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## Maine Women's Fund - Annual Report 2011-2012

Maine Women's Fund Staff

*Maine Women's Fund*

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REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY | 2011-2012  
**INVESTING IN THE POWER OF WOMEN AND THE DREAMS OF GIRLS**





Since 1989, the Maine Women's Fund has been creating social change by investing in the power of women and the dreams of girls. We are the only Maine foundation focused exclusively on advancing women and girls' economic security. ***When women and girls thrive, communities prosper.***

1989-2012



338 GRANTS AWARDED



174 ORGANIZATIONS



\$1,636,470 FUNDED

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

Economic security is the core of the Maine Women's Fund mission and the change we create. **The Fund's goal is to identify the needs of women and girls and provide grants to organizations that most effectively address them.** The Fund's grantees focus their work on strategic areas that will advance economic security: education, youth development, entrepreneurship, better jobs and wages, financial literacy, asset-building, policy and leadership.

## WHY WOMEN

Despite the assertion that women have come a long way, our society's most chronic problems, from poverty to lack of access to healthcare to violence, disproportionately affect women and children. **In Maine, 8.6% of all families live in poverty. In particular, women with children are at especially high risk. Of families headed by single women, 39.3% live in poverty.** Despite significant need, women and girls receive only a small portion of the charitable funding available. **Nationally, less than 7% of philanthropic dollars specifically target women and girls.** Research consistently shows that to eliminate barriers, funding must be gender-specific.

## BUILDING WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

**Women control more than 60% of our nation's wealth.** The Fund has the opportunity to build economic stability and strengthen Maine's communities. Women's philanthropy is key to social change. An essential part of the Fund's mission is encouraging all women to develop as philanthropists who give confidently and to their full potential.

**On the cover.** Left to right. Top row: Cyndi Prince, mini-grant awardee of Women, Work and Community; Executive Director Pam Erickson of Coastal Studies for Girls and students; Maine Women's Policy Center's "Girls Day at the Statehouse." Second row: Participants of Women Unlimited; Ingrid Bengis-Palei, Alia Abdulahi, Brenda Garrand, Barbara Rankins and Susan Conley at 2011 Leadership Luncheon; Awardees Kate Chappell, Hannah Potter and Diane Cowan at 2012 Leadership Luncheon. Bottom row: Graduates of the Passages Program of The Community Schools at Opportunity Farm & Camden; Girls' Grantmaking Initiative participants; Hardy Girls Healthy Women Adventure Girls program.

## ENSURING MAINE WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE THE *support they need*

The 2011-2012 year was an exciting one at the Maine Women's Fund. Much energy was directed toward a transition in leadership, and now the board and staff are focused on the future. We have renewed energy and enthusiasm for ensuring that Maine women and girls have the support they need to fulfill their human potential, for as long as that support is needed.

During the past year, the Fund supported nearly 20 organizations with \$80,000 in grants, and involved literally thousands of Mainers in the process. Our work is a collaboration involving many in Maine's communities who participate through our regional councils, grant review process, Girls' Grantmaking, the Leadership Luncheon or as a volunteer in the office or at an event. Thank you for your part in this critically important work. We all want Maine women and girls to have every opportunity to grow, thrive and prosper. Our experience tells us that philanthropy plays a key role in that effort. Since its founding in 1989, the Fund has made 338 grants to 174 organizations totaling almost \$1.7 million. As we approach our 25<sup>th</sup> year of grantmaking, we are assessing our impact and the continuing unmet need.

**We have ambitious plans for the months and years ahead: Growing the Fund's investment portfolio and continuing annual fundraising to allow for a level of grant distribution several times its current level.** Accomplishing this goal – while ensuring the Fund's sustainability – requires that we determine what is needed throughout Maine to support girls and women to reach their potential, as well as what resources are available to meet those needs. We are developing seven regional groups to help with that work in every corner of our great state, and we hope you will join us in that effort. If you would like to play a part or learn more about what we plan to accomplish, please be in touch, no matter what part of Maine you call "home."

We are honored to have a dedicated and talented staff and board of directors who share a common vision: making Maine a state where every woman and girl is given every opportunity to reach her full potential. With your help, we can achieve this vision.

Thank you for all you do to support Maine women and girls. We couldn't do it without you.



Sarah Ruef-Lindquist, CEO



Photo: Jamie Bloomquist

## OUR WORK IS *not done*

Twenty-three years ago, a group of committed, visionary women decided to combine their time, treasure and talents on behalf of Maine women and girls. They created the Maine Women's Fund with a bold vision: they would improve the status of women and girls by harnessing the power of generations of philanthropists.

The Maine Women's Fund community has generously supported that vision. Together, we have granted almost \$1.7 million to nearly 200 organizations. We have supported important work on issues including domestic violence, sexual assault, reproductive rights, women in corrections, human trafficking, entrepreneurship, leadership, access to education and economic security.

However, our work is not finished. And, like our Founding Mothers, the current board and staff of the Maine Women's Fund have a bold vision: the Maine Women's Fund will become a permanent institution. The Fund will increase its endowment significantly so that we can make grants every year equivalent to the annual contributions received from the community. **Our annual grants will at least triple, and we will significantly improve the financial security of Maine women and girls—which will improve the quality of life for all Mainers.**

The Fund's board and staff are deeply committed to this vision. We invite your participation as we continue to refine the details of how and when these goals are reached. Be sure to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter to stay up to date on opportunities for involvement in our regional needs assessment process, as well as further information on how we plan to accomplish these exciting, ambitious goals. Together, we can be bold, joyful and generous, and build a better Maine for all.



Layne Gregory, Board President



# 2011-2012 GRANTS

*The Fund awarded \$80,000 to 17 nonprofit organizations, a 46% increase over 2010-2011 grant awards.*

## ECONOMIC SECURITY INITIATIVE

*The Fund's grantmaking focuses on the following strategic areas:*

### ► EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Every additional degree of education for women and girls – beginning with preschool – has a direct impact on the ability to avoid and escape the cycle of poverty. Education and youth programming are also essential for building confidence, independence, self-reliance and safety.

### ► ENTREPRENEURSHIP, BETTER JOBS AND WAGES

A woman's independence depends on her ability to maximize her earning potential and access good, reliable benefits. Better jobs with health care, paid sick leave and paid maternity leave ensure that health crises do not jeopardize a woman's employment. Training and wage negotiation are essential to all women. Over 25% of Maine's businesses are woman-owned. Ensuring their success is a fundamental component of economic security for the community.

### ► FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ASSET BUILDING

Economic security is dependent on a woman's ability to manage the assets she has and build them over time. This requires opportunities to both save and accumulate wealth and develop basic financial literacy.

### ► PUBLIC POLICY AND LEADERSHIP

Strengthening women's economic security requires research to identify gender-based disparities and the implementation of policies to correct them. It also requires developing and sustaining a critical mass of women leaders across the public, private and non-profit sectors capable of driving change.

## GIRLS' GRANTMAKING INITIATIVE

*Grants for girls, by girls.*

In the fall of 2011, thirty high-school aged girls from across the state came together for our bi-annual Girls' Grantmaking Initiative. The workshop paired participants with a dozen members of the Maine Women's Fund community and staff who acted as facilitators. The girls reviewed 17 grant proposals, practiced advocacy and consensus building, and created their own definitions of philanthropy. The girls gave away five \$1,000 grants to organizations serving girls statewide.

## REGIONAL MICRO GRANTS

*Small grants supporting economic self-sufficiency for women and girls in Knox, Lincoln and Waldo counties.*

In the fall of 2011, the Midcoast Regional Advisory Council of the Maine Women's Fund awarded \$2,000 in Splash micro grants to four programs with ideas on how to improve the community and promote economic self-sufficiency and security for women and girls in Knox, Lincoln and Waldo counties.

# ECONOMIC SECURITY INITIATIVE

Serving: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Penobscot, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo, Washington and York counties and statewide programs.



Maine Women's Policy Center  
THE VOICE OF MAINE WOMEN



Planned Parenthood  
of Northern New England



WOMEN UNLIMITED

► Expand the Passages program of **The Community Schools at Opportunity Farm and Camden**, which serves pregnant and parenting young women through a home-based high school diploma program.

► Increase support for marriage of same-sex couples in Aroostook and Penobscot counties through 5,000 one-on-one conversations led by **EqualityMaine Foundation** interns.

► **Hardy Girls Healthy Women** will provide 150 scholarships to Adventure Girls, which brings girls in grades 2-6 together to learn how women business owners, scientists, engineers, farmers and more choose their careers, deal with gender stereotypes and find support.

► Expand Mini-Grants: A Catalyst for Change, a statewide project of the **Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community** supporting low-income businesses that want to grow into new markets, improve collateral materials and professionalize marketing strategies.

► **The Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault** will build the infrastructure to coordinate statewide anti-sex-trafficking efforts.

► **Maine Women's Policy Center** will create policies to increase access to education and training, ensure women are paid fairly for their work and enable workers to meet their job obligations while providing care to children and adult family members.

► **Planned Parenthood of Northern New England** will support efforts to protect women's health care access in Maine through community organizing, leadership development and advocacy.

► **Women Unlimited** will offer financial literacy education, wage negotiation skills and employment training and referrals to women in correctional facilities.

**"Young girls need role models and experiences that underscore that *courage, strength and confidence* are female qualities too."**

—Ashley Lahoud, Vice President of Development  
Hardy Girls Healthy Women



Hardy Girls Healthy Women Adventure Girls program

► Learn more about funding opportunities, grant guidelines and application due dates on the **Maine Women's Fund website.**

[www.mainewomensfund.org/grants](http://www.mainewomensfund.org/grants)

# GIRLS' GRANTMAKING INITIATIVE

*Serving: Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Kennebec and Oxford counties and statewide programs.*

✔ **A Company of Girls** will use its theater arts program for girls ages 8-18 to develop participants' teamwork, confidence and sense of personal responsibility.

✔ **Hardy Girls Healthy Women** will send 10 Girls Advisory Board members to a retreat to develop and broaden skills to engage girls and adult service providers in partnerships for social activism.

*"The peak age for girls' leadership ambitions is eight years old."*

-Hardy Girls Healthy Women

✔ Crossing the Lines, a project of **Safe Voices**, will engage students in performances and discussions related to teen dating violence.

*"One in three teenagers will experience dating abuse before graduating high school."*

-Safe Voices

✔ **South Sudan Nuer Community Development Organization** will provide young women with the tools to teach 20-30 children the Naath-Nuer language, which has no proper dictionary or textbook, and publish a comprehensive children's primer on the language and culture.

*"In South Sudan, girls are not teachers and in general, girls are not even students. Here in Maine, the girls of the Nuer tribe are being educated for future roles in the labor market, in society and in tribal structure."*

-South Sudan Nuer Community Development Organization

✔ **Youth Alternatives Ingraham's (Operating as Opportunity Alliance)** Whole Health Star Program offers housing, education and case management for homeless, pregnant or parenting young adults up to the age of 22 and their children.

**"Today I was inspired by Nyawal. Thanks to this experience I will connect with other girls."**

-Louisa, Girls' Grantmaking Participant



Instructor Nyawal Lia and a student of the South Sudan Nuer Community Development Organization



A Company of Girls production of *Charlotte's Web* at Lucid Stage in Portland

# REGIONAL MICRO GRANTS

*Serving: Knox, Lincoln and Waldo counties.*

**"I had the opportunity to act as a leader as well as overcome fears associated with taking that role."**

—Audrey Thompson, Organizer, The Rig



Photo: Amy Wilton

Margaret Keefe (left) and Audrey Thompson, representing The Rig, present their Micro Grant idea at the Strand Theatre in Rockland

► **The Game Loft** will offer Pathfinders, a six-month program to help high school students see their future more clearly and learn basic financial and life skills.

► Female residents of **Medomak Mobile Home Cooperative** in Waldoboro will seek training to prepare for leadership roles in cooperative housing.

► **New Hope for Women** will produce All Starz: An Anti-Bullying Play, which will run in lower elementary classes in Waldo County.

► **Fresh Thinking at The Rig** will promote healthy lifestyle choices through activities and workshops accessible to all members of the Midcoast community.

## 2011-2012 AWARDEES

The Fund and nearly 600 attendees celebrated and honored three bold women at the 2012 Leadership Luncheon.



Photo: Amanda Kowalski

From left: Kate Chappell, Hannah Potter and Diane Cowan

### KATE CHAPPELL

#### Tribute to Women in Industry Award

*Business Owner, Philanthropist and Artist*

Artist, poet, teacher, mother and co-founder of Tom's of Maine, Kate Cheney Chappell brings creativity and commitment to her life and work and to the common good. As vice president of Tom's of Maine, Kate championed family-friendly policies that included flextime, parenting leave and paid time for volunteering; directed new product development with innovations such as the first natural children's toothpaste; and brought her artistic eye and voice to consumer packaging and consumer dialogue. She spearheaded a 10% charitable giving program for Tom's of Maine.

### HANNAH POTTER

#### Samantha Smith Award Recipient

*Yarmouth High School Student and Founder of NewView*

Hannah Potter is a graduate of Yarmouth High School and the director and founder of NewView, a web-based forum designed to promote cultural awareness between high school students in the United States and the Middle East. Hannah was awarded a Community Stewardship Grant for her work on NewView, as well as selected as "Social Innovator 2010" by Global Youth Village/Legacy International.

### DIANE COWAN

#### Sarah Orne Jewett Award Recipient

*Senior Scientist, Educator and Founder of The Lobster Conservancy*

Diane Cowan has worked as a research scientist and educator in the academic, government and non-profit sectors. In 1996, she founded The Lobster Conservancy with a vision of building a bridge to join all those sharing the common goal of maintaining a strong and healthy lobster resource. As leader of the Division of Biological Monitoring for the Maine Department of Marine Resources, Diane served as the state's chief lobster biologist. She was also responsible for supervising programs for the lobster, shrimp, herring and urchin fisheries.



## Kindred Spirits

Many thanks to our 2011-2012 Kindred Spirits who maximize their investment in Maine women and girls by giving monthly.

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Thank you for investing in the power of women and the dreams of girls.

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\* July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

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Thank you for your time, talent & resources.

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*"The Maine Women's Fund is a force for good for women and girls throughout Maine."*

Martha Kempe, Director of Passages Programs  
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Northern New England  
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**Pam Maus**  
*Owls Head*

**Mish Morgenstern**  
*Rockport*

**Georgia Nigro**  
*Lewiston*

*We are pleased to welcome the following new board members as of September 2012:*

**Marilyn Bronzi**  
*Yarmouth*

**Allyson Hughes Handley**  
*Augusta*

**Robin Lin Hodgskin**  
*Yarmouth*

**Kate O'Halloran**  
*Fairfield*

**Clara Porter**  
*Portland*

Jennifer Atkinson  
Linda Buckmaster  
Nell Dailey  
Mimi Edmunds  
Nicole Fuller  
Molly Mulhern  
Rebekah Smith

LEWISTON  
Georgia Nigro,  
Board Liaison  
Ellen Alcorn  
Laurie McDonnell  
Adilah Muhammad

Jim Christie  
Stephanie Cox  
Kimberly Crichton  
Janice E. Daku  
Barbara DiBiase  
Jennifer Dorsey  
Gretchen Drown  
Devin Dukes  
Stephanie Eglinton  
Katherine Endy  
Christina Feller  
Dorothy D. Foote  
Shannara Gillman  
Ellen Golden  
Rayne Grace

Maryellen Sullivan  
Jessica Thomas  
Buffy Whitaker  
Jackie Wiegler  
Stephanie Williams  
Sarah Woodard

**WOMEN'S  
LEADERSHIP SERIES  
FACILITATORS**  
Mary Bumiller  
Cathy Kidman  
Mish Morgenstern  
Jan Nelson  
Katie West

**2011-2012  
LEADERSHIP  
LUNCHEON EVENT**  
Shauna Babine  
Eliza Balch  
Lilly Betke-Brunswick  
Kira Church  
Molly Collin  
Callie Donahue  
Pam Erickson  
Amy Franklin  
Dana Greenleaf  
Emily Guinan  
Caitlin Harrison  
Thea Iranga  
Ginger Jones

*"Volunteering for the Maine Women's Fund has given me opportunities to learn about issues critical to Maine women and girls, collaborate with gifted leaders and see the impact of my charitable giving."*

Michaela Cavallaro, Board Member

**GIRLS'  
GRANTMAKING  
FACILITATORS**  
Marilyn Bronzi  
Madeleine Corson  
Heidi Fitz  
Layne Gregory  
Robin Lin Hodgskin  
Amy Keating  
Karen Moran  
Clara Porter  
Carol Wishcamper

**2011-2012 GRANT  
REVIEWERS**  
Joni Altshuler  
Jennifer Barbour  
Wendy Betts  
Barbara Biscione  
Kaitlin Briggs  
Nicolle Carbone  
Michaela Cavallaro  
Tina Chapman  
Julie Chase  
Heather Christie

Katie Gray  
Eileen Harvard  
Kathryn Hawkins  
Alayna Hebert  
Liz Herold  
Elizabeth Johns  
Michelle Lamb  
Jane Lounsbury  
Susan Miele  
Deanna L. Partridge  
Amertah Perman  
Jennifer Pooler  
Cherie Porter  
Barbara Rankins  
Kathryn Reid  
Collette Reny  
Sarah Robinson  
Erika Blauch Rusley  
Deborah Schilder  
Jeff Schwartz  
Misty Smalley  
Debra Smith  
Sallie Smith  
Paula Stanton  
Allison E. Stiles

**LUNCHEON  
COMMITTEE**  
Kate Cox  
Laura Tarbox  
Desmarais  
Joan Fortin  
Jennifer Goldman  
Jennifer Harnish  
Michelle Thorpe  
Hayes  
Mish Morgenstern  
Cherie Porter  
Hannah Preble  
Kathryn Reid  
Janice Rogers  
Heather Shields  
Misty Smalley  
June Usher  
Lisa Valentine  
Buffy Whitaker  
Judith Fletcher  
Woodbury

Alexandra Lapides  
Sarah Cross Mills  
Melanie Naratil  
Renata Pinto  
Cherie Porter  
Cynthia Rodriguez  
Mimi Skeelee  
Tara Treichel  
Buffy Whitaker

**OFFICE SUPPORT**  
Katie Allen  
Nicole Benoit  
Barbara Biscione  
Heather Curtis  
Jennifer Dorsey  
Anat Levey  
Alice Mazurie  
Sherri Snaith  
Alyson Stone  
Melissa F. Tarbox  
Ashley Tucci  
Amanda Vickerson  
Kelly Wight

## STAFF

**Sarah Ruef-Lindquist, Chief Executive Officer**

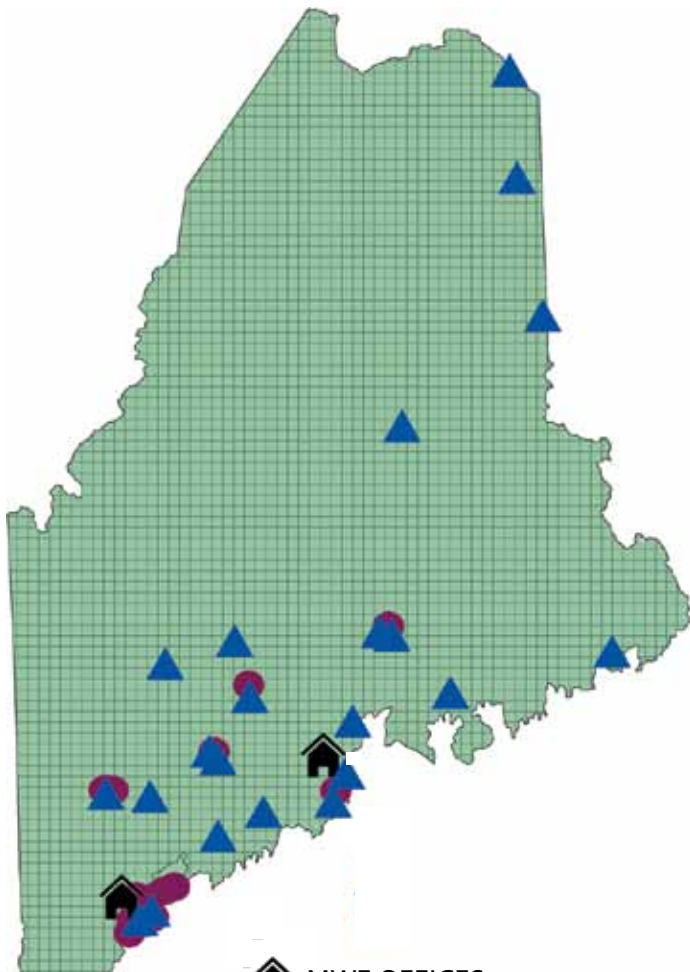
**Lauren Dietlin, Chief Operating Officer**

**Sonya Tomlinson, Grants and Outreach Manager**

**Katie Allen, Administrative Assistant**

# IMPACT

In 2011-2012 we added a second office in Camden, awarded grants in 14 counties and had Board representation in six regions of the state.



-  MWF OFFICES
-  2011-2012 GRANTEES
-  BOARD MEMBERS

# FINANCIALS

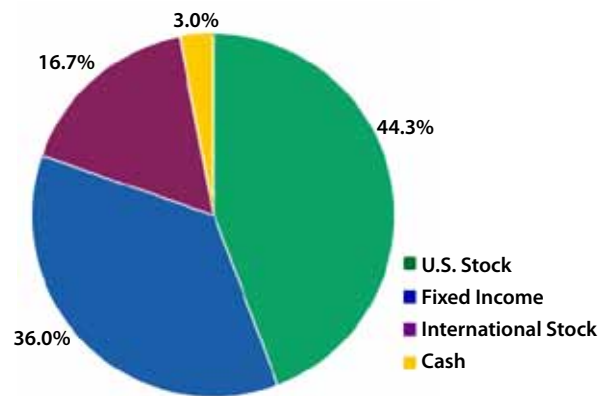
Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2012\*

Current Assets	\$98,522
Property & Equipment	\$ 5,230
Long-Term Assets	<u>\$1,349,432</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,453,184</b>

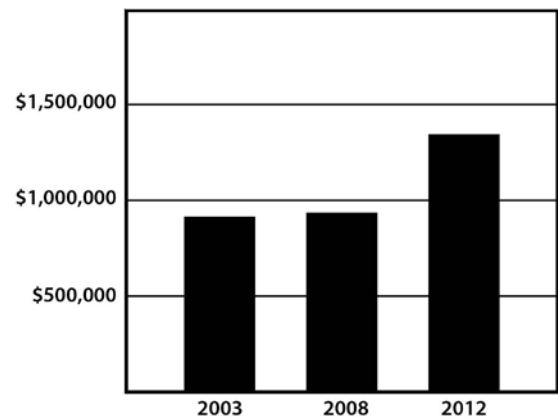
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	\$ 380,564
Temporarily Restricted	\$199,029
Restricted – Endowment	\$859,619
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<u>\$13,972</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,453,184</b>

\*Unaudited as of publication. Audited financial statements will be available upon request.

## Maine Women's Fund Investment Portfolio



## Maine Women's Fund Invested Asset Levels







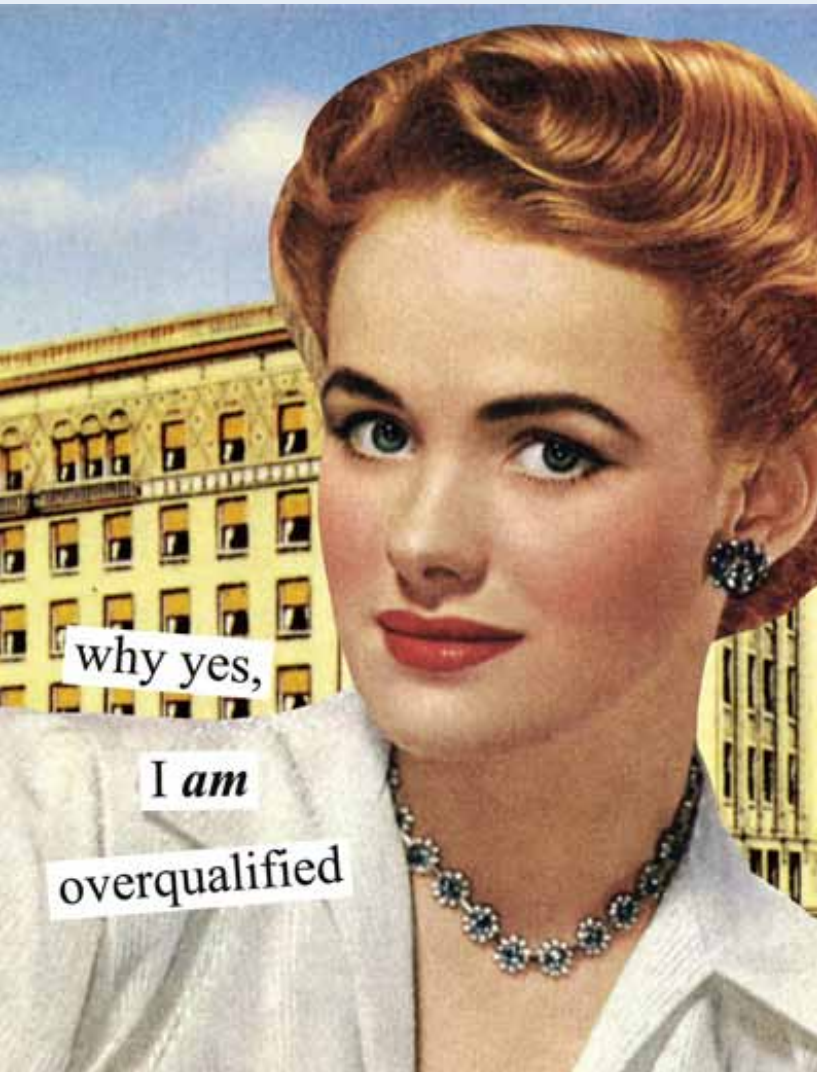
Maine Women's Fund  
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 Portland, ME 04101  
 ph: 207.774.5513  
[www.mainewomensfund.org](http://www.mainewomensfund.org)  
[thewomen@mainewomensfund.org](mailto:thewomen@mainewomensfund.org)

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*"Anyone, even I, can change the world."*



2011 Samantha Smith Awardee Alia Abdulahi



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**SAVE THE DATE:**

**MAY 23, 2013**

Maine Women's Fund

**LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON**

Networking, leadership and building Maine's economic security.

Honoring Samantha Smith and Sarah Orne Jewett Awardees and

Tribute to Women in Industry Awardee

**ANNE TAINTOR**