

Women's Fund Receives Award for Outstanding Philanthropic Organization

Congratulations to you – members of The Women's Fund! On November 14th, The Women's Fund was named the Outstanding Philanthropic Organization of the Year by the Tyler chapter of The Association of Fundraising Professionals. Nancy Lamar presented the award with a heart-warming message. We have printed Nancy's remarks here as an article for those who were not able to attend National Philanthropy Day. "We are honored and thrilled to receive this award. We hope that others will join us in being a catalyst for positive change through The Women's Fund" said Sharon Howell.

We know from the book of Genesis that good things can begin with light and air.

In 2007 a group of women came together around an idea that was really nothing more than light and air, the idea that perhaps it was possible to put together a group of women who were interested in charitable giving, and see if together they could find a structure for growing and encouraging women's philanthropy in East Texas.

Even though those ladies signed on to nothing more than a wisp of an idea, they were willing to dream, willing to invest countless hours in research and endless meetings. They were creative and critical, flexible and ferocious and they were daring to put their names and their reputations forward on a project that had no preset goal and absolutely no guarantee of success.



Nancy Lamar introduces The Women's Fund.

Those women created the Women's Fund of East Texas, a pool of charitable capital created by the gifts of women and designed to be distributed back to our community in the form of grants to projects benefitting women and children. The concept was simple: Each woman would give a gift of \$500 or \$1000 or more. They would leverage the power of their purses by pooling their money – and then grant it back to the community for projects voted on by the membership. One woman, one gift, one vote. Each woman giving some, the 'sum' adding up to a lot. Would it work?

Yes! That first year, 111 women caught the vision as charter members of The Women's Fund. The first grants totaling \$100,000 were made and an endowment fund for the future was created.

Today, the Women's Fund is no longer just light and air. It has legs and arms, a good heart, a really good brain – and lipstick. It has a current membership of 248 women!

In the six years since it began making grants, The Women's Fund has awarded an astounding total of \$685,620 and made a huge impact in our community.

I have a particular affinity for the Women's Fund because I've been privileged to be a part of it from the beginning. Though I've done more watching than working I'm proud to have seen this talented, energetic group of ladies do some incredible work. They have put together a board that exemplifies the best in governance, a committee structure that harnesses creativity and commitment and grows its membership, and a grantmaking program that is thoughtful and purposeful and strategic and results oriented - all from light and air.

And as women do in most everything they undertake, the ladies of The Women's Fund have worked hard. It would be impossible to count the number of hours they have dedicated to the success of this endeavor, the time, energy, willingness and patience they have brought to their work together. They meet after carpool, they conference into meetings while away on business trips, they add their Women's Fund commitment to that of caring for aging parents. They host recruitment meetings in their homes, talk about The Women's Fund in the grocery store and at the office. The members are a diverse group, with diverse giving capacities. For many of them, their financial commitment to The Women's Fund is a stretch. They do all of this because it matters to them. They can see the potential their work has to impact the lives of other women and children through the programs they are funding, and they believe in the potential that transformed lives have to transform our communities.

The ladies of The Women's Fund are also teaching. Last year they created GIVE, Girls Interested in Volunteer Efforts. A group of junior and senior high school girls who raise and pool their money, just as The Women's Fund does, and decide together how to grant that money back to our community.

You know, I have spent my career in the nonprofit sector – and I've seen gifts and givers of all kinds. Small gifts that created great joy. Big gifts that were meaningless. Givers whose lives were transformed by their philanthropy and givers for whom giving was a burden. My experience with The Women's Fund has given me a completely new perspective on what philanthropy is all about and a model for what philanthropy should be.



Association of Fund Raising Professional President Tim Connor and Patrick Willis, Event Chair, present awards to Jennifer Carson, *Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser*, Margaret and Jim Perkins, *Outstanding Philanthropists* and Sharon Howell, representing The Women's Fund, *Outstanding Philanthropic Organization*.

With all due respect to the lovely setting in which we're gathered today, philanthropy is not a country club. It is not a creature locked in a mahogany boardroom, available only to a few. It's not a contact sport, a competition to see who wins by giving the most. It's not a beauty pageant to see who wins by being the one most dressed up and prettiest only on the outside. Philanthropy is not about who gets credit or who's in charge. It is not sales. Philanthropy done well is creative, collaborative and compassionate, like The Women's Fund. At its best, it is welcoming and inclusive, it is innovative and courageous, like The Women's Fund. It is gritty and risky and even scary because, as it was in the beginning of The Women's Fund, there is often no guarantee of success.

But I am convinced that if you come at philanthropy with trust, with openness, with a sense of abundance and a willingness to shed barriers; if you come at philanthropy willing to share the credit and willing to look for partners, your giving and the results will be phenomenal, just as The Women's Fund is phenomenal.

You know, East Texas is not a big place, in the big scheme of things. But it is a place to make a life that matters, a place where we connect with one another, and we challenge one another and we commit to one another to make our community better. When East Texans want something to happen, we put our hearts, our minds and our resources together, big things do happen even if this is not a big place. And when we each do a small thing, give a small gift, and we do it collaboratively, great big things, like giving away more than \$685,620, are possible!

The Women's Fund is an astonishingly big thing made of many small parts, made possible by collaboration, creativity, courage. Made possible by time and ideas and thoughts in the middle of the night; by \$500 gifts and \$1000 gifts and \$25,000 gifts - and it is making a big difference in East Texas.

Sharon Howell, the current chair of the Women's Fund, will receive this award on behalf of all the members of the Women's Fund. Congratulations to all of you!

DID YOU KNOW?

- This summer Grant committee members made site visits with current grantees to see the progress being made with our grants.

NORTH TYLER DAY NURSERY

- WF grant of \$30,000 went to establish a garden, nutritional education and tasting bees at the center.
- Now they are working with the County Extension's Master Gardener program and Head Start to continue this project entitled "Growing Healthy Food of Healthy Bodies."

ST. PAUL CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

- Has established and is now operating the new Trauma Assessment and Counseling Center. "With the WF grant, our Board knew we had what was needed to establish this program", Mitzie Avera, Program Director SPCF.
- Symptoms of trauma and ADHD are often very similar. A child who witnesses family violence needs different treatment than one with ADHD.
- Our grant of \$45,712 refurbished a building and equipped the new Trauma Assessment and Counseling Center.

LITERACY COUNCIL OF TYLER

- Literary Council asked for an extension of their 2013 grant because they were able to serve more clients than expected! Initially they received funding to train 30 women. At the conclusion of the grant, they have enrolled 45 female students. Of that number, 43 have completed Certified Nurses Aid classes, 35 have passed the state test and 7 more are scheduled to take the test.
- They report that their clients did not take computer classes as planned, because they are getting jobs and starting to work. Women in the program independently formed their own networking group. A majority want to continue a career in nursing or the health care field.

2014 WOMEN'S FUND GRANT COMMITTEE

Beth Filla, Chair

Elizabeth Anderson	Marsha Harrison	Patty Machin,
Kathryn Droder	Lori Holt	<i>Chair Elect</i>
Lorie Farrar	Dorothy Hubbard	Vera Moore
Mary Fischer	Debbie Jordan	Sally Schultz
		Roya Stanley

Thank you Grant Committee for your commitment and time spent reviewing and evaluating all the grant applications submitted this year. A total of 21 applications were received from area nonprofits for consideration this grant cycle.

After thoroughly reviewing and discussing each application, an electronic voting process was used to determine which projects should be further considered. Representatives from the remaining agencies were invited to give a short presentation on the proposed project and answer any questions the committee might have. This year committee members visited each of the top qualifying non-profits to increase their knowledge of the programs.

RECOGNIZING LEADERSHIP IN GIVING

The Horizon Fund

Founded in 2014 by

\$25,000

Mary Irwin

\$1,000

Fred Smith -

in honor of

Mary Alice Swann Smith

Fred & Carol Smith

\$10,000

Genecov Group -

in honor of

Maurine Muntz

2014 Women's Fund Membership

*Denotes Charter Member

♦Donor Advised Fund At ETCF

Diamond Visionary

(Endowment Donation)

\$25,000

Sasha Vukelja/Maxi Anderson*

Alison Kirby

Carolyn Novick

Women in Tyler*

Laura K. Young*

Gold Visionary

\$5,000+

Margaret Perkins

Silver Visionary

\$3,000

Mentoring Minds

Peaches Owen

Suzy Streit

Visionary - \$1,000+

Rita Adams*	Anne Duffey*	Sebetha Jenkins-Booker	Marjorie Ream*
W. Joy Adams	Louise Dyer	Rosemary Jones*	Felicity Reedy*
Elizabeth Anderson	Monica Edwards	Deborah Jordan*	Cynthia Riter*♦
Paula Anthony*	Sharon Eiche	Tiffany Kirgan	Kristy Roberts*
Kay Arms*	Heather Eiland	Cindy Klein*	Cindy Baker Rudd*
Cristy Arscott	Tomi Ellis	Ellen Krafve	Lisa Safford
Kimberly Ashley*	Lorie Farrar♦	Nancy Lamar*	Susan Saxenmeyer*
Myrtha Basile	Cindi Featherston-Shields	Carol Langston*	Dr. Sally W. Schultz
Amy Baskin	Beth Filla	Kay K. Latta*	Linda Sellers
Barbara Bass*	Mary Fischer*	Arielle Lee	Debbie M. Shafer
Darla Bennett*	Vicki Fox	Carol Lott*	Sandy Shepard*♦
Peggy Berry*	Dawn Franks*	Lisa M. Lujan	Gillian Sheridan*
Nancy Blomdahl	Rita Fryer	Patty Machin	Theresa Sherman
Evelyn C. Bochow*	Christina Fulsom*	Janet Maxon	Cathy Shipp*
Gay Brookshire♦	Jennifer Moore Gaston	Fritter McNally*	Barbara Shtofman
Lauren Buford♦	Marilyn Abegg Glass*	Kay Monigold	Sinclair Law Firm
Kara Camp*	Henrietta Grooms*	Diane Moore*	Pat A. Sistrunk
Lucy Carr	Nez Gross	Vera Moore*	Carol W. Smith*
Michelle Carr	Debbie Gunter*	Ellen M. Musselman*	Jo Ann Smith*
Claudia D. Carroll*	Judith Guthrie*	Isha Myrick	Suzy Smith
Pam Chesley*	Marsha Harrison*	Dr. Martha Oates*	Vicki Sorrell*
Carole Clark*	Diane Heindel*	Sheryl Rogers Palmer	Penny Stephens
Dawn Clark	Lori Holt	Freda Peppard*	Eleanor Stringer*
Emily Coats*	Sharon Kay Howell*	Linda Pesnell	Lucy Stringer*
Fran Cooper	Virginia Hudson	Julie Phillely	Terry Terry*
Nancy Cooper	Leigh Hunt	Tamra Pierce	Diane Thomason*
Shannon Dacus*	Joanne Idell*	Amy Proctor	Ruby Tomlin
Kathy Diduch	Robin Insalaco*	Ginny Ragland	Marty Wiggins*
Kathryn Droder	Helen Israel*	Jeanne Ramunni	

Dreamer - \$500+

Sue Adams	Lorrie Gazette	Carlyle Kinabrew Mehling	Becky Taylor Scott
Gwen Anderson	Barbara Glass	Donna Metke	Donna Shay
Val Anderson	Kathy Gohmert	Mary Meyers	Barbara Sjerven*
Theresa Avirett	Kris Gusa	Connie Moore	Jenny Sloan
Sandra Barker	Betsy Brush Hahn	Lisa Moran	Gay Smith
Jeanne Blythe	Susan Hawkins	Kristy Morris	Vicki Smith
Gilliam Brasfield*	Cindy Henry	Denise L. Nelms	Donna Spann
Julie Love Brown	Suzy Hensley	Mercedes Chase Noteware	Lynda Speak
Yvette Brunette	Mila Hightower	Stephanie Ogle	Roya Stanley
Maelen Bynum	Stacey Harden Hiles	Yaziri Orrostieta	Patty Steelman
Jackie Cannon	Judy Ellermann Hill	Penny Patterson	Margaret Mason Stewart
June Cheatham	Diane Hodge	Freida Payne	Jeanne Stovall
Joyce Crawford	Stephanie Holt	Marsha Pettigrew	Brenda Stratton
Marcia Daughtrey	Pam Hood	Debbie Peveto	Ahnise Summers
Deborah Davis	Dorothy Hubbard*	Margie Phillips	Brooke Swann
Pam Davis	Jana Humphrey	Jennifer Pierce	Trish Terrell
Kay Dawson	Laura Hyde*	Deborah Pitts	Melanie Thibodeaux
Jackie Bruton DeNoyelles	Nancy Johnson	Nancie Pritchard	Gail Wallace♦
Inez Denson	Jen Katz	Deborah Race*	Agnes Mellon Ward
Jion Dietz	Nancy M. Kirk	Jeni Ramsey	Jennifer Watkins
Emily Droder	Cathy Krafve	Karen Rasco	Leslie Watson
Sandra J. Dugan	Ashley Kutach	Terri Rather	Lauren Wheeler
Martha Dunlap	Zoe Lawhorn	Bonnie Rayford	Tricia Wiggs
Betsy Ellis	Pam Lisner*	Rhonda J. Reuter	Karen Williams
Erin Emery	Amy Lively	Susan Richardson	Vel Williamson
Kristy A. Everitt	Joan Lowthorp	Carrie Anna Roberts	Sherilyn A. Willis
Jeanne Fanning	Janet Majors*	Leslie G. Roberts	Nancy Wrenn*
Annette Findley*	Donna Mann-Belt	Smittee Root	Ingrid Young
Jacqueline Fowler	Courtney Mayfield	Margaret Rowan	Pat Zips
Patty Garner	Debra McCook	Linda Rowe*	
Marcia Garrett	Nita Meads	Linda Rudd	

Grant Update: Advancement By Individual Determination

In 2009 The Women's Fund awarded \$30,000 to the TISD Foundation for the AVID Elementary Pilot Program. Five years later, we are pleased to report strong results for students.

"In a highly competitive work force, it is important for our community's children to begin thinking about college at a very early age. College readiness is not just for high school and middle school students and therefore it is imperative that we reach our children early to promote educational activities that spark their interest in higher learning. The Women's Fund support of AVID Elementary has helped to do just that for young students. When the initiative began, it helped students in the 5th grade at Peete Elementary School. This would not have been possible without the grant provided by the Women's Fund. Those students are now in the 10th grade and many have already begun preparations to apply and enroll in colleges and universities. They have also enrolled in advanced class and taken on rigorous curriculums. We are grateful The Women's Fund grant has opened the doors for higher learning that many students did not think possible."--Maya Bethany, Executive Director, Tyler ISD Foundation

Kaeisha Davis is an AVID student, now in the 10th grade at John Tyler High School. Kaeisha is involved in volleyball and softball and is on the A/B honor roll. Her Advanced classes include Pre-AP Chemistry, Pre-AP English and Pre-AP Geometry. She has been in the AVID program for 6 years. "Beginning AVID in 5th grade at Peete really helped me to be prepared for Middle School. The binder keeps me organized and taking Cornell notes makes it easier for me to study. Since I have been carrying a binder and using notes (Cornell) for some years, it has become second nature; it's just how I do things."

AVID Elementary has been part of a district-wide effort to create college-ready students through individualized tutoring and mastering study skills. It is an embedded sequential academic skills program intended for non-elective, multi-subject, self-contained classrooms across the entire 4th and 5th grade levels. So, as opposed to AVID in secondary education, AVID elementary curriculum is not taught in a separate classroom, the curriculum is embedded into a normal elementary school day. AVID Elementary methodologies are equally accessed by all students.

Prior to the Women's Fund grant, no elementary campus had an AVID program. The Women's Fund created the first-ever initiative of this kind in our region and premiered site for observation, study, and measurable outcomes.

The focus areas for AVID Elementary are student success skills: speaking, listening, self-advocacy and study habits; and organizational skills: agenda, binder, time management, goals, and note-taking.

The purposes of AVID Elementary are to cultivate intrinsic motivation by creating a vision of academic success; to create a belief that academic rigor is expected, possible, and attainable; to create better students and teachers through the development of a consistent way to think and process information; to provide equal access to AVID Elementary methodologies for all students; to create a bridge between elementary and middle school; and to better identify future AVID students.



Kaeisha Davis, Peete AVID student now an advanced student at John Tyler.

Implementation of the AVID Elementary pilot program allowed the District to see the effects the AVID Elementary program had on the success of the AVID secondary program. When children are taught at a younger age the positive self-esteem and self-confidence that comes from a vision of academic success and a belief that conquering rigorous curriculum is possible, students are more likely to succeed in the AVID program provided in their secondary years.

It is time to renew your Membership for 2015!

Memberships run from January 1 until December 31, regardless of what time of year that you join. All moneys collected for the current membership year will be available for the grants awarded.

You can join online at www.WomensFundSC.org or by completing the following form and sending to:

The Women's Fund
601 Shelley Drive, Suite 201
Tyler, TX 75701

Questions? - call us at 903 509-1771, ext. 102

- Platinum Visionary** **\$10,000**
- Gold Visionary** **\$ 5,000**
- Silver Visionary** **\$ 3,000**
- Visionary** **\$ 1,200**
- Dreamer** **\$ 600**

I would like information about **The Compass Club.**

Method of Payment: (Check One)

- Check (Checks Payable to The Women's Fund)
Enclosed amount \$ _____
- Send statement in January.
- One-time payment
- Monthly bank or credit/debit card draft beginning Jan 2015.
- Quarterly bank or credit/debit card draft beginning Jan 2015.

NEED A GIFT FOR THAT PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING?



WHY NOT GIVE HER A MEMBERSHIP IN THE WOMEN'S FUND!

Call the office,
903 509-1771, ext. 102
for details.

Do not print my name on membership lists that will be on the Website.

Name _____
(as will appear on all membership list)

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone: Cell _____ Hm _____ Wk _____

Email: _____

My Total Pledge will be \$ _____

Signature _____

To be paid: One time Monthly Quarterly
(Please circle one.)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. ____ / ____

Card Type: M/C VISA DISC AMEX Sec. Code _____
(Circle One)

Name on card _____
(Please print)

Signature _____

Thank You Power of the Purse Sponsors



LAW OFFICE OF B. DIANE HEINDEL
 Attorney at Law



TRAVEL MASTERS



Critical Thinking for Life!
 Mentoring Minds



SQYRES, JOHNSON, SQYRES



HENRY & PETERS, PC
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

ADAMS
 FINANCIAL
 GROUP

Abegg Willis
 & Associates



Smith Co. Medical Society Alliance



SOUTHSIDE BANK



Peggy Berry & Freda Peppard



Leadership Spotlight: The Women's Fund Executive Committee

Thank you for your commitment and leadership this year!



2014 Executive Committee Members

Beth Filla, Dawn Franks, Sebetha Jenkins-Booker, Sharon Howell, *Chairman*, Debbie Jordan, Patty Steelman, Marty Wiggins, *Chair Elect*, Margaret Perkins, Carol Langston, Vel Williamson, Debby Gunter, Mary Fischer, Lori Holt, Marillyn Abegg Glass, Betsy Hahn, *Women's Fund President*

Not pictured: Peggy Berry, Kathryn Droder, Diane Heindel, Ellen Krafve, Freda Peppard, Marjorie Ream

The Women's Fund leverages the philanthropic capacity of women as a catalyst for positive change.

www.WomensFundSC.org