donors assess their capacities to give. And yet the need for support for women's and girls' social justice projects will sharply increase.

Despite these conditions, we at the Fund have much to be thankful for and to celebrate. We are approaching our 25th year of funding grassroots organizations working for economic and social justice. The current group of Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy is approaching the end of its two-year program cycle. Last year we gave over \$300,000 to a variety of projects and initiatives involving women and girls. And, as we are writing this, we are excited to be welcoming a dynamic new Executive Director who will be profiled in our next issue.

We can continue our important work in these difficult and uncertain times only if we can count on your continued support, both now and in the coming months. We urge you to make the Fund a very high priority.

We want to end by expressing our great appreciation for all you do to promote social change and social justice.

Marilyn Glater and Frinde Maher Co-chairs, BWF Board of Directors

Markon Glater Frances A. Hohn



Front row L to R: Frinde Maher, Gloria Lopez. Back row L to R: Lillian Hirales, Marilyn Glater, Virginia Meany, Susan Ostrander



message from the interim executive director

It is with pleasure that we report on our activities during fiscal year 2008. During this period the Boston Women's Fund developed improvements in its programming and moved to adopt and implement its new development plan.

This work took place within a context of considerable change. During this past year, three of our beloved colleagues, Renae Gray, Trinh Nguyen and Hayat Imam transitioned out of the Fund and on to new endeavors. We wish them the very best as they pursue other opportunities to contribute to the philanthropic and social justice arenas.

We are now in the final stages of an executive search process, which will culminate in the appointing of a new Executive Director, who will take the organization through a new chapter in its organizational development. We anticipate making an announcement soon, and hope that you will join us in welcoming our new Director.

During 2008, we provided a day-long conference and training for our grantees. It focused on best practices for attaining sustainability in a time of great difficulty for nonprofits. In addition, our Young Sisters For Justice in Philanthropy program started its first internship program, sending our Young Sisters to grantee organizations for cross-fertilization of skills and knowledge. Please look for further details about YSFJP later in this Report.

The Fund maintained its dedication to improving the lives of women and girls by funding grantees' efforts to create solutions to issues that affect their lives and their communities. As we remain committed to funding fledgling organizations with great promise, we provided financial support to programs that might not otherwise obtain grants. BWF's grants provided leverage and opened the door for other philanthropic support for some of our grantee organizations. Our grantees work on the ground, moving social change forward. As a fund, we continued to build an organization internally that is broadly representative of women in all of our diversity.

Since its inception, the Boston Women's Fund has personified the difference each of us can make in the fabric of our society.

Your generosity helped us to ramp up support for grantees and special initiatives, while building up our organizational infrastructure. You join us from many different backgrounds and all corners of our community. We know that your decision to support BWF reflects your commitment to justice for women and girls. You remain steadfast in prioritizing the empowerment of women and girls in these rapidly changing times. We thank you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Joseph, Interim Executive Director

2008: a time of transition

By Arlene Snyder, Director of Philanthropy



"staff members who had led the organization through many years moved on to new challenges" The year 2008 was a year of transitions for the Boston Women's Fund, Staff members who had led the organization through many years moved on to new challenges. Renae Gray, Executive Director since 2004, a founder, supporter, and past member of the Board, stepped down in March this year. She continues to focus on her passionate commitment to diversity in philanthropy and other community building initiatives. Our former Director of Development, Trinh Nguyen, moved into a new position with another non-profit after six years at BWF and several terms as a member of the Fund's Allocations Committee. Hayat Imam, Executive Director of BWF in the early 1990's, and Director of Donor Relations since 2004, retired, but continues as an activist on a range of social justice issues.

Each of these powerful women contributed substantially to the growth of the Boston Women's Fund for many years. They each wore many hats within the Fund's diverse components. Their combined commitment to the empowerment of women, women of color, and the power of social change activism had major effects on the Fund and on our communities. As a fund-raising team, they built strong relationships with BWF donors, ensured the growth of the Fund's grant-making capacity, and built our endowment. Before leaving their positions at the Fund in FY08, they set the foundation for on-going organizational development.

Early in the year, Renae and Trinh began working with a nationally known consultant with strong ties to the Women's Funding Network to chart a new course in fund-raising and donor outreach. Their work resulted in the creation of an organizational audit and a new "Development Map," designed to guide the Fund's growth into the next decades of the 21st century. The primary goal of the design was to ensure resources would be available for transformational grant-making, while realizing the Fund's important values in all that we do.

Before Renae left her position as Executive Director, she and Board of Directors took a first step in the implementation of the Development Map by hiring a Director of Philanthropy. This was a new position developed to provide leadership and strategy for building an innovative fund-raising program, which would strengthen and build upon BWF's broadbased, diverse, and significant sources of support. Key responsibilities of the new position are to expand the notion of philanthropy, while building alliances with diverse communities, both as donors and partners and promoting the idea that a diverse donor base is critical to achieving social change.

Arlene Snyder, an experienced development professional known for her ability to energize Boards of Directors to achieve philanthropic goals, was hired as the new Director of Philanthropy and joined the staff in December, 2007. She began to set new directions to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the Fund; foster a "culture of philanthropy," and lead staff and Board to institutionalize philanthropy and fundraising throughout the organization.

Perhaps the most important focus at the Fund during FY08, however, was to find a replacement for Renae Gray. The Board hired an executive search firm to ensure the most professional and thorough process for the task and embarked on a major search. A diverse Search Committee, comprising members of the Board, staff, and the community was formed to evaluate applications and make the decision. The new Executive Director will lead a collaborative process for envisioning the future, implement systems for greater internal efficiency, and continue the organization's leadership.

One of the most important goals of the Boston Women's Fund is to build leadership among women. The three women who left the Fund's staff this year were exceptional leaders, and they led the Fund in vibrant new directions during difficult times. While building an organization, which could flourish in a century filled with unknowns, they held fast to their values and ensured that the values of the Fund would never waiver.

Thanks to Renae, Trinh, and Hayat — and the many wonderful women who filled their positions before them — the Fund is prepared to begin a new era.



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the Fund's staff this year were
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making a difference with BWF programs



Grants Program

The Boston Women's Fund provides start-up and on-going funding for women's/girls' organizations or projects that address social and economic injustice. Our focus is on women with the least access to resources, who have been excluded from full participation in society because of their race, class, age, ability, immigrant status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion. Women and girls organizing on their own behalf is a priority for the Fund. The Boston Women's Fund understands organizing as a collective action to challenge the status quo, demand changes in policy and practice, and educate communities about root causes and just solutions. The Fund recognizes that there are a variety of stages and strategies that lead to community organizing. Therefore, BWF supports strategies that build community, encourage collaborations with other organizations, increase skills and/or access to resources, and produce leadership from within the constituency directly affected. While some of BWF's former grantees no longer exist in their original form or have changed their focus, the hundreds of women who were involved and took leadership in these organizations continue to act as an empowered and integral base in the movement for social and economic justice.

Support through Technical Assistance

An important component of the BWF Grants
Program is its Technical Assistance (TA) to grassroots
organizations. BWF provides technical assistance
through workshops designed to assist grassroots
women's groups in areas such as building fundraising skills, developing collaborations and partnerships, registering as a non-profit organization,



financial management and other relevant organizational capacity building needs identified by grantees.

In addition to technical assistance, BWF provides mini-grants to help pay for workshops, conferences or collaborative events so that grantee organizations can share best practices in the field and build relationships with other groups doing similar work.

Leadership Development

1. The Organizing Institute (OI)

The Boston Women's Fund Organizing Institute (OI) is a series of community events for networking, sharing best practices and developing strategies toward a vibrant social justice movement. Our goal is to create opportunities for partnerships among grantees and funders, networking among women and girl organizers in the field, and learning about issues that impact the community. Resource sharing and learning from each other are essential to achieving social change.

2. Young Women for Justice in Philanthropy

The Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy (YSFJP) is a youth led, community based leadership program. A diverse group of young women, ages 16-20, comprise the membership of the YSFJP Program. The program assists young women and girls to:





and girls. The Fund promotes the importance of grant-makers as partners in the social change movement and supports forums that engage BWF's constituents.

(a) understand the intricacies of social change philanthropy, and (b) integrate young women in all aspects of BWF. The Young Sisters learn about power dynamics, movement building, and the crucial role of progressive philanthropy. Through YSFJP, the Fund promotes the broader vision of social, racial and economic justice. Young Sisters are voting members of the Allocations Committee and have access to the Fund's staff development resources and training. Each session of Young Sisters for Justice in Philanthropy includes a collectively self-determined project organized to fundraise for social justice. Through these action-based strategies, young women become community activists, develop leadership skills, and participate in social change philanthropy.

Promoting Social Change Philanthropy

The Boston Women's Fund works diligently to promote social change philanthropy. BWF staff, board members and volunteers inform other philanthropic organizations about social change groups led by women and girls. BWF works with the press and participates in public speaking about the effectiveness of grassroots organizing led by women

Our Public Spirit

Our Public Spirit (OPS) is a project of the Boston Women's Fund in collaboration with Haymarket People's Fund and the Women's Theological Center (WTC). OPS recognizes and honors the giving traditions of women of color, while promoting social justice philanthropy within communities of African American and Asian women. Through OPS, Boston Women's Fund works to continue diversifying the base of donors who fund social and economic justice efforts. For additional information about BWF's social justice philanthropy project, Our Public Spirit, please go to www.ourpublicspirit.org. There you can download the publication, "Expanding the Circle... An African and Asian Women's Perspective on Giving," and obtain information about upcoming events.

Boston Women's Fund
understands organizing as a
collective action to challenge
the status quo, demand
changes in policy and practice,
and educate communities about
root causes and just solutions

transformations & transitions: YSFJP 2006-2008

By Melissa Cariño, Young Women's Programs Coordinator



2006-2008 Young Sisters, front row L to R: Amy Lee, Jamieka Foy, Hannah Brown, Princesa Diaz. Back row L to R: Aryelle Murrell, Ashley Gaines, Ashley Mendes, TiElla Grimes

It is unbelievable how quickly two years have gone by. It feels like just yesterday when we met with ten young women embarking on a tremendous journey as members of the Young Sisters For Justice in Philanthropy (YSFJP) program. Now we find ourselves faced with both incredible sadness and excitement — sadness as this group graduates & moves on to bigger things and excitement for the new group of young women who will begin their journeys soon. Despite these mixed feelings, we know that Boston Women's Fund (BWF) and the YSFJP program gave a positive philanthropic and political experience to many young people, and will continue to influence more young women as we progress into the future.

As we discuss transformations and transitions, it is important to highlight this YSFJP program's achievements. Not only did this group transform the original Young Sisters For Justice program (born in 1997), many individual metamorphoses occurred within each member and even within myself as the program coordinator. We learned so much from each other and changed as a result.

TRANSFORMATIONS

This revamped YSFJP program added an emphasis on philanthropy, fundraising, giving, and not-for-profit organizational development throughout the curriculum. These included successful philanthropy projects (themed by the 4 T's of Giving: Time, Treasure, Talent, & Tradition), a "philanthropy lens" exercise after each educational Saturday session, as well as learning & practicing fundraising and giving strategies.

In terms of individual growth and metamorphosis, each Young Sister:

- Raised her consciousness regarding a number of issues within the spectrum of social and economic justice causes;
- Learned about and began to understand the vast philanthropic world;
- Developed critical political and social analyses on issues like gender, race, and class inequities;
- Increased her confidence so that she could speak out about the importance of youth voice in social change and within social justice institutions;
- Gained an understanding of organizational functions, systems, and processes;
- Identified the difference between social services and social change; and
- Shared incredible insights that led to our growth and metamorphosis. For example, I learned new ways to engage and educate young people from the best teachers young people themselves.
 I also learned to use gender-neutral pronouns to combat heterosexism in a workshop called, Transgender 101. For example, one would use the word "zie" for he/she and "hir" for him/her instead of gender specific pronouns.

Moving on to the achievements of YSFJP, it is hard to know where to begin. The following are some of the high points accomplished in the past two years:

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Actively participated in four intergenerational BWF Allocation Committees;
- Designed YSFJP marketing material, including a brochure, a logo, and T-shirts;
- Joined BWF's 2000 Club & helped celebrate its completion in Fall 2007;
- Attended an annual Women's Funding Network
 Conference & Girl Grant-makers Gathering. One
 Young Sister was part of the Advisory Committee
 who also helped plan and facilitate the gathering;
- Participated in the Northeast Youth's "Freedom Riders" to the 2007 US Social Forum, connecting with both other youth and many other generations from all over the US and the world who are all committed to justice. Young Sisters were energized by meeting others (allies) who are part of this larger movement;
- Interned for six months at several BWF grantee organizations, including The Louis D Brown Peace Institute and The City School, obtaining skills and learning about programmatic development, organizational development, fundraising and communications;
- Engaged other young people in philanthropic giving by encouraging them to donate time, treasure, or talents, while educating those youth on the importance of contributing in whatever way possible to create positive change in their communities. Many signed a philanthropy pledge at a youth-led fundraising event in July 2008.

TRANSITIONS

While we celebrate this group of Young Sisters' accomplishments, it is now time to look forward to the upcoming transition. As Young Sisters near their graduation from the program, we work together to evaluate and, if needed, redesign the next YSFJP program so that it is stronger and even more effective.

We will design and develop a curriculum for the program's foundation, based on the work we did these past two years, recognizing our successes and areas in which we might improve. We hope to share this curriculum with other philanthropic organizations and within other communities for replication.

We are thrilled that several of our current Young Sisters agree and look forward to sharing more of their resources by stepping up to assist in the transitional process and help to recruit the next group of amazing Young Sisters. We have much to do before the next group begins, but hope to have the next Young Sisters start their own journeys by July 2009.



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"We find ourselves faced
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funding, supporting, & promoting social change

By Mary Quinn, Director of Communications & Data





"the Boston Women's Fund considered ways to broaden our support of grantees and their endeavors to create social and economic justice"

You contribute to the Boston Women's Fund, and each time you do, you support a number of organizations that are working to transform the lives and circumstances of women and girls, our communities and, ultimately our society.

During 2008, the Boston Women's Fund (BWF) considered ways to broaden our support of grantees and their endeavors to create social and economic justice. We decided to provide additional backing to our grantees by promoting their public policy social change agendas. Today, we do that through our publications. Soon, we will provide campaign information and ways to help on our website.

We'd like to share with you some of the social change campaigns that our 2008 grantees waged last year and their progress in those areas.

Ballot Question #1

Many of our grantee groups worked hard to educate both their constituents and other voters about the ramifications of Question One on the Massachusetts state ballot. Their concern was that people might simply vote for abandoning the state income tax, without understanding the consequences to state and city services and programs. Grantees also made an effort to inform voters about the other methods that cities, towns and the state would use to increase taxes to replace some of that lost revenue. BWF grantees believed in the need

for informed decision-making by the electorate and geared some of their efforts to ensuring that voters knew the pros and cons of the issues and decisions facing them.

Justice for Immigrant & Refugee Women

In addition to their efforts to educate constituents and the public about Question One, the Brazilian Women's Group educated the public about immigrant and refugee issues. They campaigned to promote immigrant legalization and immigration reform. They also worked to obtain access to college for undocumented students. In a climate of strong anti-immigrant sentiment, they continue this work.

Eliminating Health Disparities Among Diverse Racial and Ethnic Groups

The Asian Women's Social Justice Project of Massachusetts Asian and Pacific Islanders (MAP) for Health participated in several public policy efforts. On the national level they worked as part of MAP and with the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum to educate Congress on the health needs of Asians and Pacific Islanders, including issues regarding HIV and Hepatitis B. They advocated on local, state and national levels for better research and data collection regarding Asian and Pacific Islander women's health needs, because even within the context of efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities, Asian and Pacific Islander communities frequently are not included. On a statewide level, the Project worked on efforts to increase resources for HIV/AIDS prevention care and services. As a member of the Disparities Action Network, convened by Health Care for All, they advocated for the establishment of an Office of Health Equity to coordinate government efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health care. The latter is a

state body chaired by legislators, designed to implement a government response to end racial/ethnic health disparities.

Reduce Domestic Violence in LGBT Communities

Over the past two years, The Network/La Red succeeded in increasing the budget line item that specifically designates funds for GLBT domestic violence by \$196,000. These funds provide crucial services and support for victims of domestic violence in the GLBT community.

Organizing Communities to Fight for Economic Justice

The Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) Worcester chapter developed new women leaders, who in turn began advocating for change on economic justice issues that affect their lives. They also worked to build voter power and educate those new voters on key issues in their communities. In July, Neighbor to Neighbor won an unprecedented victory to close key corporate tax loopholes in Massachusetts. Following a hard-fought five-year campaign, corporate tax reform became law. By closing corporate tax loopholes, this campaign generated an estimated \$300 million in revenue for social programs in FY 2009 and \$160 million annually over the long term. Neighbor to Neighbor is another of our grantees that worked on voter education efforts on Massachusetts Ballot Question One and a get out the vote drive for November 4, 2008.

Making Neighborhoods Healthier and Safer for Young Women and Girls

In 2008, Sociadad Latina's Young Women Community Organizers (YWCO) focused their efforts on creating local policy change to address the negative effect that storefront advertising has on young women's physical and mental health. They worked with Boston City Councilor Michael Ross to organize a city council hearing with testimony from more than 50 community youth and other community members. Panelists included representatives of youth from Sociedad Latina, the Boston's Inspectional Services Department, Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Redevelopment Authority and other organizations. At the hearing, the YWCO presented data from their community assessment of over 100 storefronts in 13 of Boston's neighborhoods as well as geocoding maps, created with support from the Boston Public Health Commission, documenting local advertising practices. Sociadad Latina succeeded in winning support from all city councilors and the mayor on their initiative to change advertizing rules in Boston neighborhoods. As a result, in the fall of 2008, the city's Inspectional Services Department began a pilot program to clean up Boston's storefronts, with an eye to identifying specific changes needed to zoning ordinances for the health and well being of neighborhood young women.

In addition, Sociadad Latina's YWCO is working with the Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Youth Against Tobacco Statewide Coalition to develop a model for the state to reduce advertising practices that target low-income communities.

This is but a sample of the important work accomplished by BWF grantees. Our grantees act to change and enhance our communities and the lives of women and girls. BWF support is integral to their capacity to remain active in the community and address these important issues, which affect girls, women and whole families. Therefore, we pledge to increase our support, and ultimately their success.



BWF grantees believed in the need for informed decision-making by the electorate

BOSTON WOMEN'S FUND

"The organizing method relies on members identifying the root causes of problems and then working together in activities that result in systematic change."

BWF 2008 grantees

The Boston Women's Fund proudly supports the exceptional work of the following organizations in promoting social and economic justice for women and girls.

Asian Women's Social Justice Project (AWSJP)

Boston \$20,350

Asian, South Asian, and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing ethnic/racial minority in Massachusetts. Organizing women to work on their own behalf is at the core of the Asian Women's Social Justice Project. They work to give Asian women the tools they need to lift up their voices, develop leadership skills, organize as a community and create social change in their lives. There is a need for HIV prevention among Asian women using culturally and linguistically appropriate interventions. The AWSJP Women's Health Initiative offers this by preparing women to work as health advocates and educators in their own communities. AWSJP develops and disseminates their Women's Health Initiative HIV prevention model to address HIV/AIDS among under-served, at-risk Southeast Asian women and girls. AWSJP is a project of MAP.

Avery Institute for Social Change

Jamaica Plain \$10,225

The Avery Institute for Social Change is committed to quality health care for all and to feeding the policy discussion around health care with the data, experience, opinions and skills of the most underserved communities. The organization takes a visionary approach to health care reform and justice by joining the grassroots, academic and public policy communities. "Hear Us Now! Raising the Voices of Marginalized and Women of Color" is a project designed to provide critical input to the national debate on the availability of universal ac-

cess to health care. In addition it creates a pipeline of community activists to push a policy agenda for health care reform. The project will conduct small group conversations with ethnically diverse women about Massachusetts health care coverage and their specific needs for health care reform.

Bosnian Community Center for Resource Development (BCCRD)

Lynn \$10,225

BCCRD works to establish and provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to refugees from Bosnia and other parts of former Yugoslavia who have resettled in the wider Metro Boston area. The Boston Women's Fund grant supports BCCRD's domestic violence initiative, which provides education about domestic violence and victims' rights to women who are linguistically, culturally and economically isolated and vulnerable. Ultimately, refugee women become their own advocates, while sharing information and their experiences with others in their communities.

Brazilian Women's Group (BWG)

Allston \$20,350

Since the immigration raids in New Bedford in March of '07, the Brazilian Women's Group has seen an increase in weekly walk-ins and phone calls on issues regarding worker's rights, domestic violence and sexual abuse. The BWG mission is to promote political and cultural awareness, and contribute to the development and self-sufficiency of the Brazilian community, especially women and their children. The group promotes discussion groups, seminars and meetings around topics such as education, immigrants' rights and women's issues. They coordinate events that promote Brazilian-American culture and female leadership, while providing educational services such as English as a Second Language.





The City School

BWG also organizes campaigns to encourage civic engagement by their constituency. BWG is home to a cooperative of Brazilian women housecleaners who organize and advocate for the use of environmentally friendly and safe cleaning products. A Boston Women's Fund grant assisted them in hiring a full time staffer.

Center for New Words (CNW)

Cambridge \$20,350

CNW uses the power and creativity of words and ideas to strengthen the voices of progressive and marginalized women in society. Boston Women's Fund supports CNW's Taking Our Place in the Public Conversation initiative, which offers creative and skill-building workshops and facilitated book groups to homeless women, women in transitional housing, low-income women and women who have been marginalized because of race, ethnicity, class, immigration status, disability, age or sexual orientation. CNW seeks to build the capacity of various feminist movements, promote women's voices and ideas, expand educational/skill-building workshops to marginalized women, feature writers from "the margins," and initiate discussions about issues and concerns reflecting women's real lives. Supported in part by the Christina Callan Grant-Making Bequest at BWF.

Chelsea Citywide Tenants Association (CTA)

Chelsea \$13,600

Chelsea Citywide Tenants Association mobilizes low-income women and other public housing residents to fight for safe, sanitary, affordable housing. The Boston Women's Fund grant helped to support a full-time housing organizer, who reaches out to female-headed households, which are among those with the lowest incomes and least access to resources. The organized women of CTA work to ensure that public housing is sanitary, rodent and mold-free, and safe for all tenants; preserve "expiring use" housing developments in Chelsea; address problems caused by predatory lending; and diversify the base of those fighting for low-income and affordable housing in Chelsea.

The City School

Dorchester \$20,350

The City School develops and strengthens the power of youth to build a just society. BWF's grant supports Rose from Concrete (RfC), a program that builds leadership with court-involved, young women in Greater Boston. Focused on healing, deepening self-awareness and increasing self-efficacy, RfC helps young women gain greater insight and

BWF 2008 grantees (continued)



understanding of the political context and systems that have contributed to their present circumstances. Through learning activities and creative and community service projects, RfC youth begin to experience themselves as important and valuable members of our community who are able to make meaningful change.

Cooperative Economics for Women

Revere \$20,350

State programs that provide cash assistance, food stamps and ESOL classes were some of the supports that were lost due to sweeping changes in laws and policy since 9/11. These changes have severely impacted women & children in marginalized communities. Cooperative Economics for Women (CEW) targets those who are most marginalized by the US economic system: refugee & immigrant women who do not have the language, support systems or skills to move easily into the US labor market. CEW organizes them to address the problems they face as they struggle to meet their basic needs. The organizing method relies on members identifying the root causes of problems and then working together in activities that result in systematic change. The Food Security Program enables members to participate in community supported agriculture for organic and less expensive sources of produce. The ESL Women in Action program provides education, promotes an understanding of the root causes of injustice, and encourages women to use their knowledge and skills to create lasting changes within their families and communities.

Encuentro Diaspora Afro

Roslindale \$20,350

Encuentro Diaspora Afro is a grassroots organization, which gives voice to the experiences

of Afro-Latinos, a huge but largely invisible and marginalized group of people in Boston and across the United States. It is dedicated to dismantling racism, improving the lives of people of African descent, and creating a just society for all. The Boston Women's Fund supports the Hermanas Exchanging Roots, a young women's leadership program, and the Women's Initiative, which builds awareness and solidarity among various ethnic groups of women of African descent. Both projects promote cross-cultural dialogue and education, women's leadership, alliance-building and Afro Latino unity. Supported in part by the Christina Callan Grant-Making Bequest at BWF.

Matahari: Eye of the Day

Boston \$16,975

Matahari: Eye of the Day creates community solutions to prevent and end human trafficking, genderbased violence and migrant labor exploitation. The Boston Women's Fund supports Matahari's organizing in South Asian, Filipina and Haitian-Caribbean communities. Women are organized to develop solidarity groups and come together to help break isolation, tap into leadership potential, develop political commentary and establish networks for employment, childcare, education, and affordable housing. Each group engages in anti-violence and anti-oppression education and dialogue.

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) -Worcester

Worcester \$20,350

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) Massachusetts builds power in low-income and working class communities by bringing low-income people back into the political process, developing local leadership, and organizing a broad coalition of allies who hold politicians accountable to the needs of their constituents. The grant from Boston Women's Fund supports Neighbor to Neighbor – Worcester's project to develop the leadership capacity of low-income women activists in Worcester. Through door-to-door visits, one-on-one mentoring, individual and group skill development, issue education, and learning-by-doing public advocacy training, N2N – Worcester prepares low-income women to advocate for change on the economic justice issues that affect their lives and build voter power in their neighborhoods.

The Network/La Red

Boston \$6,850

The Network/La Red addresses battering in lesbian, bisexual women's, and transgender communities. The Boston Women's Fund supports the Network/La Red's visibility campaign, which raises awareness of and community responsibility for lesbian/transgender domestic violence. Through a combination of organizing, education, outreach, community collaborations, and media activism, the Network/La Red works to create a culture in which domination, coercion, and control are no longer accepted and operative, social norms.

Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center

Worcester \$10,225

Pleasant Street Neighborhood Network Center is home to Women Together (WT), a group of mothers, sisters, neighbors and residents of the Piedmont Neighborhood in Worcester who came together in response to youth violence in their neighborhood. BWF funding supports their organizing of a diverse membership, which will develop and work for a common vision for their community. Supported in part by the Christina Callan Grant-Making Bequest at BWF.



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Project HIP-HOP

Roxbury \$20,350

Project Hip-Hop is a youth-led organization that uses hip-hop culture and the history of resistance to injustice as tools for engaging and developing young people as activists and organizers. Working in the Dudley Square neighborhood, youth members and their adult supporters create a new dynamic where young people work together to uplift their community. Boston Women's Fund supports Project HIP-HOP's two-year initiative to explore sexism, misogyny, and homophobia while also increasing support for gender-specific programs for young women activists. The young women of Project HIP-HOP increase their ability and comfort in confronting gender oppression through the Summer Leadership Institute, a collaborative project about domestic violence with Casa Myrna Vasquez, and Girlz Cypher, a spoken word performance group for young women.

BWF 2008 grantees (continued)



Project: Think Different

Boston \$6.850

Youth often turn to the entertainment media and popular culture for information. The dangerous effects of mainstream media on the self-esteem, empowerment, and the well-being of young women is apparent in girls' violence statistics, current fashion trends, and rising rates of teen pregnancy. Project: Think Different's Youth Media Institute cultivates leaders who believe in their power to create change in the media. Education, employment opportunities, job skills training in media arts, youth co-facilitation of workshops for other youth, and mentoring opportunities help girls to explore the ways in which the media contribute to young women's perceptions of themselves as well as how young people can utilize media to create positive shifts in their community.

Reaching Out About Depression (ROAD)

Somerville \$13,600

Reaching Out About Depression (ROAD) is a grassroots mental health and organizing program run by and for low-income women with depression. ROAD addresses not only the symptoms of women's depression, but also the social conditions and inequalities that can cause, influence and exacerbate mental health difficulties. ROAD offers leadership opportunities for women so they can become peer supports for their fellow ROAD members and change agents in their communities. Experienced ROAD participants mentor new members, design and deliver presentations for local service providers, and participate in skill building workshops on team-building, grant writing and public speaking. The BWF grant supports ROAD's ongoing work and helps increase leadership opportunities for ROAD members.

Sociedad Latina

Roxbury \$6,850

Sociedad Latina's Young Women Organizing Project trains girls ages 14-18 on the elements of community organizing, providing them with a voice in the world and helping them to develop youth-led strategies for media justice. This program provides girls with leadership development skills that pertain to researching issues, interviewing and educating their peers and working with state and local decision makers. This year the Young Women Community Organizers focus their efforts on policy changes to address the negative effect that storefront advertising has on young women's physical and mental health. They also work with Area B2 police personnel to devise and implement trainings on the issue of girl-on-girl violence.

Teen Voices

Boston \$13,600

Women Express cultivates the power of girls and young adult women to create social change through writing and art. Women Express creates opportunities for low-income teen girls of color to develop





/e Learr

communications and journalism skills and to use these skills to express their point-of-view on critical issues. The young women involved produce a national print and online magazine, Teen Voices, now in its 17th year of publication and the only alternative print magazine for girls in the United States. BWF supports Teen Voices' Boston Girls Writing Project Community, an outreach and engagement effort to involve and work with an additional 225 girls from the Boston area.

United Teen Equality Center

Lowell \$20,350

United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) is a "by teens, for teens" safe-haven for youth development and grassroots organizing. The Young Women's Organizing (YWO) program is a social issues-focused program, specifically for young women, within UTEC's Youth Development Center. YWO develops young women leaders who in turn educate their peers about issues significant to women and girls in their communities in Lowell. YWO promotes young women's agency in their own community so that they become problem solvers focusing on the specific needs of Lowell's young women. YWO and its young women leaders together create a system

of supported leadership training. Currently, YWO participants focus on becoming experts on the issues of domestic violence, abuse, and cyber-stalking as they relate to young women in Lowell.

We Learn/Women Expanding Literacy Education Action Resource Network

Boston \$16.975

WE LEARN addresses the barriers and consequences of gender-based differences on women's learning - differences, which affect women's success and ability to progress socially, economically and politically. WE LEARN promotes women's literacy as a tool for personal growth and social change through networking, education, action, and resource development. BWF funds support WE LEARN's collaboration with Boston area adult literacy programs, which provides Women Leading Through Reading (WLTR) discussion circles for women with limited literacy skills. The circles utilize women-centered literacy materials, group reading, facilitated discussion, and reflective writing to provide unique opportunities to address gender-based barriers to women's learning. Supported in part by the Christina Callan Grant-Making Bequest at BWF.

BOSTON WOMEN'S FUND

BWF 2008 grantees (continued)





We're Educators A Touch of Class (WEATOC)

Dorchester \$10,225

Sister2Sister is a peer education program of WEATOC that educates young women about their bodies, informs them about critical issues, empowers them to make healthy choices, and helps them to improve their self-esteem. They are one of the first groups in Boston to use and establish the peer modeling technique for educating youth on issue affecting their lives. WEATOC uses drama, education and counseling to teach young women about abuse, themselves, and their relationships. Sister2Sister empowers young women so that they are likely to avoid victimization. Each member participates in various levels of training to create curricula, games and skits that educate their peers in schools, health centers, youth centers and women's programs. Through their dynamic performances that both educate and entertain, they are changing and breaking the negative stereotypes of youth.

YWCA Boston

Boston \$20,350

YWCA Boston's Girls Get REAL is the only program in Boston that focuses exclusively on the comprehensive health and well-being of adolescent girls. The program empowers at—risk girls to challenge destructive messages of sexism and racism and to develop healthy identities and individual voices against violence. They work together to address how poverty negatively impacts health and the reality of health disparities in Boston. Twenty young women of color receive training in leadership development and health education during after-school sessions and community workshops. They also participate in a variety of hands-on health and wellness workshops, field trips. They also conduct health and wellness surveys of their peers. These Peer Health Leaders then host outreach events and an annual Girls' Health and Wellness Summit to advocate for social change in their communities and promote greater health awareness among their peers.

ways of giving to BWF



Our donors play a critical role in the Boston Women's Fund's efforts to create a more just and equitable society, with gifts ranging from \$5 to hundreds of thousands. Whatever you give, your contribution makes a difference and is deeply valued. Whatever you give, the Fund couldn't do without it!

The Boston Women's Fund is designated a 501(c) 3 organization by the Internal Revenue Service. Contributions to the Fund are tax deductible. If you have questions or want to explore particular ways to give, please call Arlene Snyder, our Director of Philanthropy, at (617) 725-0035.

There are many ways to give and the Fund's staff is available to help you find the approach most suited to your needs.

Annual Fund

A gift to the BWF Annual Fund supports our yearly grant-making, on-going program initiatives, and the organization's infrastructure. The Annual Fund is our primary source of continuing support and sustains all the work that we do throughout the year.

A Gift of Stock

A gift of appreciated stock may provide more tax benefits for you than a cash donation.

Consult your financial advisor for details.

Employer Matching Gift

Check whether your employer matches the charitable contributions of its employees. If so, your employer's matching donation gives greater value to your gift.

Wainwright Bank's Community Room

The Fund is one a number of local nonprofit organizations included in the bank's Community Room program. You can go to the Wainwright Community Room online and make a gift to the Boston Women's Fund.

Workplace Giving

You can support the Fund by contributing to Community Works, a federation of social-change organizations engaged in workplace solicitations. If your employer doesn't provide Community Works as a workplace giving option, call (617) 423-9555 for information on how to bring the program to your place of employment, or to set up an appointment for Community Works to talk with your HR department.

Honor & Memorial Gifts

Celebrate a significant occasion — a birth or a birthday, a wedding or graduation — with a gift to the Fund. Memorialize the life of a special friend or relative with a gift. We will send a special thank you to mark the occasion and add a special citation in our Annual Report at the end of the year.

On-Line Giving

It's easy and safe to make donations on-line these days. Network for Good is an excellent on-line charitable giving site, which many BWF donors use.

Bequest

Designate the Boston Women's Fund in your will as a beneficiary of your estate. Our Director of Philanthropy is available to talk with you about specific language to use in making a bequest to the Fund.

Insurance Policy

Make the Fund a beneficiary of a life insurance policy—one you own that no longer serves its original purpose, one that names the Fund a contingent beneficiary, or one you buy specifically to benefit the Fund.

In-kind Contribution

Many friends of the Fund contribute in-kind gifts ranging from office furniture to free event space. Offers of donated printing and catering are particularly useful. We also appreciate volunteer time.

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ACE Project, 1994

Adbar Ethiopian Women's Alliance, 2006, 2004, 2001, 1998

Adolescent Parents' & Children's Center, 1992

Advocacy Center for Older Women Workers, 1990

Advocates for Better Child Support, 1994

Aid to Incarcerated Mothers, 1992

All Kinds of Families Alliance, 1990

Alliance Against Women's Oppression, 1988

Amigas Latinas en Accion pro-Salud, 1996, 1994, 1993, 1987

Arts Incentive Program, 2001

Asian American Resource Workshop, 2004, 1990, 1986

Asian Battered Women's Project of The Henry Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund, 1997

Asian Sisters in Action, 1991

Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE), 2006, 2005

Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, 1993, 1992

Asian Women's Social Justice Project, 2008, 2006, 2004

Associated Advocacy Center, 2003

Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, 1993

Association of Haitian Women, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2002, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1994, 1992

Association for Rights of Sisters, 1991

August Light Productions, 1988, 1987

AURORA: Women in Transition, 1993

Avery Institute for Social Change, 2008

Bandeli, 2002

Battered Women Fight Back! Inc., 1993

Battered Women's Healing Retreat Plan, 1988

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Institute, 1996

Blacks and Latinas Together, Inc., 1994

Bosnian Community Center for Resource Development, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005

Boston Acorn, 2007

Boston Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 1998

Boston Area Fat Liberation, 1988

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, 1991, 1988, 1987 Boston Area Sisters Support and Educational Group,

1988

Boston Black Women's Health Initiative, 2005, 2003, 2002, 2001, 1999, 1998

Boston Childcare Alliance/Inner-City Directors Network, 2005, 2002, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997,

Boston Film and Video Foundation, 1989

Boston Girls Tennis Challenge, 1995

Boston Initiative for Teen Pregnancy Prevention, 1992

Boston Justice Ministries, 1999, 1998, 1996, 1994, 1993, 1992

Boston Mobilization, 2007

Boston Self-Help Center, 1994, 1992, 1986

Boston Senior Action Council, 1987

Boston Tradeswomen's Network, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1994

Boston Urban Asthma Coalition, 2000

Boston Women's AIDS Information Project, 1992,

Boston Women's Community Radio, 1988, 1987

Boston Women's Health Book Collective, 1989,

Boston Women's Self-Defense Collective, 1985

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Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc., 1989

Cambridge Eviction Free Zone, 2003, 2002, 1999

Cambridge Performance Project/Back Porch Dance Company, 1996, 1994, 1993, 1992, 1990

Cambridge Sisters Program, 2002, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997

Casa Julia de Burgos, 1989

Center for Labor Education and Research, 1989

Center for New Words, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005

Center for Popular Economics, 1997, 1990

Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, 2005

Center for Women's Safety Education, 1988, 1987

Centro Presente, Women's Refugee Program, 1991, 1990, 1988, 1987

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Chelsea Commission on Hispanic Affairs, 1993

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Chelsea Human Services Collaborative, 2002, 2001

Children in Our Lives, 1987

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Chinese Progressive Association, The Workers Center, 1991, 1988, 1987

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Incest Survivors Network, 1988

Indian Subcontinent Women's Alliance for Action, 1992

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Khmer Traditional Healing Project of the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council, 1985

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Kuumba Girls Technological Initiative, 1996

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Lawrence Grassroots Initiative, 2001

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Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, 2007

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MassCOSH, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 1990

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Massachusetts Friends of Midwives, 1988

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Multicultural Project for Community Education, 1986

Muses Community Outreach Project/Artists Foundation, 1997

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Rape Crisis Services of Greater Lowell, Inc., 2005

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Saint John Eagles Color Guard, 1993

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Science Club for Girls, 2005, 2002, 2001, 2000

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Sisters Program for Empowerment, Action &

Knowledge (SPEAK), 2005

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Symphony Tenants Organizing Project, 1988

Teens Against Gang Violence, 2002

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Tenants United for Cambridge Housing Equality, 1988, 1987

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Title IX Advocacy Project, 2002, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995

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Union of Minority Neighborhoods, 2007

United Home and Health Care Workers, Local 1475, 1987

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Victim Advocacy Network, 1993

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Women's Collaborative for Building and Development, 1993

Women's Community Cancer Project, 1998, 1993

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Women's History Project, 1992

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Women's Institute for New Growth and Support, 1995, 1994

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Women's Statewide Legislative Network, 2002, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1994, 1987, 1986

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Women's Video Collective, 1988

Young Female Support Group, 1994

Young Feminist Task Force, 1993

YWCA Boston, 2008

members of the BWF 2000 club

In 2008, the Boston Women's successfully completed recruitment of 2000 club members. Thank you for participating in this extraordinary endowment campaign.

This list contains only those donors who signed up or continued to pay on their pledges in FY2008. You can view a full listing of all 2000 Club members at www.bostonwomensfund.org

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Dr. Ann B. Kirk

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Janet Kniffin Laurette Krieger

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Karen L. Miller Catherine Mooney

Rosario Morales and Richard Levins

Hannah Morehouse Deanne W. Morse Susan H. Mygatt Charu Narain

Raisa and Morton Newman

Sara Nitcher in honor of the marriage of Jesse Shoemaker-Hopkins & Catherine

Ramsey

Abigail Norman Judy Norris Judy Norsigian Andrea Novakowski

Louise O'Neal

Judith and Arthur Obermayer

Frances Olan Susan Ostrander

Patricia Parker joined by Reva Stein, Kathy Allen, Sandy Sachs, & Jenny Silverman in honor of Patty Hnatiuk's

birthday

Andrea Paulson

Sandi and Donald Peaslee

Linda Pesce Elisabeth Peterson Shannon Philmon

Rebecca Pierce and Michael Prokosch Kathy Pillsbury and Cindy Marshall Amy Poliakoff and Charles Sherman

Barbara Pontecorvo

Barbara Rabin and Yale Rabin

Helen Raizen and Kathy MacDonald

Michele Rapp Amelie L. Ratliff Hope C. Raymond Beth Reisen

Sharon Rich and Nancy Reed

Cynthia Rich Judy Richardson Nancy Richardson Ivelise Rivera

Mona and Malcolm Roberts

Terry K. Rockefeller

Pamela Rogers and Andrei Joseph in honor of Catherine Joseph

Mark Rohr in honor of Patty Hnatuik

Julie Rohwein and Jonathan Aibel Jennifer Rose Helen Rosenfeld

Dr. Alice Rothchild and Mr. Daniel Klein Elisabeth Sackton and Liz Coolidge

Rachel Sagan and Steve Gutherz

Linda Samuels
Guitelle Sandman

Wendy Sanford and Polly Attwood

Betty Sawyer

Penelope and Robert Schafer in honor of

Gale & Peggy Hedrick

Kay and Stan Schlozman

Ms. Marina Seevak

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Kovar-Selling

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Marjorie Siegel in honor of Joyce Siegel

Ellen Siever Selina Sikder

Jenny Silverman in honor of the Cottage Street Women's Group

Joy Silverstein

Helaine Simmonds

Ellen Simons
Jane Singer
Joyce Singer

Katherine Sloan

Judith E. Smith in honor of Donna Finn

Elizabeth and Bob Smith

Mary Smoyer

Alix and Joseph Smullin Cynthia Snow and Irving Kurki

Ms. Arlene Snyder and Mr. Paul Rabin

Judith and Lawrence Somberg

Marvin Sparrow

Rabbi Toba E. Spitzer and Ms. Gina

Fried

Ms. Sharon Squillance and Mr. Glen Daly in honor of the marriage of Jesse Shoemaker-Hopkins and Catherine Ramsey

Ms. Beatrice E. Stahl and Mr. John

Jacobsen

Lisa Stahl-Brown

Victoria Steinitz and Elliot Mischler

Marilyn Stern and Elaine Reily

Diane Stevens

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Meg Stone Lally Stowell

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Laurie Swett May Takayanagi

Chela Tawa

Kate Taylor and Char Anderson

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Trudi Veldman and Robert Kamen

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Alice Wiseberg and Debra Levy

Margot and David Wizansky

Toni Wolfman

Robin Wolk and David Klein

Lou Wollrab

Amy Woods and Humberto Gil

Rochelle and Henry Wortis

Alvie Ye

Cynthia Yee

Jean Yoder and Robert Willemin

Roberta Zallen

Tammy Zambo and Nancy Nienhuis

Robert Zevin

Elizabeth C. Zimmermann

Sherry M. Zitter

If there are omissions or mistakes, please let us

know and accept our apologies.

2008 financial statement

Revenue \$1.470.984

Individual Contributions:

485,745

33%

Unrestricted funds made by annual supporters of which the majority of the contributions were for \$500 or more.

Multi-year Pledges Received

550,000

37%

The funds received were from prior years' pledges from two individuals. We did not receive any new pledges this fiscal year.

Endowment & Special Projects

146,250

10%

Annual payout in the amount of \$40k and the balance was used for special projects which included staffing and organizational development consulting fees.

Organizational Contributions

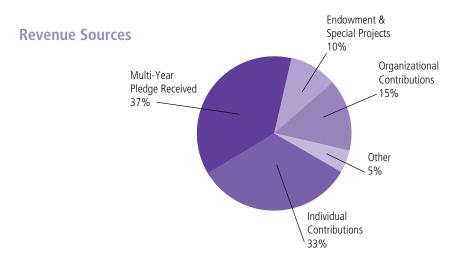
108,000

15%

These contributions are from Foundations & Corporations and includes Community Works contributions.

Other 70,989 5%

Dividends, interests, investment income and in-kind donations.



Audited Financial Statement

Expenses \$1,078,831

Grant-making 488,872 45%

Grants totalling \$347,633 were distributed to 23 grantees. Other costs associated with administering the grant making program, as well as, training and supporting the grant-making process are also included in this category.

Programs 222,141 21%

Regular forums for resource development and networking are offered to the community in order to build stronger organizations. The Young Sister's For Justice program operated with ten young women participating in the program. The Kellogg collaborative Our Public Spirit implemented the findings from Expanding the Circle.

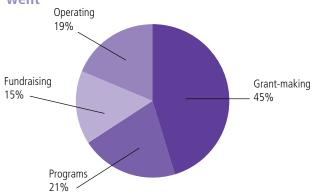
Fundraising 166,280 15%

All costs associated with organizing fundraising activities.

Operating 201,538 19%

The administrative costs associated with managing the general operations of the Boston Women's Fund are included in this category.

Where you dollar went



Audited Financial Statement

2008 financial statement (continued)

Assets

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,734,413
Pledges Receivable	90,046
Other Receivable	10,225
Interest Receivable	3,305
Prepaid Expenses	2,663
Total Current Assets	1,840,652
Property and Equipment	

Furniture and Equipment	22,794
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	18,800
Total Furniture and Equipment	3,994

Other Assets

Investments	1,112,135
Deposits	3,803
Total Other Assets	1,115,938

Total Assets 2,960,584

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Net Assets

Accounts Payable	24,132
Grants Payable	3,225
Accrued Expenses	7,099
Accrued Benefits	18,027
Total Current Liabilities	52,483

Audited Financial Statement

2,908,101

acknowledgements

Writers:

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BWF staff, board members & committess

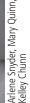


















BWF Staff

Catherine Joseph, Interim Executive Director

Margo Brathwaite, Financial Coordinator

Melissa Cariño, Young Women's Programs Coordinator/ Office Coordinator

Kelley Chunn, Project Director of Our Public Spirit

Mary Quinn, Director of Communications & Data

Patricia Simmons, Acting Associate Director of Grants Program/Program Assistant

Arlene Snyder, Director of Philanthropy

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Debra DeVaughn
Marilyn Glater
Frinde Maher
Susan Ostrander
Staff: Arlene Snyder

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Jessica Butler
Jessica Butler
Helen D'Angelo
Princesa Diaz
Jami
Jamieka Foy
Ashley Gaines
Marilyn Glater
TiElla Grimes
Amy Lee
Bren

Ashley Mendes

Mary Frances Mitchner Aryelle Murrell Chioma Nnaji Heather Searles Vivian Showell

BWF Spring Allocations Committee

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Nakia Maddox-Eubanks

Paulina Mauras
Ashley Mendes
Aryelle Murrell
Virginia Ngai
Lourdes Patel
Peggy Santos
Beverly Soares
Mercedes Tompkins
Aniali Waikar





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BOSTON WOMEN'S FUND

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