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Maine Women's Fund

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Newsletter of the Maine Women's Fund, Fall 2005 - "Global Connections"

AWARD RECIPIENT PROFILES

Every year the Maine Women's Fund uses its Evening to Honor Maine Women & Girls event to highlight the work of five women who are working for gender equality in Maine. A committee of board and community members have selected the following award recipients:

DENISE ALTVATER

Nominated by Priscilla Coffin

"I grew up on a remote reservation in Maine, and my story is as common today as it was 20 years ago," says Denise, a strong woman who overcame many hardships to improve the Wabanaki community. One of the tools Denise uses as an equalizer is drumming. She worked with Wabanaki girls so the elders of the tribes would accept them as drummers. The group often performs at ceremonies. Additionally, she helped organize the Indigenous Women's Voices Gathering at the University of Southern Maine, a groundbreaking event providing women and girls with the opportunity to learn drum and sing.

Denise's criminal justice work focuses on the growing problem of native women being treated differently from non-native women in the criminal justice system. She provides support for women who are already in the system, helps make changes to improve the situation, and works to secure tribal probation officers for native women and men.

To combat school violence and racism against native youth, Denise developed cultural exchanges among schools in the northeastern United States. She helped Wabanaki youth leaders design projects aimed at challenging homophobia in the community. Together with Wabanaki youth leaders, she also helped organize the National American Friends Service Committee's Indigenous Youth Gathering held in California. Denise touches all with a loving hand.

JENNIFER CLAPP

Nominated by Clare Fortune-Agan

As a school-based youth advocate for Caring Unlimited, Jennifer Clapp co-leads the Young Adults Against Dating Abuse (YAADA) program; is actively involved with the Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine initiative; and provides individual advocacy to teenage girls.

Jenn facilitates YAADA groups and trains student leaders in York County high schools to increase awareness and encourage dialogue about dating abuse and domestic violence. Through performances, presentations, and workshops, she reaches out to students of all ages and to local adult education programs.

In her work with the Turn Beauty Inside Out, Maine initiative, Jenn created and helped lead a six-week after-school program for elementary and middle school girls that focuses on true beauty as good hearts, great works, and activism. This curriculum has now been adopted by other schools and community members.

Continued on page 2

U.S. WOMEN WITHOUT BORDERS

The Maine Women's Fund is proud to be one of 10 women's funds across the country to participate in U.S. Women Without Borders (USWWB), a pilot project of the Women's Funding Network to help stop violence against women. Using the power of electronic communication as an educational tool, USWWB will reach the constituents of our 10 funds to begin to build a voice of U.S.

women equipped to influence our own foreign policy and media, particularly as it impacts violence against women and girls in other countries. We believe that when women and girls thrive, communities prosper. A key strategy for achieving community well-being is to address violence against women and girls.

We don't need piles of research to know that a great number of U.S. women would like to do something to support

"IN ONE WEEK, THERE WERE MORE THAN 700 ARTICLES IN U.S. NEWSPAPERS REGARDING TOM CRUISE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH KATIE HOLMES, BUT LESS THAN 80 ARTICLES ON THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN WHERE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN RAPED AND/OR KILLED."

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Through this project, Jenn effectively promotes a positive sense of self for girls that helps counter the messages they receive in the media as well as in everyday life.

Through her compassion, dedication, and wisdom, Jenn has become an outstanding role model for the young women and girls with whom she works. The ripple effect of her work to empower scores of young women and girls will no doubt be felt in Maine and beyond for many years to come.

NHI NGUYEN

Nominated by Odelle Bowman

It has been said of Nhi Nguyen, 17, of Portland, that she "exhibits a wisdom and poise beyond her years." Most impressive is the way this young woman balances family, school, work and community activities. Nhi began participating in A Company of Girls, a Maine Women's Fund grantee, when she was in the fourth grade. Through her work with this organization, Nhi has touched the lives of many women of all ages in her community. Her teachers have commented that Nhi's "vitality and optimism serve as a launching pad for positive change in every social setting."

At a very tender age, Nhi began modeling leadership for other girls. For example, with her "gentle, unblaming spirit" she calmly dealt with prejudice and harassment as a Vietnamese girl in a predominantly white school. She facilitates self-reflection among her young peers, easily "bring[ing] others to clarity and insight." Most importantly, Nhi is respected by her classmates. Adults speak of her remarkable leadership.

Ever conscious of the world around her, Nhi is already bilingual, and is working to master the Spanish language. "An old soul, who always looks beyond herself to the greater picture," Nhi is an inspiration for other young women.

SUSAN YORK

Nominated by Susan Glick

A writer and illustrator, arts educator, and consultant to a number of arts and education organizations, Susan York focuses much of her work on women and girls. Her work on the sisters-IN-sight project, a Maine Women's Fund grantee, uses art and theater to help teenage girls find their strengths and keep their voices. Through sisters-IN-sight, a strong "girls' culture" is being built in Aroostook County using arts as a medium to explore issues such as self-esteem, making healthy lifestyle choices, and creating positive relationships.

At Stepping Stones, a nonprofit organization in Houlton, Susan helped develop a residential program for pregnant teens and an associated drop-in center and transitional living program. Her work affirms young women and helps them acquire skills, self-confidence and education to raise their children and empower themselves. Susan has written grants; collaborated with other local organizations; and linked parents, professionals and pregnant teens with the vital services Stepping Stones provides, including educational and arts programs, safe housing, and supportive community mentoring.

Today, Susan is executive director of Southern Aroostook Art Project, a position she has earned through her tireless efforts to build an organization to support artists of all types in the Southern Aroostook area.

Continued page 3

LYN MIKEL BROWN

Sarah Orne Jewett Award Recipient

Nominated by Karen Heck and Sharon Barker

Dr. Lyn Mikel Brown writes extensively on the relational life of girls; the influences of race, class and gender on girls' lives; and about girls' feelings of anger, self-knowledge, loss, hope, and desire. She is Professor of Education and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Colby College in Maine.

Her book, Meeting at the Crossroads: Women's Psychology and Girls' Development (with Carol Gilligan), was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year that helped spark an international debate about the lives of girls and redefine our understanding of female development. Lyn's other books include Raising Their Voices: The Politics of Girls' Anger, and Girlfighting and Betrayal and Rejection Among Girls. Psychiatric Services calls Girlfighting "a serious and intelligent analysis of the cruelty and meanness involved in girls' relationships" and book reviewers tout it as "the smartest book on mean girls around."

Lyn was a member of The American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Adolescent Girls, and consultant to the Ms. Foundation for Women's National Girls' Initiative. She has also consulted for numerous film and television projects, including shows on PBS and Fox Children's Network.

Lyn is co-creator of the Waterville-based nonprofit Hardy Girls Healthy Women and remains an active participant in the work of the organization. She lives in Waterville with her husband, Dr. Mark Tappan, and their daughter, Maya. ■

On Gender Balance

by Karin Anderson, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The summer of 2005 has afforded me multiple opportunities to consider balance in my life. Just as most women experience, I feel the constant trade-offs of loyalty to my family, my work, my friends, and my community involvements. Rarely, however, do all of these priorities tug quite as fiercely at the same time as they have this summer — for no particular reason other than timing.

In tai chi, we learn that each of our movements has a counter movement, that everything that is hard or full has a shadow that is soft or empty, and that we can only achieve true balance by continually moving between hard and soft, full and empty. How, then, do we metaphorically change direction when we're feeling that things are too hard or too full, that our "back-up" systems are too soft or too empty?

I realize that these are the very questions we address as social changemakers. The nature of our work is to change the systems, policies, institutions, and the very culture that defines our society. We work toward true democracy so that women are found in equal numbers as men at every table where decisions about our lives are made. At the Maine Women's Fund, our tools are grantmaking, leadership development, and encouraging the often difficult dialogue that is needed for this tidal wave of change to happen. And, yes, the work often feels hard, our coffers are always too empty, our plates are overfull, and our support systems often feel too soft. Still, we will not be satisfied until gender balance has been achieved — when women and men are truly equals.



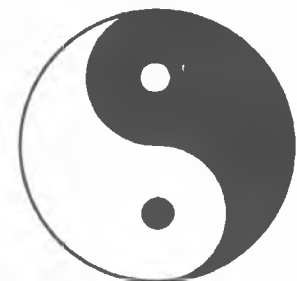
In my personal struggles with balance, I have learned to step back from the hardness so that the softness can emerge, and when I'm feeling too full, to stop and "empty" my plate a bit. On a psychic level, I am now refueling my empty cells and strengthening my soft muscles — building my reserves back up. I know that my balance will continue to be challenged.

In our social change work, we need to adopt similar practices. The tidal wave can begin as a soft ripple, the empty coffers can be not only refilled but expanded. What we have to focus on is the continual forward motion of our efforts — the more we move, the better balanced we become.

Thank you for helping us move forward over the past 15 years. May we continue to make progress together until our balance is achieved!

Karin Anderson

With deep appreciation to Fred Brancato.



INTERNS IMPRESS AND INSPIRE!

This summer the Maine Women's Fund had four amazing interns. These women dedicated hundreds of hours of their time to the Fund and tackled projects big and small. From designing and implementing new fundraising campaigns to updating our grants database, to organizing the supply closet, to coordinating our eBay store, these women tackled any job we put forth and did so with skill and a smile.

We enjoyed their energy and perspectives and feel confident that the world will see more of them, in various arenas, as they pursue their careers and dreams. We wish them the best and thank them for sharing their talents and time with us.



2005 INTERNS

Natalie Charles,
Cape Elizabeth, Maine
Former business owner and stay-at-home mom, animal rescue volunteer



Lucy Cox-Chapman,
Hartford, Connecticut
Attends: Williams College,
majoring in Political Science



Claire Welo,
Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin
Attends: Carleton College,
majoring in American Studies



Pam Weeks,
Scarborough, Maine
Attends: Susquehanna University,
majoring in Public Relations

To learn more about our interns, please visit our website. If you are interested in interning with us, e-mail Shannon Nichols at Shannon@mainewomensfund.org for more information. ■

NEW GIRLS' NETWORK BEGINS SIXTH YEAR

By Shaye McGann Robbins

At its first New Girls' Summit, ten members of the New Girls' Network, representing each class of New Girls, reaffirmed its mission and tweaked the schedule to improve upon past years' offerings. After five active years, the New Girls have a core of women from across the state who are bringing their expertise back to the forums as guest speakers. When the New Girls' Network offers a forum on "models of giving," "civic engagement," or "board service as an art," we will ask women with expertise in philanthropic venues, politics or on boards to help deepen the discussions with their real life experiences and knowledge.

Thank you to the women who gave their time to ensure that our program is actively improving. This year, the New Girls' Network program will host the following class discussions:

September 2005

The New Girls' Network and our mission: Introduction to the Maine Women's Fund and, most importantly, getting to know each other

October 2005

Women in the Lead: Political Leadership and Civic Engagement: A panel discussion

October 14 Evening to Honor Women and Girls (optional)

November 2005

"If I had a million dollars..." Grantmaking: The New Girls' Fund for Social Change and Community Grant Organizations

December 2005

Feminism: what does feminism mean to you? A discussion about the many definitions of feminism and how feminist values impact our lives and culture.

Holiday Party for women in the New Girls' Network (optional)

January 2006

Inspired Philanthropy at work: Learn how young women are connecting their values with their giving of time, money and expertise.

Attend the MWF's grantmaking session. See how the Maine Women's Fund makes decisions about which grant requests to approve. (optional)

New Girls' New Year, continued

February 2006

Board Service as an Art! Quality

Board Service Lessons

March 2006

*Fundraising and Marketing: an
activists' guide*

*Brew Girls—a concert featuring
Maine women performers as well
as Maine brews, including beers,
sodas and coffee (optional)*

April 2006

*An Inside Look at Social Change
in Action: Site Visit(s) to New Girls'
Fund for Social Change Grantees*

May 2006

*Life Beyond the Program: Tapping
into the Larger Network*

June 2006

A Social Event with the entire New

NEW GIRLS' NETWORK MISSION

**"TO PROVIDE A FORUM IN
WHICH WOMEN IN THEIR
20'S AND 30'S CAN EXPLORE
ACTIVISM, PHILANTHROPY,
LEADERSHIP AND FEMINISM."**



Thank you to Great Works Internet for their generous donation of discounted Internet service to the Maine Women's Fund.

This donation was made as part of GWI's ongoing Charitable & Non-Profit Program, which is designed to help non-profit organizations increase their ability to communicate with the public and further their mission via the Internet.

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MAINE WOMEN'S FUND
AND HOSTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER, MABEL WADSWORTH
WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER IS PROUD TO PRESENT:

KIM KLEIN

FOR AN ALL-LEVELS FUNDRAISING WORKSHOP
AS A BENEFIT FOR THE MABEL WADSWORTH
WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER

8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

WELLS COMMONS, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Kim Klein is internationally known as a fundraising trainer and has worked in all aspects of nonprofits and fundraising as staff, volunteer, board member and consultant. She is best known for adapting traditional fundraising techniques, particularly major donor campaigns, to the needs of organizations with small budgets working for social justice.

This workshop is a rare opportunity for development staff, board members, volunteers and social justice activists to spend a day in conversation with one of the best in the field - and support Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center at the same time.

More information about Kim Klein and her fundraising materials and philosophy are available on-line at: www.grassrootsfundraising.org.

Registration for the day-long workshop is \$150 per individual. The facility is handicap-accessible. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Very limited partial scholarship assistance is available. Application form is available by request.

For information or to register, contact Deanna@mabelwadsworth.org or (800) 948-5337 ext. 104. Pre-registration is strongly advised. This event is expected to sell-out!



**DON'T MISS THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY TO
TRAIN WITH ONE OF THE BEST IN THE FIELD!**

THE "F" WORD

There has been a lot of discussion about the definition of feminism at the Maine Women's Fund lately. We asked a couple of friends, "what does feminism mean to you?" Here's what they said.



"I wouldn't be where/who I am today without feminism, but I go for very long periods without actively thinking about 'feminism.' So for me, feminism is clearly ingrained. It is the foundation upon which I can safely rely—that there are always women-

individuals, networks, organizations, systems, untold/unknown—generating power in every sphere of life and making it possible for all of us to live to the fullest. Feminism ensures that every question is answered from a woman's perspective and we synergize. Feminism means all women can get ahead because the older/more experienced/more resourceful among us are there to bring our sisters up and along. Feminism means I can always find what I need or do whatever I want. Thanks for asking!"

— Peaches Bass

"It has been my experience that when the topic of feminism is brought up in a group, it has been approached from a very Western point of view and defined with Western standards. Unfortunately, at some parts of the world these standards are very unrealistic. We have to keep in mind feminism might have different definitions at different parts of the world."

— Zeynep Turk

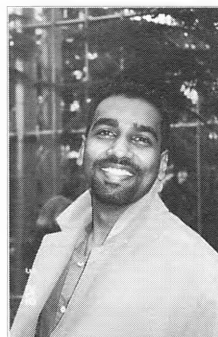


THE MAINE WOMEN'S FUND

Its mission is clear: to create a just society by supporting programs, policies and practices that empower Maine women and girls.

The MWF is strategically focused on the four priority areas:

- Eliminating violence against women and girls.
- Fostering self-esteem and self-determination for girls and women.
- Promoting economic security for every woman in Maine.
- Providing access to quality health information and health care services.



ART EXHIBIT FEATURES GLIMPSE INTO WOMEN'S LIVES IN INDIA

During the month of August, Portland activist Noël Bonam exhibited his work in ink, acrylic, watercolor and pyrography at his sixth solo-art exhibition - "VIMALA,"

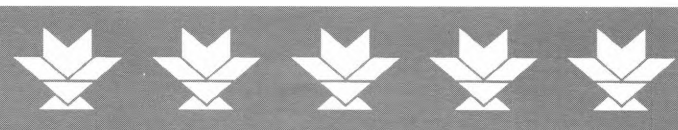
in support of the Maine Women's Fund. The show was dedicated to his mother, Vimala Sumithra, who lives in Bonam's home country of India, and to all women who have given selflessly and who have triumphed through their dedication.

At the opening reception at the Galerie du monde in Portland Bonam explained his motivation for getting involved with the Maine Women's Fund: "The Maine Women's Fund does very important work and supports work that truly has a long-term effect on this community. I couldn't have found a better mission to support through the proceeds of my show."

Bonam's artwork offers unique glimpses into women's lives in southern India. Happy, sad, strong, weak, angry and gentle women are the subjects of his work. "These are women we see in our daily lives in any part of the world! Women that make our communities better and strengthen our lives...each passing day," explained Bonam.

The Maine Women's Fund is honored to pay tribute to Bonam's mother through the work we support for women and girls.

Thank you, Noël, for your generous support and for using your art to affect positive change for people throughout Maine and beyond!



E-NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

Want to hear the latest news relating to women and girls in Maine? Join our e-newsletter by sending your e-mail to thewomen@mainewomensfund.org, and we will send you e-mails twice a month that share the latest news about...

- The U.S. Women without Borders Campaign, a global initiative to end violence against women across the globe.
- Stories from Maine Women's Fund grantees.
- New opportunities for individuals and businesses to help ensure equality and justice for women, their families and the communities where they live.
- Upcoming events and more.

Connect to a global and local network of people who, just like you, want to support equality and justice for women and girls in Maine. Our e-newsletters are designed to help people take action in 60 seconds or less. Please take just a moment to join today!

REMEMBERING MARY



Photo: Arthur Fink

On August 11th, MWF Founding Mother Mary Hillas died surrounded by loved ones in her garden in Falmouth. Mary had been living with primary progressive aphasia for five years.

Mary tended many beautiful gardens in her lifetime, just as she tended her familial relationships with her sister, ex-husband, four children and their families, including three granddaughters, and her partner of 23 years, Barbara Potter. She was a mentor, friend, and "sister" to hundreds who had the good fortune to know her. Mary was an artist and craftsperson, endlessly curious about the world around her, an ardent steward and appreciator of the natural world, an active and innovative philanthropist, and deeply committed to her spiritual community, most recently the members of the Portland Friends Meeting. She helped everyone who knew her understand that the hand that gives and the hand that receives are interconnected, and that by joining those hands together, we all receive.

Mary lived simply, authentically, and with great amounts of love and compassion. We will miss her.

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE



No matter what its size, every contribution is important. Your gift will enable the Maine Women's Fund to continue providing opportunities and promoting solutions that allow women and girls to achieve their fullest potential.

There are many ways to contribute, and we offer technical guidance for all donors wishing assistance:

Cash gift:

No explanation necessary!

Kindred Spirit:

Become a *Kindred Spirit* of the Maine Women's Fund by joining its automated giving program. Have monthly or quarterly donations charged to your credit card or debited from your checking account. Call 207-774-5513 and speak with Bev or Shannon to sign up today!

Pledge:

A pledge of any amount and on any schedule.

Bequest:

Designate the MWF as a recipient of part or all of your estate.

Insurance:

Designate the MWF as beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

Stock:

By contributing stock, you may receive tax advantages.

Memorial/Honorary gifts:

Honor someone living or deceased, or celebrate any occasion with a gift in the name of someone who has made a difference in your life.

Employee Matching:

Have your employer match your contribution.

MaineShare:

Designate your payroll deduction to the MWF.

Money donated to the Maine Women's Fund is professionally managed and carefully allocated. If you have any questions, please call the MWF office at 207-774-5513. The MWF is a 501(c)(3) agency. Gifts to the Maine Women's Fund are tax-deductible.



MAINE WOMEN'S FUND 2005 GRANT AWARDS

TOTAL ALLOCATION \$132,207

Since 1990, the Maine Women's Fund has invested \$1.3 million throughout Maine to accelerate change and to create a just and equitable society for women and girls. In June 2005, MWF allocated \$112,207 for annual grants.

MWF STRATEGIC PARTNER GRANTS

As strategic partners, these three organizations receive annual support and participate in meetings convened by the MWF.

Women, Work & Community, Statewide, \$8,500. To continue to integrate financial literacy into all of WWC's program areas: workforce development, microenterprise, leadership development, and asset development.

Maine Equal Justice, Statewide, \$8,500. To support MEJ's ongoing work on health care, welfare and family support, and low-wage work support issues.

Maine Women's Policy Center, Statewide, \$8,500. To support MWPC's general operations, with a major focus in 2005 on economic security issues.

MWF TWO-YEAR GRANTS

Alternatives to Violence-Maine, Women's Unit Program in the Windham Correctional Facility, Statewide, \$3,000 over two years (\$1,500 in year two). To empower women incarcerated at the Windham Correctional Facility to build self-esteem and develop communication and nonviolent conflict resolution skills.

Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, VAWA Program, Statewide, \$15,000 over

two years (\$7,500 in year two). To support 10 to 12 workshops annually for immigrant community groups and domestic violence professionals and to strengthen ILAP's legal services to non-citizen women who are victims of domestic violence.

MWF ONE-YEAR GRANTS

Alpha One's Maine Leap Program, Financial Peace & Independence Project, Greater Portland, \$6,000. To empower women with disabilities by providing financial education and peer support.

Classy Lady, Inc., Androscoggin County, \$3,930. To assist women who are entering or re-entering the workforce by providing mentoring and affordable, professional clothing.

Cobscook Community Learning Center, Linking CCLC Women with International Groups, Washington County, \$7,000. To support the women of Downeast Maine in establishing a women's action and organizing group to improve the health of the Bay of Fundy and its communities, families, and individuals.

Community Counseling Center, Maine Speakout Project's Transgender Day of Remembrance, Statewide, \$2,500. To offer a public platform for members of the transgender community to share resources, support and offer training to medical and mental health service providers who interact with the transgender community.

Hardy Girls Healthy Women, Kennebec, Somerset and Franklin Counties, \$5,000. For general operating support for the organization to achieve its vision of a world in which all women and girls experience equality, independence, and safety in their everyday lives.

Loving Learning, Girlfriends, Madison, \$600. To help teenage girls make healthy life choices by providing job shadowing opportunities, mentoring, and role-playing exercises.

Maine Center for Economic Policy, Advancing the Direct Care Workforce Through Coalition Initiatives, Statewide, \$5,000. To staff the Direct Care Worker

Coalition of consumers, providers, and workers to promote policies and practices that respect and value direct care workers and to sustain quality direct care in Maine.

Memorial Middle School, Empowering Youth, South Portland, \$2,000. To empower middle school girls to develop safe and healthy relationships and create a culture of respect for women.

Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic Violence Program, Pleasant Point, \$4,148. To maintain the 24-hour community domestic violence hotline and provide community education concerning domestic violence issues.

Platform Shoes Forum, The X-5 Challenge, Statewide, \$5,000. To develop the first phase of the X-5 Challenge, an online game that encourages 'tweens (ages 11-15) to eat nutritiously and be physically fit.

Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine, Safe Talk, Safe Streets, Greater Portland, \$6,300. For a partnership between SARSSM and the Preble Street Resource Center to provide cross training of staff, improve availability of in-person services for adult and teen clients of PSRC, and provide educational programs at the Preble Street Teen Center about preventing sexual assault.

The Next Step Domestic Violence Project, Next Step's Washington County Project, Washington County, \$7,500. To create social change in Washington County through community education and abuse prevention.

Western Maine Girls Association, Girls on the Run & The Tapestry Project, Oxford & Androscoggin Counties, \$5,000. To encourage the positive emotional, social and physical development of girls by expanding Girls on the Run, a program that connects health, nutrition, and physical activity, and by implementing The Tapestry Project, a program that combines physical activity, art, and discussion.

Womancare/Aegis Association, Glitter Girls, Dover-Foxcroft, \$5,229. To collaborate with Piscataquis Community Middle School to implement an empowerment

group for 7th and 8th grade girls to explore issues of self-esteem, utilizing personal power, and identifying inner beauty.

Women's Health Resource Library, Washington County, \$7,500. To increase women's access to health information so that they can become active partners in their own health care.

MWF SPECIAL GRANT

Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, *Grassroots Fundraising Training with Kim Klein*, \$5,000. To offer a training session to all grassroots organizations in Maine working to improve the lives of women and girls.



Since 1990, the Maine Women's Fund has given grants totaling \$1.3 million to qualified nonprofit organizations working to:

- Eliminate violence against women and girls;
- Promote economic security for every woman;
- Build self-esteem in girls and enhance leadership and self-determination for women;
- Provide access to quality health care and information about women's health.

To learn more about the work being done by the Maine Women's Fund and its nonprofit partners, please visit our website at www.mainewomensfund.org.

Thanks!

NEW GIRLS' FUND FOR SOCIAL CHANGE ANNUAL GRANTS

A new fund within the Maine Women's Fund supporting young women and leadership: 2005 allocation \$17,500

Zoey's Room Tek Trek, Platform Shoes Forum, Statewide \$3,000. To help develop a girl-focused interactive learning tool about health and exercise for healthy living.

Chewonki Canoe Expedition for Maine Girls, Statewide \$3,000. To support a cross-generational mentorship and wilderness trip that encourages economic empowerment, aspirations for non-traditional local career options, and leadership development of young women in the state.

Voices Changing Choices: Abused Women's Advocacy Project, Androscoggin \$3,000. Promote leadership and empower girls to become ambassadors within their schools about violence-related issues and to create long-term opportunities for them to speak to this issue after high school.

Girl's Eye View-GAMBIA, Women's Collective of Mt. Desert Island, Hancock County \$3,000. To support nine girls from Hancock County, Maine, on a cross-cultural experience in the village of Jambanjelly, Gambia in West Africa. The initiative encourages girls to look within and beyond their community for connection, education and opportunity.

Positive Outlets, sponsored by Add Verb Productions, Greater Portland \$2,500. To support a voice-inspiring project for teens whose voices are frequently lost or undeveloped. Positive Outlets presents hip-hop fundamentals and spoken word art to homeless teens at the Preble Street Resource Center.

Prevention, Action, Change (PAC) sponsored by Add Verb Productions, Greater Portland \$3,000. To support a violence-prevention, education, and skill-building program for young women who are or have been homeless in and around Portland, Maine.

NEW GIRLS' FUND OPPORTUNITY GRANTS

Small grants that enable women to enhance their leadership abilities: 2005 Allocation \$2,500

Hardy Girls Healthy Women, Waterville. To purchase the materials needed to implement a lesson plan and its concurrent social action project. The focus is on understanding beauty and positive body image.

Maine Women's Policy Center, Augusta. To support the travel expenses of two emerging leaders to a national conference of younger women's feminist voices. This national initiative will shape the future activities, advocacy, and events of the Younger Women's Task Force, and help to define the needs and future course of the feminist movement.

Institute for Practical Democracy, Portland. To support the travel to and conference attendance at "Queering Femininity" by a local teenage leader. This conference focuses on the role of the feminist movement in lesbian women's lives.

Institute for Practical Democracy, Portland. To assist a project of guided dialogue and open, ongoing communication between immigrant mothers and immigrant female youth living in the new cultural divide. The focus is on stronger families now and in the future.

Maine Science and Technology Camp, Limestone. To fund one full scholarship for the Nature and Numbers Summer Camp for Girls. This camp includes a variety of science, math, and technology activities.

Maine Women's Policy Center, Augusta. To support emerging leaders attendance at a nationally recognized political training and action workshop called Camp Wellstone. Participants learn the skills necessary to organize, run and succeed at political campaigns.

KINDRED SPIRITS UNITE!

by Shannon Nichols, Director of Development

Money, money, money—is not what my work is about.

Values, passion, strategic thinking—these words are more closely aligned with what I do as the director of development at the Maine Women's Fund. I love talking with donors about the thought process that goes into making their gifts to the Fund. While much appreciated donations are the end result, the process of making an informed and effective gift is what I find so powerful and inspiring!

I share the following stories from the Maine Women's Fund in hopes that you will be inspired as well:



A London woman with Maine roots called to tell us that she had been following our work for a long time via our website. She noticed we had updated our web presence and felt it was time to get involved. She made a donation, and facilitated a 2:1 matching gift from her employer!

Noël Bonam decided he wanted to make a major gift to the Fund, and did so through his artwork. He donated the proceeds of his art show, VIMALA, to the Fund, and invited us to speak on his WMPG radio program, Culture Matters. (see page 6 for more about Noël's show.)

Anne Courtney Olivo, owner of Clay Play in Brunswick, recently joined the Women & Work Labor Day Campaign.

"I had heard about the Maine Women's Fund, but had not been approached before now," reported Anne. I joined because I believe strongly in helping women get as much education, support and access to opportunities as they possibly can."

Then there is my own giving. After discussing philanthropy at one of my New Girls' Network meetings, my husband and I talked about our giving patterns (small as they are) and our values. We decided that we would support organizations we felt passionately about, and stop giving to organizations out of guilt. I can't tell you how liberating this move has been!

Our discussion led us to join Kindred Spirits, the automated giving program of the Maine Women's Fund. As Kindred Spirits, we have \$20 magically zapped from our checking account each month. (Donors can choose to give monthly or quarterly and an amount that works for them.) I love giving this way—its easy, timely, and allows us to stretch our giving capacity much further than if we gave in one lump sum. Best of all, we give knowing that our support is shaping the future—a future we hope for our sons, ourselves and all of Maine.

If you're reading this article, chances are that you are already involved with the Fund in some way. If that is the case, I thank you, and ask that you

invite your friends and colleagues to get involved as well. The most common response we hear from donors is that "I would have become involved sooner, but I was never asked." We need you to help us reach out to people who want to make a difference, who are just waiting to be asked (See article on page 11 for ten things you can do for the Fund).

To those of you who are watching the Maine Women's Fund from afar, waiting for an opportunity to get involved, I invite you—I urge you—to make your move now! The women and girls of Maine need your support now more than ever. Together, we have collective power to shape our communities and future! Let's do it! ■

**Thank you for
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positive change
for women
and girls!**

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP WOMEN & GIRLS

The Maine Women's Fund is part of an international movement to improve the lives of women and girls. Here are some simple ways you can help achieve more equitable lives for women and girls in Maine and beyond!

1. Start a non-fiction book group that focuses on the unique perspectives women have in religion, international development, feminism and more! Some titles to consider... Faith and Feminism - Helen LaKelly Hunt, Progressive Islam - Omid Safi, Third World Women Speak Out - Perdita Huston, Closing the Leadership Gap - Marie C. Wilson
2. Let your hairdresser or cosmetologist know about "Cut it Out." This national initiative helps our trusted confidantes in the beauty business give accurate information to women who may be facing domestic violence. www.cutitout.org.
3. Join women's e-news online! www.womensenews.org.
4. Sell two books of MWF raffle tickets. Each book brings \$25 for social change, and the raffle 'winner' automatically gets to give a grant of \$2,500 to her favorite nonprofit!
5. Become a kindred spirit donor to MWF. Kindred Spirits are donors who have MWF debit their bank account or credit card on a monthly or quarterly basis!
6. Stand up and be counted! Ask your legislature about the laws and initiatives effecting women and girls in Maine. Visit www.mainewomen.org for more information.
7. Join a campaign to end domestic violence around the world; set your desk top to: www.fundforward.org/uswomenwithoutborders.
8. Increase women's political leadership by asking your friends if they would consider running for office, then volunteer for women political candidates.
9. Talk with your children and friends about unhealthy and/or unrealistic media messages regarding women and girls.
10. Talk to your friends about why *you* invest in the power of women and the dreams of girls. ■

Without Borders, continued from page 1

women internationally. Our biggest barriers are education and the means to do it. One place that could do a good deal more to help educate us is the U.S. news media, which pays far more attention to celebrities and crime than to broader international or human rights issues.

We need to raise awareness of the issues in order to engage women who are not already "plugged in." To do this, we're working to engage the U.S. media to increase and shape its coverage.

The U.S. Women Without Borders website provides a place to learn about issues affecting women and girls, exchange opinions, facts and stories, and find practical ways to make a difference. Be on the look-out for a feature story about a MWF grantee, the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, in the "Women Making a Difference" section of the USWWB website in the coming weeks.

The Maine Women's Fund has begun to send e-newsletters to our constituents who have shared their e-mail addresses with us, with links to columns, blogs, and action items to help stop violence against women around the globe. If you have not received our e-newsletters in the past six weeks and would like to join this online learning community, please send your e-mail address to Bev Wellman, bev@mainewomensfund.org.

We hope you will visit the USWWB website often and tell your friends! ■



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15th Anniversary - Evening to Honor Maine Women & Girls

Friday, October 14, 2005

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine

The Maine Women's Fund will celebrate its 15th anniversary by honoring five women for their extraordinary efforts to eliminate gender barriers: Denise Altvater, Jennifer Clapp, Nhi Nguyen, and Susan York. The Sarah Orne Jewett Award will be presented to Lyn Mikel Brown.

For more information, call Maine Women's Fund at (207) 774-5513, or visit us online at www.mainewomensfund.org. Sign language interpreters will be present.

The Maine Women's Fund gratefully acknowledges the generous support from: Primary Event Sponsor - Dead River Company; Media Sponsors - Portland Press Herald / Maine Sunday Telegram and Port City Life Magazine; "*In Your Name*" Grant Raffle Sponsor - Norway Savings Bank; Grantee Reception Sponsor - TD Banknorth; Scholarship Sponsor - Executive Resource Group; Lead Small Business Sponsor - Coffee By Design

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Investing in the power of women and the dreams of girls!



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