



TOGETHER, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women's Funding Alliance

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2002

inside:

Alliance Helps 13 Women Fulfill Their Dreams

In June the Alliance awarded over \$10,000 in BrenMar scholarships to 13 incredibly diverse recipients, including a 17-year-old Vietnamese woman, two Somali refugees, an aspiring caterer, a survivor of domestic violence, and a former Dominican nun. (See complete list on page 4.)

"Attending college was for other people," wrote one recipient, **Gabriella Gardner**, in a thank-you note to WFA. "As I watched friends leave home in pursuit of degrees, I believed I was not good enough to join them. A child's dream of becoming a nurse practitioner was lost in the belief that I would never accom-

plish anything. With the help of people like you, I will beat the odds and end the cycle of poverty that has plagued my family. This scholarship will change the course of my life and generations to come."

Gabriella's words echo the feelings of many of this year's recipients, who say their scholarship will help them achieve a lifelong dream.

WFA's BrenMar scholarships are awarded annually to women and girls who are striving to reach personal or professional goals. The money usually funds activities and training that will significantly enrich the recipients' lives and independence. Applicants come from



Two of our BrenMar winners: Hindi Abdille and Norma Ramirez

agencies funded by the Alliance, and the scholarship recipients are chosen by a volunteer committee.

In closing her letter to the Alliance, Gabriella wrote, "The gift you are giving is much more than a check or even a degree; it brings hope. Hope for the future of all women struggling to beat the odds. Thank

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WFA Invests in Organizations

Look What We Are Doing Together!

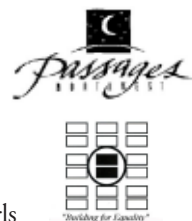
Rather than spotlight a specific agency, in this issue we want to focus on a broad range of successes—on the impact and significance that funding from the Women's Funding Alliance has had on agencies that have received our grants and/or workplace campaign funds.

Shariffa Sabrie of **Somali Women and Children Skills for Change** says, "It was a dream come true to learn of such an organization as

WFA. The funds from the Alliance came to us at a time when we were discouraged and helped us believe that there are people out there who believe in our cause."

Passages Northwest was a 2000 grantee and is a new federation agency. Director Katie Hultquist says, "Funding from the Alliance has lent credibility to Passages. It is an endorsement that we are very proud of!" Money from the Alliance en-

abled Passages to serve over 400 girls and women, hire a new executive director, increase the number and diversity of board members, and start two new programs. And the connection to other agencies, supporters, and volunteers through WFA has greatly enhanced the group's ability to help women and girls. Alliance support helped



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photo by Rich Hansen
LeAnne Moss

From the Executive Director

My friend Julie caused a bit of a stir when we were in high school. She wanted to take shop class. It didn't matter to her that all the boys were directed into "shop" while the girls were channeled into home economics. Julie loved all things mechanical, and she wanted to be in that class. To the school's credit, they let her enroll. This was after Title IX, and I'm sure the passage of that federal law helped to enlighten my small-town school's administrators.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in all aspects of federally funded education programs. Well known for opening up athletic opportunities for girls, it also was meant to expand opportunities in vocational and technical education. Indeed, since the enactment of Title IX, there has been a fourfold increase in women's participation in intercollegiate sports and a fivefold increase in the number of women receiving medical degrees. A lot has changed!

However, as I reflect on the 30th anniversary of Title IX (passed in 1972), I know that we still have a long way to go. A recent report by the National Women's Law Center reports that the patterns of women's enrollment in vocational and technical programs "look shockingly similar to the patterns that existed prior to passage of the law." Why would this be the case, 30 years later? Haven't we come further than that? The Center cites such factors as biased counseling (gearing young women toward traditional fields), sexual harassment of girls enrolled in nontraditional classes, and other forms of discrimination. This is disappointing news.

In my work with the Alliance, I am reminded on a daily basis of how much our work is still needed. While there has been a lot of wonderful progress for women and girls, we still have much to do. As a local illustration of this fact, when we sent out our requests for grant applications, we received over 100 worthwhile proposals! While this reflects an overwhelming need, it also demonstrates the diversity and richness of organizations serving women and girls in our community. This

year WFA will provide funding to about 35 agencies (see the next edition of our newsletter for exact numbers), but there is so much more worthwhile work that deserves our support.

I kept in touch with Julie for a few years after high school. I was her maid of honor, and I visited her on my trips home from college. I later learned that her marriage didn't turn out the way she had envisioned. Her husband got into a bad habit of hitting her when he was in a bad mood. Fortunately, she had the courage to leave. And fortunately, she had some skills to support herself and her daughters when that critical moment came.

Perhaps what we all need to do is look more closely at the problems in our community and see how we can all be part of the solution. How do we talk to the girls and young women in our lives about opportunities that await them? Are we role models for others in the community as donors and volunteers? Do we use our influence wisely? Long-term social change is hard to accomplish, and it will take all of us. I am excited and energized by the people I come in contact with every day, and I know that, while the work can sometimes be slow, we are making steady progress . . . together.

For a copy of the National Women's Law Center's report, visit www.nwlc.org.

Our mission

The Women's Funding Alliance promotes justice, health, and opportunities by investing in the future of women and girls.

We believe...

- Valuing women and girls is fundamental to creating a just and equitable society.
- All women and girls have a basic right to physical, mental, and spiritual health and well-being.
- Opportunities to collaborate, learn, and give are essential to success.

Toward this end, the Women's Funding Alliance...

- advances philanthropy through workplace giving campaigns, individual gifts, and events.
- advocates for social change by funding programs and projects that benefit women and girls.
- strategically invests in organizations to help them build and sustain their capacity.
- articulates underlying issues affecting women and girls.
- leads and supports community efforts and collaborations.

When women and children thrive, the entire community prospers.

10th Annual Art of Dining Was Delicious!

Roasted garlic crab, ginger-crusted halibut, and chocolate truffles—these are just some of the tasty delights enjoyed by the 350 guests at WFA’s Art of Dining this year! The elegant evening at Seattle’s beautiful Paramount Theatre featured a meal created by a team of 14 female celebrity chefs, as well as an auction showcasing art from 31 Pacific Northwest women artists. **The event raised \$175,000 to benefit the lives of women and girls**, and more than 50 volunteers offered helping hands on the day of the gala. Thank you!



AOD guests raise bid cards and dollars to benefit women and girls! photo by Rich Hansen

The Art of Dining showcased 14 female celebrity chefs and 31 Pacific Northwest women artists.



Fantastic Art of Dining volunteers Deepa and Savitha photo by Rich Hansen

The Alliance also offers sincere thanks to the following people who helped make the event possible: **Donna Bellew** (event chair), **Jamie Williams** (event manager), **Yvonne Banks** (guest curator), **Lisa Dupar** and **Kathi Sullivan** (kitchen divas), **Mary Jane Finley** (stage manager), **Rich Hansen** (photographer), **Linda Mitchell** and **Katie Lindberg** (art managers), **Mardi Newman** and **Warren Etheredge** (auctioneer and emcee), and **Savitha Pathi**, **Annette Holland**, and **Kym Evanson** (volunteer coordinators). In addition, the Art of Dining had an enthusiastic and tireless planning committee that included the above volunteers as well as **Alpha Phi Omega (UW chapter)**, **Rebecca Borders**, **Allison Carver**, **Kelly Focht-Berschauer**, **Christine Haskell**, **Jeanne**

Higgins, **Joan Kelly**, **Anne Lapora**, **Drew Markham**, **Rebecca Mason**, **Chris Nishiwaki**, **Ina Percival**, **Pat Riehl**, **Bernadette Scheller**, **Ann Tamura**, **Todd Waddell**, **Kristine Wright**, and **Kristie Yeckel**.

Thanks as well to the hundreds of individuals and businesses that donated auction items valued at a total of over \$150,000. Last (but not least!), we would like to thank our corporate sponsors and friends: **DDB Seattle**, **UBS PaineWebber**, **Her Interactive**, **Prolab Visual Imaging Services**, **Top Food and Drug**, **Seattle Floral Studio**, and **Cavatappi Winery**.

For more details about the Art of Dining, please visit our Web site at www.wfalliance.org. If you have any questions or ideas or would like to be involved in planning the 11th Annual Art of Dining, please contact Jody Waits at WFA, jody@wfalliance.org.



WFA Director LeAnne Moss and board member Chris Nishiwaki enjoy a divine appetizer. photo by Rich Hansen



photo by Rich Hansen

Thank you, 2002 AOD chefs!

- Laurie Allen, Avenue One
- Gwen Bassetti, Grand Central Bakery
- Lisa Becklund, La Medusa and Salumeria
- Fran Bigelow, Fran’s Chocolates
- Lisa Dupar, Lisa Dupar Catering
- Julie Ann Guerrero, Dulces Latin Bistro
- Christine Keff, Flying Fish
- Bo Kline, Typhoon!
- Toby Matasar, Dahlia Lounge
- Vicky McCaffree
- Sue McCown, Earth & Ocean/W Hotel
- Tamara Murphy, Brasa
- Sherri Serino, La Medusa and Salumeria
- Debbie Zerr, Dahlia Lounge

“Thank you for opening a door I could never open on my own.”
—BrenMar scholarship recipient

BrenMar Scholarship Winners *continued from page 1*

you for caring. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to earn an education. Thank you for opening a door I could never open on my own. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!”

And thank you to our volunteer committee—**Dianne Juhl, Melanie Martin, Farhiya Mohammed, Missi Moore, Zoe Rothchild, Shariffa Sabrie, Joan Whiley, and Alison Wysong**—and all of our donors for their generous support that makes our scholarships possible.

For more information on the BrenMar scholarships, contact Pam Dunkin at WFA, (206) 467-6733 or pam@wfalliance.org.

2002 Scholarship Recipients

Names have been withheld to protect privacy. If you are interested in talking with specific recipients, please contact the Alliance.

- A single mother and Somali refugee who wants to drive her children and other family members to appointments and to the library. Being able to drive will allow her to attend school and help her community. Funding will pay for driving lessons.
- A young woman whose long-range goal is to work in the anti-trafficking movement of faith communities. She has worked in Nigeria with women trying to escape trafficked prostitution. Funds will help with education.
- A single mother of a four-year-old daughter who is struggling to get an education while dealing with the challenges of public assistance. This intelligent and determined young woman has the goal of being the first in her family to get a college degree. Funds will pay for tuition and child care.
- An artist gifted in *repujado*, a traditional Mexican art form. She wants to be able to order materials so she can create, share, and teach her art to other women. Funds will pay for materials and business startup.
- A woman of great endurance whose dream is to be able to transport her disabled husband and her three children when needed. Right now all their trips involve at least two bus transfers. She would like to be able to attend classes and to help other women in her community. Funds will pay for driving lessons.
- A former Dominican nun who has spent her life serving others and the community. She wants to pursue a long-held dream of becoming a professional singer. Funds will pay for jazz vocal study.
- A mother of three who wants the independence and empowerment that driving will bring to her life and the life of her family and friends. Funds will pay for driving lessons.
- A disabled woman, living on a small budget, whose dream is to learn more about and teach art. She is very talented but has never had the money for education. Funds will pay for formal art classes.
- A 17-year-old woman whose dream is to finish her education by becoming a pharmacist and helping people in her native country of Vietnam. Funds will pay for tuition at Seattle Central Community College.
- A gifted young woman who wants to join a select group of students on a trip to India. Her dream is to use photography and videos of women and girls to educate people about the struggles faced by people around the world. Funds will help with trip expenses.
- A survivor of domestic violence who is pursuing her dream of healing and expressing herself through art. She would like to eventually share her therapeutic art with her children. Funds will pay for art lessons.
- A woman dealing with the challenges of child care, transportation, and language barriers, who dreams of setting up her own catering business. Currently, when she provides food for community events, she uses the bus for transportation! Funds will help launch her catering business.
- A refugee woman who runs a small day care business in her home would like to be able to drive the children to school. In addition, this woman volunteers in the Head Start classroom and helps in her Somali community. Funds will pay for driving lessons.

Please join us for

Champagne and Chocolates!

A Celebration of WFA's New Grantees and
Scholarship Winners!

Invitations coming soon
Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center
104 17th Avenue S.
Free to all

Welcome Shanthi, Our New Office Manager!



Shanthi Nanayakkara

The next time you call the Alliance, you'll likely be speaking with our newest staff member, **Shanthi Nanayakkara**, who joined us as our office manager in May. Previously she was a grants and administrative assistant at the Early Learning Foundation, and before that she worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Sri Lanka for 21 years.

What Shanti enjoys most about WFA, she says, is the staff's commitment to working together to help women. "The driving force to my work here is that we are dealing with women's issues. The Women's Funding Alliance is able to focus on the

issues that are really affecting women and girls every day."

When not at work, Shanthi can be found attending musicals, helping out at her church, or traveling to the mountains, where she and her partner are busily building a cabin.

Farewell to a Founding Mother

The Women's Funding Alliance bids a fond farewell to one of our founding mothers, **Mary Jane Tibbetts**. A volunteer and supporter over the last 19 years, Mary Jane played an instrumental role in both building and growing the Alliance.

Committed to making our community a better place to live, Mary Jane was an avid philanthropist and gave generously of her time and resources to create social change. A reliable and consistent presence, she was also involved with Washington NARAL, the Lesbian Resource Center, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Resource Center, and Washington's National Park Fund. We extend our most sincere sympathy to Mary Jane's family and friends, and thank her for a lifetime of passionate commitment to women and girls.



*Mary Jane Tibbetts
1920-2002*

Special Thanks...

To **Seattle Theatre Group** for inviting the Alliance to co-present *The Vagina Monologues* and to **The Warren Report** for partnering toward the premiere of *5 Girls*, both in September 2001.

Bulletin



October 5

Smart Girls
Expanding Your Horizons Conference
For 5th- and 6th-grade girls
Seattle University
Info: (206) 236-9720 or e-mail
seyh@smart-girls.org

October 16

KCSARC
"Kids Are Our Business"
Renton Breakfast
7:30-8:30 a.m.
St. Anthony's Hall,
501 S. 4th Street, Renton
Info: Sarah, (425) 226-5062, ext. 230
Free, but donations suggested

October 19

2002 Seattle Women's Summit
Seattle Central Community College
Info: (206) 684-4537,
TTY (206) 684-4503, or visit
[www.cityofseattle.net/
womenscommission/](http://www.cityofseattle.net/womenscommission/)

October 23, 24, 30

Women of Courage Speaking Series
To benefit Passages Northwest
6:30-8:30 p.m.
REI Flagship Store
222 Yale Ave N, Seattle
Info: (206) 286-8601 or e-mail
Jessica@passagesnw.org

October 26

Northwest Women's Law Center
Annual Auction and Dinner
Theme: Film Noir
Benaroya Hall
Info: (206) 682-9552 x123

November 16

Washington NARAL
22nd Annual Liberty Ball Auction
5:30 p.m.
West Coast Grand Hotel, Seattle
Info: (206) 624-1990 or e-mail
wanaral@wanaral.org

Your gifts and time are an investment in the future of women and girls, and in strengthening our society.

To make
sure WFA
is included
in your
company's
workplace
giving
campaign,
contact
Pam Dunkin at
pam@wfalliance.org
or
(206) 467-6733.

Workplace Campaign

ZymoGenetics: Supporting WFA and the Community

The Alliance enthusiastically thanks the generous employees of ZymoGenetics for their ongoing support of WFA through payroll deduction campaigns. In the past two years, ZymoGenetics employees have donated more than \$30,000 to charitable organizations including WFA.

ZymoGenetics is an independent biopharmaceutical company founded in Seattle in 1981, with its headquarters in the historic Lake Union Steam Plant and neighboring buildings on the south shore of Lake Union. The company and its 350 employees have a long history of community involvement, providing summer internships for students, science mentoring programs, a company charity auction, and much more.



ZymoGenetics' historic headquarters on Lake Union



Looking to the future

Payroll deduction is just one of the many ways that ZymoGenetics employees support their community. Patty Vandenburg, administrative services manager for the company, is the energetic, hardworking coordinator of its charity campaign. “We have seen an increase in donors over the course of our campaigns,” she says, “because of the range of choices and the convenience of payroll deduction.”

As the 2002 workplace charity campaign season approaches, the Alliance wants to spotlight ZymoGenetics as an example of a successful collaborative campaign. Even in these uncertain economic times, we continue to see the generosity of ZymoGenetics employees.

In a collaborative campaign, the Alliance and nine other federation funds, which make up the Coalition for Charitable Choice, are listed on the employees' pledge form. “As the program coordinator,” Patty explains, “it is my role to make sure our charitable giving campaigns have the widest impact possible while meeting the needs and requests of employees. By including both United Way and Coalition for Charitable Choice agencies in our annual drive, we are able to accomplish this.”

The Women's Funding Alliance and its agencies received an amazing \$266,000 from the 2001 public and private workplace campaigns. These dollars have helped provide shelter for victims of domestic violence; give training, empowerment, and hope to women in poverty; provide affordable housing for women and their children; furnish healing services and advocacy for victims of sexual assault; instill leadership skills and promote individual potential in teenage girls; and focus the public's attention on the critical issues facing women and girls today.

ZymoGenetics is one of many companies offering choices to their employees and enabling them to make a difference for so many charitable organizations. If you'd like to learn more about expanding your workplace's campaign, contact Pam Dunkin at WFA, (206) 467-6733 or pam@wfalliance.org.

Investing in Organizations *continued from page 1*

move Passages to the next level—from a startup organization to a more established, recognized voice in the community that's here to stay.

The Alliance funded Tacoma Urban League's Bad Date Sheet (BDS), a warning system for sex traders. The positive outcome of this project is exemplified by the story of “Melinda,” who came to an

Urban League worker and thanked her for putting out the BDS. She had used it to find assistance in fighting her drug addiction, and she felt that the BDS had twice saved her life. Melinda is no longer working as a sex trader, but is helping other sex workers.

These wonderful stories are just a few examples of how the Alliance has been

able to make a difference in the lives of women and girls. The themes emerging from these responses are that agencies feel proud and validated after being chosen to receive funding. In many cases, agencies were able to grow to a new place with WFA's support. The amazing support of Alliance donors makes all this possible!

Donor Spotlight

Donna and Matt Bellew

“I’m particularly interested in how women come together and solve problems, how they rely on each other and support each other,” says Donna Bellew. “That sense of community is something that I’ve looked for in my own life, and being involved with the Women’s Funding Alliance is a way to extend that to the larger community.”

After leaving the high-tech community in early 2000 to spend time with her young children, Donna was ready to turn her concerns about the realities facing women and girls into action. She got her feet wet at the Alliance, helping to organize the Champagne and Chocolates reception in September of that year. Many of the women she met at the event proved to be an inspiration as they talked about their work with women and girls and the impact of the Alliance’s funding, other resources, and sisterhood.

After the Champagne and Chocolate event, Donna decided to alter the format of her annual “Cookie Party,” a fun and competitive cookie contest that also raises money for different organizations. She started a new tradition of having a speaker from an Alliance-funded organization at the party, with the proceeds benefiting that organization and the Alliance equally. “It’s a great concept—all of the attendees are women, and this way they get an introduction to diverse organizations that they might not discover on their own.”

In early 2001 Donna joined the Alliance’s Scholarship Committee. She enjoyed working closely with such a diverse group of women, and welcomed the opportunity to meet the scholarship applicants and understand their views firsthand. “I loved the idea behind the scholarship, that the dreams and viewpoints of people from all cultures and backgrounds should be respected and supported.”

In addition to joining WFA’s board in the fall of 2001, Donna also accepted the position of 2002 Art of Dining Chair. “Again I got to work with a team that was not only committed but very fun. The event itself was amazing—seeing all sorts of women from a broad spectrum of the community, coming together in one place.” WFA is delighted to welcome Donna back as the chair of the 2003 Art of Dining.

Married for seven years, Donna and Matt are highly devoted to their family, including Evie (just turning 6 in October), John (3), and a third child on the way. This summer Donna also started a human resources consulting firm, Mergent Group, with two like-minded colleagues and friends. Matt continues his work in the software industry, currently with BEA, which recently purchased the company he co-founded, Westside.com.

Thank you, Donna and Matt!



Donna and Matt Bellew, with their children, Evie and John

Who We Are

Established in 1983, WFA promotes justice, health, and opportunities by investing in the future of women and girls. Since its inception, the Alliance has distributed over \$2 million in the Puget Sound area to more than 80 programs that address issues such as poverty, sexual assault, discrimination, domestic violence, education, and reproductive rights.

The Alliance focuses on these areas:

- ☉ **Funding Social Change:** Through its federation structure, scholarships, and grantmaking program, WFA raises and distributes funding to organizations serving women and girls.
- ☉ **Raising Awareness:** WFA educates the public and amplifies the voices of women and girls.
- ☉ **Building Community:** WFA facilitates connections between organizations and individuals concerned about women’s and girls’ issues.

Board of Directors

Donna Bellew, Karen Bosley, Mary Jane Finley, Susan Freccia, Janelle Gibson, Karen Gwilym, Connie Mao, Drew Markham, Cheyla McCornack-Axtell, Chris Nishiwaki, Tracy Patterson, Ina Percival, Jenise Silva, Deanna Wong

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The Women’s
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funds
social
change,
raises
awareness,
and
builds
community.

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TOGETHER, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

W Women's Funding Alliance

Come inside and take a look.

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