

Women's
Foundation
of California
**Turning crisis
into opportunity**

Turning Crisis into Opportunity, Helplessness into Powerful Action



This year's annual report focuses on ways that the Foundation and you, as a member of our network, **turn crisis into opportunity**. It's easy to feel discouraged and helpless when faced with a difficult economy and polarized political conversations that feel devoid of compromise.

There's no denying the crisis. Over the past two decades, the programs designed for the public good have been chipped away. Eighty percent of Californians have seen their incomes decline. And the social services that help people bridge difficult times have been cut to the bone.

As I write this, thousands of people have taken to Wall Street, city halls and plazas around the globe. They are driven by shared acknowledgement of ever-increasing economic disparities. Whether or not we choose to participate in the Occupy Movement, I believe we have a shared responsibility and opportunity to reverse the acceleration of families into poverty and to close the wealth gap.

We're all in this together. Our economy is strengthened by health and human services. A recent Beacon Economics report found that state programs like food stamps and job training provide a boost to the state's economy, with an estimated \$1.32 in economic activity generated for every dollar provided.

When I was younger, we had a round dinner table because my parents believed that you could always make a space for another person at a round table. There was always someone—a visitor, a neighbor in need—who was welcome to share a meal and a friendly conversation. That practice of sharing around a round table taught me to cherish making a place for others as a key strategy for turning bad times into times of possibility.

Recently, I was moved by the story of one of our Women's Policy Institute graduates. Her childhood had not offered opportunities so she ended

up living on the street, becoming drug addicted, then eventually incarcerated. Yet, while in jail, she decided she wanted to live, and so she started to study. When she came out she got involved in helping other women who'd been in prison. That journey led her to our Institute. Now, as a graduate, she has more skills to do the work that she has committed to—helping other formerly incarcerated women to successfully reenter their communities and find their place at the table.

This Institute fellow's story reminds me that we're never in a place where there's nothing that we can do. There are so many ways we can make a difference.

Thank you for your spirit of collaboration and community building that give us the courage to turn crisis into opportunity every day.

JUDY PATRICK, PRESIDENT AND CEO

A YEAR IN REVIEW

- Graduated a new class of Women's Policy Institute fellows, and saw three Institute-led bills get signed by the governor.
 - 1) SB 1440 streamlines the process of transferring from community colleges to four-year universities,
 - 2) SB 897 protects elders from sudden evictions because of foreclosures and
 - 3) AB 138 requires the California Department of Aging to use an Elder Index to more accurately assess the economic needs of elders.
- Awarded \$3.2 million plus in grants through donor circles and Foundation-led grantmaking.
- Strengthened the Foundation's financial position through cutting costs, improving our financial management and raising more money.
- Deepened key partnerships with funders such as Blue Shield of California Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Rosenberg Foundation.
- Launched a legislative action fund, which will allow us to identify and fund policy opportunities to enhance economic security of women and families in California.
- Completed a new strategic plan that commits to increasing the economic security of women and families in California.

You can learn more by visiting www.womensfoundca.org or calling us at 415.837.1113.

The Importance of Partnership



For more than 32 years at the Women's Foundation of California, we have formed partnerships with our grant partners, donors, board and staff. These are deep, true partnerships that exemplify my personal values and the values of the Foundation.

When I think of partnering I think first of my relationship and marriage. Neither my husband nor I would be the people we are today without each other and our long-term commitment to listening, caring, loving, learning and exploring together.

To be in partnership means listening without initial judgment. This is listening with the goal of fully understanding what the other person cares about and values. It means holding space to learn from each other and having conversations with mutual respect to seek to find mutual solutions. This is a challenging way to have conversations!

Yes, this practice of listening and learning together to find shared solutions takes time. It takes willingness to slow down, explore and find answers that work for all involved.

It is also the way the Foundation is able to form successful collaborations that lead to stronger nonprofit organizations, improved legislation and powerful women leaders.

Ultimately, working in this way is richly rewarding, for over time we inspire each other to live up to our potential.

On these pages you will meet a few partners in our network. They exemplify what it means to work toward shared dreams with collaboration, inquiry and respect for all. It is an honor to partner with them, and with you.

Kathryn M. Downing

KATHRYN M. DOWNING, BOARD CHAIR

Gretchen and Jim Sandler

**Donor Partners
Board Member**

To ensure systems-level change, Gretchen and Jim invest unrestricted, general support in community-based leaders and member-led organizations that address the root causes of injustice. Their main strategy for deciding who and what to invest in is listening, because they trust that the leaders and the organizations they fund have vision, know-how and innovative solutions that will transform crisis into opportunity.

"We want our funding to be a catalyst for leaders to achieve their goals," explained Jim.

Among their investments? The Women's Foundation of California. The Sandlers are seed investors in our new Legislative Action Fund and Gretchen serves as vice chair of the Board of Directors.

"I trust that our investments in the Foundation will make a difference by increasing women's and girls' economic security," said Gretchen. "And I'm proud to be a small part of making that happen."



Kimberly Freeman

**Corporate Partner,
Southern California Gas Company
Board Member**



Kimberly Freeman, a native Angeleno, first started with the Southern California Gas Company as a college intern. Now, more than 20 years later, she's the director of community relations, responsible for charitable contributions and community outreach to nonprofit organizations throughout Southern California.

Early in her career, Kimberly was greatly inspired by a luncheon she attended honoring African American women for their passionate service to their communities. It helped her recognize her own fundamental need to give back a portion of her time, talent and treasure through volunteer work and mentoring—it is now the source of one of the greatest joys of her life.

"I understand the unique pressures and expectations associated with being a woman leader. Unfortunately, it is rare that we openly recognize and address these challenges—whether as women, as communities or as a society."

In everything she does, Kimberly brings these challenges to the forefront. As a board member, Kimberly is actively involved in our organization and most recently moderated the premier conversation in our new speakers' series, *Amazing Women, Inspiring Stories*.

Mary Ignatius

Grant Partner, Parent Voices

The founders of Parent Voices believed that parents must be the ones who ignite and fuel the process of creating a more quality, affordable and accessible child care system. This spring, the group led their 17 chapters in a fight against the line-item veto that would have eliminated California's Stage 3 Child Care Program and devastatingly affected more than 60,000 children. The parents won!

But that's not the only way that Parent Voices measures success. Parent Voices teaches low-income women to understand policy and advocate for themselves. As a result, one of the group's greatest impacts has been helping women reverse the emotional tailspin they experience when budget cuts threaten services they need.

"Whenever I witness low-income mothers recognize their own power, I feel so honored to be part of that awakening in them," explains Mary Ignatius, statewide organizer for the group. "Once they build enough self-confidence and find a community that supports them, they are able to go further than they ever dreamed possible—they now have the ability to advocate."



Women Give San Diego

Donor Circle



Gayle Tauber (right), Linda Katz (left) and Foundation Board Member Jan Tuttleman (center) cofounded the Women Give San Diego (WGSD) Donor Circle to address a specific need. No other nonprofit in San Diego was grappling with the lack of economic security for women and girls. Now in its second year and 80 members strong, WGSD makes grants to organizations that are working to close the wage gap and level the economic playing field so that women have options they didn't have before: options like being able to attend college, earn a good salary, save and invest. Recently, Jan, the president of WGSD, was diagnosed with stage 4 glioblastoma multiforme. To give Jan time to recover, many members of the Circle have taken on new responsibilities.

"We've used what was going to be a tragic setback and found a silver lining," says Gayle. "Women who were not acting as leaders before have had the opportunity to step into their leadership."

Linda added, "Everyone in in the Circle continues to send positive energy, healing thoughts and love [in Jan's] direction to allow her the time and space she needs to help her along her journey to health."

Marlene Sanchez

Women's Policy Institute Graduate Grant Partner, Center for Young Women's Development

Marlene Sanchez, executive director of the Center for Young Women's Development (CYWD) works to empower young women and mothers in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. While these women are often experiencing personal crises, CYWD models a calm and purposeful atmosphere by focusing on a few priority issues. This helps the women to unravel the challenges that keep them stuck and develop their strengths.

CYWD believes that young women are the experts on issues impacting their lives and they should be involved in running and directing the programs that serve them. The group operates under the assumption that everyone has the capacity to be a leader—they just need to be invited.

"We have to be open to being inclusive and creating a process so young women can participate," explains Marlene. "If it is easy to pull up a chair and join the table, then people will do that."



PHOTO: JOE BURULL

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The list represents gifts given between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

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A New Way of Life Reentry Project/Los Angeles \$45,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

ACCESS Women's Health Justice/Oakland \$25,000 - Community Action Fund

Advocacy Coalition of Tulare County for Women and Girls/Visalia \$20,000 - Community Action Fund

All Of Us Or None (A New Way of Life Reentry Project)/Los Angeles \$40,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Asian Americans for Community Involvement/San Jose \$95,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice/Oakland \$15,000 - Community Action Fund

Asian Women's Shelter/San Francisco \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project Organizational Strength Grant

Banteay Srei (Asian Health Services)/Oakland \$20,000 - Community Action Fund

Banteay Srei (Asian Health Services)/Oakland \$16,750 - Women of Color Donor Circle

Black Women for Wellness/Los Angeles \$20,000 - Community Action Fund

Breakthrough Silicon Valley/San Jose \$20,000 - Women of Silicon Valley Donor Circle

California Against Slavery/Fremont \$7,500 - Women of Color Donor Circle

California Black Women's Health Project/Inglewood \$20,000 - Community Action Fund

California Child Care Resource and Referral Network/San Francisco \$16,000 - Economic Development and Justice Donor Circle

California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom (Tides Center)/Oakland \$20,000 - Community Action Fund

California Coalition for Women Prisoners (Legal Services for Prisoners with Children)/San Francisco \$25,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (Asian Health Services)/Oakland \$25,000 - Community Action Fund

California Indian Environmental Alliance/Berkeley \$25,000 - Community Action Fund

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice/Los Angeles \$15,000 - Community Action Fund

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice/Los Angeles \$3,750 - Women of Color Donor Circle

Californians for Pesticide Reform (Pesticide Action Network North America)/San Francisco \$15,000 - Capacity Building Program

Californians for Pesticide Reform (Pesticide Action Network North America)/San Francisco \$25,000 - Community Action Fund

Californians United for a Responsible Budget (Justice Now)/Oakland \$40,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Center for Domestic Peace/San Rafael \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Center for Judicial Excellence/Mill Valley \$25,000 - Community Action Fund

Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Inc./Los Angeles \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Center for Young Women's Development/San Francisco \$20,000 - Community Action Fund

Center for Young Women's Development/San Francisco \$25,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Center for Young Women's Development/San Francisco \$11,250 - Women of Color Donor Circle

Chicana Latina Foundation/Burlingame \$15,000 - Women of Silicon Valley Donor Circle

Child Care Law Center/San Francisco \$20,000 - Economic Development and Justice Donor Circle

Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc./Watsonville \$15,000 - Capacity Building Program

Community Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment/Los Angeles \$20,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Community United Against Violence/San Francisco \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Community Water Center/Visalia \$25,000 - Community Action Fund

Critical Resistance/Oakland \$15,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County/Santa Barbara \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Dress for Success- San Diego/San Diego \$10,000 over two years - Women Give San Diego

Eastside College Preparatory School/East Palo Alto \$22,000 - YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund

Filipino Advocates for Justice/Oakland \$30,000 - Economic Development and Justice Donor Circle

Foundation for a College Education/East Palo Alto \$22,000 - YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund

Generations Ahead (Tides Center)/Oakland \$20,000 - Community Action Fund

Georgia Women for a Change, Inc./Atlanta, GA \$25,000 - Women's Policy Institute Aging Justice Replication Project

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Girls and Gangs/Los Angeles \$7,000 - Los Angeles Giving Circle

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Homegirl Café (Homeboy Industries)/Los Angeles \$7,000 - Los Angeles Giving Circle

International Indian Treaty Council/San Francisco \$10,000 - Community Action Fund

International Indian Treaty Council/San Francisco \$5,500 - Women of Color Donor Circle

International Institute of the Bay Area/Redwood City \$22,000 - YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund

Jane Addams Senior Caucus/Chicago, IL \$50,000 - Women's Policy Institute Aging Justice Replication Project

Just in Time for Foster Youth/San Diego \$26,000 over two years - Women Give San Diego

Justice Now/Oakland \$25,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Khmer Girls in Action (Little Tokyo Service Center)/Long Beach \$15,000 - Community Action Fund

Khmer Girls in Action (Little Tokyo Service Center)/Long Beach \$3,750 - Women of Color Donor Circle

La Raza Centro Legal/San Francisco \$20,000 - Economic Development and Justice Donor Circle

Lake Family Resource Center/Kelseyville \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Learning and Loving Education Center/Morgan Hill \$5,000 - Women of Silicon Valley Donor Circle

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children/San Francisco \$25,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Maitri/San Jose \$22,000 - YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund

Marjaree Mason Center, Inc./Fresno \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Matheny Tract Committee (California Rural Legal Assistance)/Fresno \$5,000 - Capacity Building Program

Motivating Inspiring Supporting and Serving Sexually Exploited Youth/Oakland \$7,500 - Women of Color Donor Circle

Motivating Our Students Through Experience/Los Angeles \$7,000 - Los Angeles Giving Circle

Mountain Crisis Services, Inc./Mariposa \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship/Los Angeles \$7,000 - Los Angeles Giving Circle

Peace Over Violence/Los Angeles \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Peninsula College Fund/Menlo Park \$15,000 - Women of Silicon Valley Donor Circle

Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles Chapter/Los Angeles \$15,000 - Community Action Fund

Santa Clara Unified School District/Santa Clara \$20,000 - Women of Silicon Valley Donor Circle

STAND! For Families Free of Violence/Concord \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Supportive Parents Information Network/San Diego \$10,000 over two years - Women Give San Diego

The Center for Violence-Free Relationships/Placerville \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

The Peninsula Bridge Program/Menlo Park \$22,000 - YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund

The Women's Foundation of California/San Francisco \$45,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Time for Change Foundation/San Bernardino \$25,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Turning Heads Sewing and Fashion Design Program (The Women's Foundation of California)/San Francisco \$5,000 - Economic Development and Justice Donor Circle

Wisconsin Women's Network/Madison, WI \$40,000 - Women's Policy Institute Aging Justice Replication Project

Women Donors Network/San Francisco \$800 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Women Organized to Make Abuse Nonexistent, Inc. (WOMAN, Inc.)/San Francisco \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Women's Center of San Joaquin County/Stockton \$100,000 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Women's Fund of New Jersey/Union, NJ \$40,000 - Women's Policy Institute Aging Justice Replication Project

Women's Fund of Rhode Island/Providence, RI \$35,000 - Women's Policy Institute Aging Justice Replication Project

WomenShelter of Long Beach/Long Beach \$53,600 over two years - Blue Shield Against Violence Strong Field Project

Youth Justice Coalition/Inglewood \$15,000 - Race, Gender and Human Rights Donor Circle

Youth United for Community Action/East Palo Alto \$22,000 - YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund

YWCA Berkeley/Oakland/Berkeley \$22,000 - YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund

YWCA of Silicon Valley/San Jose \$22,000 - YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula Donor Advised Fund

The Women's Foundation
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