



Winter 2009

Dear Members,

2008 was a remarkable year for the Washington Women's Foundation, thanks in large part to the enthusiastic engagement of so many of our members, to the hard work of our great team in the office, and to the strong leadership of our Board of Directors.



During the year, our members attended more informative programs than ever before. We had collaborative breakthroughs in the way we planned and delivered events such as the Fall Education Forum and Discovery Days. We launched a new website and new database, adjusted many of our practices based on feedback from the member survey, developed new by-laws and policies to guide our work, and hired a new team in the office. Emphasizing open communication with our members, we've utilized email, e-newsletters and our website in exciting new ways.

Over 90% of our members renewed during the fall renewal period, and members gave to the Annual Fund at record levels. Your generosity and commitment, especially during these economic times, is something for all of us to take great pride in. The model of collective giving seems to be even more relevant as more like-minded women join our efforts. Please welcome and get to know our new members!

It was my pleasure to announce **the 2009 Pooled Fund of \$475,000** at the wonderful celebration we had at the Seattle Art Museum earlier this month. I was delighted to see so many of you there.

2009 is off to an amazing start: a record number of members are participating in the Grant Committee, which is fortunate since we received a record 255 Letters of Inquiry from nonprofits across Washington. The Impact Assessment Committee is carefully monitoring the progress of the grants that we have underway. The Education and Membership committees have several compelling events planned, detailed in this newsletter.

Thanks to your engagement and enthusiasm, the energy and momentum at the Foundation is at an all-time high. I look forward to greeting you at an upcoming event!

Carla E. Lewis, President

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## Coming Up at WWF:

To learn more about these events and register online at [www.wawomensfoundation.org/calendar-of-events](http://www.wawomensfoundation.org/calendar-of-events)

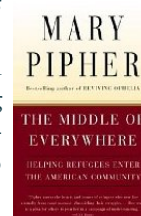
Or call Emily at (206) 340-1710.

### Book Discussion Groups

**March 18, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**, 2100 Bldg, First Floor

**March 24, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**, member Laurie Besteman's home in Clyde Hill, Bellevue

Book: *The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community* by Mary Pipher  
Join members, guests, and representatives from community nonprofits to discuss this compelling book and the refugee experience in our community. Two dates, times and locations offered to accommodate as many as possible.



### Prospective Member Events in downtown Seattle

**March 19, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**, Benita Staadecker's home

**March 26, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**, Jeannie Nordstrom's home

(with co-hosts Rhoda Altom & Kaycee Krasty)

Have a friend who would be interested in joining? Invite her to one of these prospective member events to connect with members and hear more about Foundation membership!

### WWF @ the Symphony

**April 2, 7:30 p.m.**, Benaroya Hall

See page 4 for a full description of the new work that has been commissioned by member Benita Staadecker. There will be seats available for WWF members for this performance. Call the Symphony @ 206.215.4818 for tickets.

### Neighborhood Gathering

**April 19, mid-day**, Elizabeth Aylward's home, Mercer Island

Join us for a discussion on new research at Seattle Children's Hospital with WWF board chair Rhoda Altom and member Elizabeth Aylward, PhD, who is a pediatric neuroscience researcher there. You are welcome to bring a guest!

Save the Date!

### WWF Town Hall Meeting

**April 24, mid-day**, 2100 Bldg, First Floor

Join us for a Foundation business meeting. We will present operational information, our plans for the coming year and offer a panel of board members for informal dialogue and questions. It will be a great opportunity to ask questions about WWF's priorities in the year ahead.

## Board Business

As 2009 gets rolling, we want to update you on some matters of governance that may be of interest. As part of the overall Leadership Transition plan, the Board of Directors undertook a major project last summer to review and update the Foundation's By-Laws. As part of this project, and with the wonderful help of Cynthia Chirot, a comprehensive set of policies reflecting best practices in nonprofit governance was developed and adopted by the Board last fall. Among these policies are guidelines on donor privacy, conflict of interest, pooled grant process, financial management, committee structures, board terms and officer elections, as well as a host of other topics.

As part of this governance review, the Board adopted changes to the By-Laws that will streamline board elections and reflect calendar year terms with new terms that begin in January of each year. An all-member vote held in the fall of each year at a member business meeting will elect the new board members. Previously, board elections were held in February of each year.

Other key changes to the By-Laws include establishing the size of the board at 16 members, with the chair of the Committee Cabinet as a voting member and the President as a non-voting member. While there are currently no openings on the board, we do anticipate at least one opening at the end of 2009 when a board member completes her term. The Governance Committee is now conducting a skills / needs assessment and will be searching for new board members later this year. The Governance Committee also welcomes nominations of members to fill these terms; nominations will be accepted through July of 2009. Members are welcome to nominate themselves or a fellow member for consideration by the Governance Committee by sending their resume to [emily@wawomensfoundation.org](mailto:emily@wawomensfoundation.org). Board members must be active members of the Foundation.

Officers of the board (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) will continue to be elected by the board in the late fall of each year, with the officers assuming their positions in January of the following year. Effective January 1, 2009 we welcomed Rhoda Altom, a founding member of WWF, to her new post as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Our new Vice Chair is Anne Farrell. Dorothy Nelson will continue to serve as Secretary, with Mary Ann Ekman as Treasurer.

**Many thanks to Alison Wilson**, the 2008 Chair of the Board who presided over all of this important work which occurred last year.

You can find the Foundation's Articles of Incorporation, updated By-Laws and policies all posted on our website at [www.wawomensfoundation.org](http://www.wawomensfoundation.org). Please contact us if you have any questions.

## Grant Committee 2009 Launches

The 2009 Grant Committee kicked off its 2009 season in early January. Nearly 60 members of all experience levels organized into five Work Groups to examine Letters of Inquiry from nonprofits from across Washington. This year, we received a record number of LOIs: 255, which is 100 more than last year. See below the list of the 25 nonprofits invited to advance in the grant process.

The Board has established the WWF Pooled Fund at **\$475,000** for 2009. It is the Grant Committee's responsibility to present 10 organizations for the entire membership to choose from; five will ultimately receive grants of \$75,000 - \$100,000 each.

2009 Grant Committee Update:

### Top 25 Nonprofits

The 2009 Grant Committee has invited these 25 organizations to submit full grant proposals as part of the application process.

**Arts and Culture:** Northwest African American Museum, Seattle Opera, Seattle Shakespeare Company, SIFF, Urban ArtWorks

**Education:** 826 Seattle, City University, College Access Now, Humanities Washington, Seattle Public Library Foundation

**Environment:** Cascade Land Conservancy, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center, Student Conservation Association, Sightline Institute

**Health:** Cedar River Clinics, Crisis Clinic, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, Marsha Rivkin Center for Ovarian Cancer Research, Ryther Child Center

**Human Services:** Emergency Food Network of Tacoma-Pierce County, New Futures, Solid Ground, The Mockingbird Society, YouthCare

Visit our website for a short description of each organization's proposal: [www.wawomensfoundation.org](http://www.wawomensfoundation.org)

### Grant Workshop: How to Evaluate Proposals

**March 12, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.**, 2100 Bldg, First Floor

Enhance your nonprofit expertise and improve your ability to analyze financial statements at this informative workshop. Open to all Foundation members. *RSVP online or by phone.*

### Grant Reports: Top 25 Proposals

**April 15, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**, 2100 Bldg, First Floor

Open to all! The Grant Committee will report on the 25 proposals that they reviewed, and announce which 15 will go forward to the Site Visit stage. You'll learn about some exciting new nonprofit projects, as well as the most critical short-term needs brought on by the economic crisis. *RSVP online or by phone.*



## Recent Happenings at WWF

Winter 2009

### 2009 Member Celebration, "Inspiring Women, Inspired Giving"

Over 330 attendees gathered at the Seattle Art Museum on February 3 for an inspiring and memorable evening. Panelists and longtime Foundation members Connie Ballmer, Debbi Brainerd, and Mimi Gates spoke about their philanthropic journeys, as well as the challenges put forth from the current economic crisis. SAM Curator Patti Junker offered intriguing insights on the exhibit "Edward Hopper's Women" and the role of women in the 1920s. Members and guests enjoyed wine and chop suey (in honor of Hopper's famous painting!), and private access to the SAM galleries. An unexpected bonus highlight was seeing member Alida Latham's own collection of beads on display at SAM and getting a personal tour.



We thank **Laird Norton Tyee**, our Primary Sponsor, and our Supporting Sponsors, Seattle Art Museum and The Seattle Foundation, for their generosity in the support of this special evening!



### PATH Outing, January 28

Dr. Vivien Tsu, Senior Program Advisor for Reproductive Health, shared PATH's latest discoveries in maternal and child health. There were 44 WWF members and guests who also took a fun and engaging tour of the laboratories where PATH creates and tests its newest technologies. Thanks to the Education Committee for organizing this event!

### Serving Holiday Cheer at YWCA Angeline's Center

On December 18, 14 Foundation members and guests braved a winter snowstorm to serve a festive holiday meal to more than 170 women at YWCA's Angeline's Center for Homeless Women in downtown Seattle. Instead of the usual fare served cafeteria style, the women at Angeline's were served a special meal at their seats by the WWF volunteers. It was both heart-

If you have a group of 15 - 25 people who'd like to provide and serve a meal for homeless women, call Liz, 206.436.8635. It's a terrific experience any time of year!

breaking to see so many in dire straits, and also heart-warming to receive their sincere appreciation and good cheer. We had a tour of the facilities, which include common areas for women to rest, lockers, showers and laundry facilities, and computer and other services at Opportunity Place next door.



### Neighborhood Gathering at Carla Lewis' home, December 9

Members and guests gathered at Foundation President Carla Lewis' home to connect and celebrate the holiday season. Board member Jeannie Nordstrom inspired attendees with the personal story of her philanthropic journey.

### Welcome New Members!

- |                   |                  |                 |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Catherine Babcock | Patty Helberg    | Peggy Rinne     |
| Lydia Bassett     | Nancy Iannucci   | Rebecca Roberts |
| Bridget Cooley    | Berit McAlister  | Barbara Serna-  |
| Cynthia "Sunny"   | Reba McIntyre    | Brady           |
| Fitzgerald        | Courtney Noble   | Sheila Siden    |
| Michelle Friars   | Joan Oltman-Shay | Linda Stull     |
| Val Gorder        | Susan Potts      | Kelly Wallace   |
| Lynne Graybeal    | Tricia Raikes    |                 |

Thank you to those who hosted Prospective Member events:  
**Rhoda Altom & Alison Wilson; Anita Braker;  
Anne Farrell & Colleen Willoughby**

## Grantee Success Story:

### PCC Farmland Trust Triples WWF Grant

In June 2008, PCC Farmland Trust was chosen as the recipient of our \$100,000 grant for environment. These funds will preserve local organic farmland in perpetuity. Our grant prompted a PCC donor to add a \$50,000 gift to this effort. In turn PCC Farmland Trust mounted a 6-month challenge drive to match the \$150,000 raised — and successfully raised another \$150,000 from their donors! The resulting \$300,000 will be used by the Trust to purchase organic, agricultural easements on local farmland and restrict development.

Congratulations to PCC Farmland Trust. This is a true example of the ripple effect of WWF's high-impact funding!



PCC Farmland Trust organic farm, Walla Walla. Photo by Joel Huesby.

## Our Current Grantees

These are the 13 nonprofits that are being funded by WWF's pooled fund grants. The **Impact Assessment Committee** visits and reviews every organization for each year of their grant (most are multi-year grants). Visit the website for more on our impressive grantees.

|                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Artist Trust                     | Puget Soundkeeper Alliance |
| EarthCorps                       | Seattle Arts & Lectures    |
| First Place                      | Seattle MESA               |
| Friends of the Children          | Seattle Milk Fund          |
| Girl Scouts of W WA              | Team Read                  |
| PCC Farmland Trust               | The Vera Project           |
| Youth Suicide Prevention Program |                            |

## Unstoppable!

The WWF staffers showed true year-end philanthropic grit, navigating the terrible snowy roads to get to the office on December 22. We wanted to be sure that every possible Individual Grant was processed and mailed for nonprofits to receive them before year-end! The office was humming as we sent out 150 checks totaling **over \$70,000 in generosity** by WWF



## Kudos to our own Foundation Members

**Donna Holpainen** initiated a fundraising campaign during the holidays and raised over \$15,000 (and counting!) to buy frozen chicken for Northwest Harvest, which distributes food to 300 area food banks serving 500,000 individuals.

As the economy took a turn for the worse at the end of 2008, Donna learned that Northwest Harvest was experiencing a shortage of protein and an increase in demand for meals. Donna took action: she called a friend at Plymouth Poultry. Since NW Harvest cannot accept donations of cooked chicken, Plymouth Poultry offered to sell Donna as many frozen chickens at cost as she wanted to buy.

“That opened the floodgate for me!” Donna says. “Instead of just doing this myself, I thought maybe I could get friends to participate in this as well.” Donna sent out an email to friends and family asking for donations to the cause, and the pledges started rolling in. To date, 107 people have contributed, including many of Donna's WWF friends.

One of the highlights of the campaign happened during the December snowstorm. NW Harvest had hoped to provide sliced turkey to people for the holidays, but the turkey couldn't be delivered to the food bank due to the snow. Plymouth Poultry, however, was able to come through with chickens delivered downtown to provide much-needed protein for the holiday meal.

“Northwest Harvest was so grateful for what we could do. The generosity of people was amazing...I know people want to help,” Donna says. “Sometimes all they need is a little nudge!”

**Kate Janeway** and her husband H.S. Wright III were honored at the Seattle Hotel Association's 12th Annual “Evening of Hope” on February 7 at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel. The theme of the evening was “a pillow fight for homelessness,” and guests wore their most elegant pajamas! The benefit raised \$526,000 for Plymouth Housing Group to fight homelessness.

**Benita Staadecker** and her husband Charles have commissioned a concerto to be performed by the Seattle Symphony. The concerto is dedicated to Cornell University in honor of the Staadeckers' 25th wedding anniversary.

Written by Grammy-nominated composer Samuel Jones, the 26-minute Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra will premiere on April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Benaroya Hall, with additional performances April 4-5.

The premiere performance on April 2 will also include a post-concert dessert buffet in the Founders' Room with a special discussion panel featuring the composer and the trombone soloist.

The Staadeckers are holding seats for the April 2 performance ranging in price from \$44 - \$84 for WWF members and guests until March 12. After that, members can buy tickets from open seats.

To purchase reserved or open seating tickets, please contact Forrest Schofield, Seattle Symphony's Group Sales Manager, at (206) 215-4818.