



TOGETHER, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Women's Funding Alliance

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2004

inside:

Use Your Voice, Use Your Purse, Use your Power

(Part 2 of 2)

Many of us hope and dream of a better world that allows everyone—women and girls, and all disenfranchised groups—to thrive and have access to the opportunities needed to succeed. In Part I of this series, the Women's Funding Alliance took a moment to imagine how, together, we can transform our community.



Alliance supporters Ellen Ferguson and Linda Mitchell with WFA's Savitha Pathi at the March for Women's Lives.

At political meet-ups, or any public place where people meet to voice their opinions and take action, there are many strong women, passionately voicing their beliefs and defining the direction of the groups they belong to. We owe so much to these women, just as we owe a vast debt of gratitude to their predecessors, who shaped the world we live in today.

Less than a century ago, women weren't allowed to choose their own political leaders, and went to prison

in order to win the right to vote. Less than 40 years ago, women were denied choice and access to safe abortions, and the resulting deaths helped lead to *Roe v. Wade*. Yet in the last presidential election, less than half of all single women voted.

Many of these women felt that their votes, and their voices, are discounted by a political system that ignores the challenges that disproportionately effect them: the lack of

affordable child care and health care, domestic violence, rising housing costs, the wage gap, and the preponderance of women and their children living in poverty. Many of these women are also coping with other challenges, including discrimination and adjusting to life in a new culture.

Despite the perception that those in power are unaware of the issues women care about, there are thousands of individuals, organizations, and even politicians working to bring these issues to the forefront of the debate. The Women's Funding Alliance is engaged in this work, as are our agencies, including:

NARAL Pro-Choice Washington Foundation (NARAL), which is conducting a get-out-the-vote initiative to turn out pro-choice voters in record numbers in 2004.

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Scholarships Awarded

WFA Helps Women Reach for their Dreams

A resilient thirteen-year-old who survived great obstacles to find a loving home. A woman who dreams of becoming a filmmaker and broadcasting the voices of people and organizations that might not otherwise be heard. A grandmother who connects those in need with those who can help.

These are just a few of the Alliance's 8 scholarship recipients, who were awarded \$6,000 by the 2004 BrenMar Scholarship Commit-

tee. They include teenagers and grandmothers, refugees and single mothers, women who are devoted to making their community a better place, and women who are in the process of triumphing over the violence and hardship in their lives.

The Alliance awards scholarships to clients, volunteers and staff of our funded agencies, for any activity that helps them to dream, speaks to their soul or otherwise enriches them



Scholarship recipient Lynda Brown (left) with her sister.

personally and professionally.

Through this program, members of the community who have limited access to critical resources and opportunities can develop success and confidence with the help of a small investment.

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Women's Funding Alliance
603 Stewart Street
Suite 207
Seattle, WA 98101

T (206) 467-6733
F (206) 467-7537

wfa@wfalliance.org
www.wfalliance.org



*LeAnne Moss with
her niece Katie*

Growing Strong Girls

My four-year-old niece, Katie, has a special superhero: Kim Possible. Kim is a TV cartoon character who is balancing the stress of being a typical teenager while also saving the world from villains. Personally, I haven't seen any episodes, but what's important is that my

niece identifies "girl" with "strength." She often wants to be called Kim Possible rather than Katie, taking on the persona of a role model who is a leader and risk-taker.

I love seeing my niece full of confidence and energy. At this point in her life she hasn't received many—if any—messages about what she can and can't do as a girl. Right now the world is her oyster, so to speak, and she sees a menu of choices available to her.

I only hope that her confidence does not diminish when she enters adolescence. Many of us are familiar with Dr. Mary Pipher's book, *Reviving Ophelia*, which chronicles over 50 real life stories of young women ages 11-21 whom Pipher has treated in her twenty-plus years as a clinical psychologist. Pipher's work demonstrates that, despite the advances women have gained in the last three decades, increased levels of violence and sexism cause girls to stifle their creativity and ultimately severely damage their self-esteem.

Other research substantiates Pipher's findings. A recent survey conducted by The Commonwealth Fund on the health of adolescent girls shows that self-confidence and health ratings decline in high school for girls but not for boys.

While some people might question how important self-esteem and confidence are for women or men, the consequences for our society as a whole cannot be argued. Low self-esteem affects a person's ability to make wise choices and have a sense of hope for the future. As a result of low self-esteem, more girls suffer from depression, experience eating disorders, or become pregnant at a younger age. In the United States each year, nearly 4 in 10 young women—nearly 1 million a year—

become pregnant at least once before they reach the age of 20. Eighty percent of these pregnancies are unintended, and 79 percent are to unmarried teens.* And history has shown that unmarried teen parents are on a direct path to poverty.

Yet all is not dismal! Fortunately, there are organizations that help girls maintain and grow their sense of self during this turbulent time. The Women's Funding Alliance supports three agencies that specifically work with girls in these areas, helping them develop their leadership skills, build their confidence, and set a course for a bold future: Passages Northwest (www.passagesnw.org), Powerful Voices (www.powerfulvoices.org), and Seattle Girls' School (www.seattlegirlsschool.org).

In addition, each of us can choose to help grow strong young women. We can encourage our daughters, nieces, and young women friends to make mistakes, think big, get their hands dirty, and take risks. We can expect them to be leaders and to be bold, because that's the only way that change really happens. And before you know it, we might just have a community of "Kim Possibles" that are out there changing the world for women and girls, and for all of us.

** Statistics obtained from Girls, Inc.*

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...

- Seeds, strengthens and supports organizations serving women and girls in the Puget Sound region through strategic funding and capacity building.
- Creates positive social change by engaging and educating the public on issues affecting women and girls.
- Advances philanthropy through individual giving, workplace fundraising, events, and donor involvement.

When women and children thrive, the entire community prospers.

Art of Dining a Fabulous Success!



Savitha Pathi with Chaya representatives Rujuta Gaonkar and Vega Subramaniam.

When the last piece of art was claimed and the bid cards were put away, the 12th annual Art of Dining raised more than \$290,000! We are happy to report a sold-out event again this year, with 480 guests treated to a fabulous feast from some of the area's most acclaimed women chefs and a live auction featuring the art of some of the Northwest's most celebrated women artists.

Many thanks to the guests, the chefs, the artists, the volunteers, and the auction item donors for making the evening such a fabulous success. Your gifts of time, talent and resources will have a far-reaching impact on the lives of women and girls in this community.

A special thank you to: our event co-chairs, Arlene Fairfield and Dawn Rains; Paul and Pam Schell, for their assistance as honorary co-chairs; DDB, for an extraordinary video that was better than we could ever have hoped; Lisa Dupar, for her tireless work organizing the menu and our fabulous chefs; Esther Luttikhuisen and Katie Lindberg for procuring such beautiful art; Mardi Newman, our always fabulous auctioneer; and Bernard Choi, a wonderful addition as Art of Dining emcee. To our sponsors, Williams, Kastner & Gibbs; Peterson Sullivan; Heller Ehrman;

Davis Wright Tremaine; The ReMax Real Estate Gals; Regence Blue Shield and Holland America, and in-kind donors Washington Trollers Association and Team Photogenic—thank you for your support!

Lastly, thank you to our guests who purchased Epicurean tickets and raised their bid cards during fund-a-need. Your generosity and commitment to improving the lives of women and girls was breathtaking.

For more details about this wonderful evening, visit www.artofdining.org. To join the 13th Annual Art of Dining planning committee, contact WFA at (206) 467-6733.



A winning bidder!

Federation Agencies

Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services

BABES Network

Chaya

FaithTrust Institute

Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress

Intercommunity Mercy Housing

Jubilee Women's Center

King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center

Lesbian Resource Center

NARAL Pro-Choice Washington Foundation

Northwest Women's Law Center

Passages Northwest

Planned Parenthood of Western Washington

Positive Women's Network

Powerful Voices

Refugee Women's Alliance

Residence XII

Seattle Girls' School

Washington CASH

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition

Women's Housing, Equality and Enhancement League



Our fabulous 2004 chefs (in alphabetical order): Lisa Dupar, Lisa Dupar Catering; Laura Heimlein, Grand Central Bakery; Chris Keff, Flying Fish & Fandango; Jimella Lucas and Nanci Main, The Ark; Leslie Mackie, Macrina Bakery; Vicky McCaffree, Yarrow Bay Grill; Sue McCown, Earth & Ocean/W Hotel; Tamara Murphy and Mary Lokar, Brasa; Cameon Orel, Yarrow Bay Beach Cafe; Debbie Zerr and Anna Vogel, Dablia Lounge.

The Women's Funding Alliance would like to express its deepest appreciation to

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for their ongoing support and partnership, and their commitment to helping Puget Sound non-profits change our community for the better.

Use Your Voice *continued from page 1*

NARAL's innovative approach includes a personalized "Adopt-a-Voter" program linking volunteers to pro-choice individuals who did not vote in the last two elections.

Refugee Women's Alliance, which in 2005 will celebrate its 20th year of advocating for public policy changes and equal access to services for immigrants and refugees, the majority of whom are women and their children.

Powerful Voices, which works to instill leadership skills, foster development of critical thinking and promote the individual potential of adolescent girls so that they have the skills to take up the work of changing the social issues that women care about for the better.

Each of us has the ability to build on this momentum and to powerfully change the future for women and girls. Imagine what would happen if *each* of us used our voice, our purse and our power!

Some possible ways for each of us to use our voices, our purses, and our power to effect change:

- Register to vote, and sign up your friends and co-workers. Absentee ballots are available for every registered voter in Washington State, and 90% of absentee voters voted in the last election compared to 60% overall.
- See the women in your life as capable and strong leaders. Introduce young women and girls to the White House Project's Vote, Run, Lead initiative to help them see the possibilities of leadership in their own lives.



Washington State CFD Promotes Choice in Giving!

In 2003, Washington State employees donated more than \$5 million to charitable organizations through their workplace giving campaign, the Combined Fund Drive (CFD). The CFD raises more money per employee than any other state campaign in the nation!

A key reason this campaign is so successful is the diverse range of issues and organizations represented in the CFD. Numerous studies have found that **the most frequently cited factor in increasing employee participation in workplace campaigns is "expanded choice of charities."** Says CFD leadership, "The value of choice remains the greatest driver of our policy... we feel that choice is what state employees want from us." State employees have responded to this policy—more than 1,900 nonprofit organizations will receive donations through the 2003 CFD!

The Women's Funding Alliance enthusiastically thanks the generous employees of Washington State for their ongoing support of WFA and our federation members. The success of our programs depends on the generosity of employees, and on the companies who offer diverse choices to their employees. Thank you to the Washington State CFD for being a leader in choice in giving, and to all of you who invest in the future of women and girls through your workplace giving campaigns!

Interested in adding the Alliance to your upcoming employee giving campaign? Have questions about workplace giving in general? Contact Savitha Pathi at savitha@wfalliance.org.

- Research issues and candidates, or sign up for Women's eNews and receive regular updates about candidates' positions on issues of particular concern to women. Tell your friends and family about what you learn.
- Donate to an organization that is doing work you're passionate about, or contribute to the election campaign of a candidate you believe in. What may seem a small amount of monetary support can make a huge difference.
- Volunteer for get-out-the-vote initiatives like V-Day and NARAL's "Adopt-a-Voter," mobilizing voters around ending violence against women and choice.
- Vote on November 2, and encourage your friends and family to join you.

To realize our dream of a world where women and girls are thriving, all of us need to take action. If everyone who believes in this dream used their voices, their purses, and their power, just think what we could accomplish!

Resources: Women's eNews, www.womensenews.org. NARAL Pro-Choice Washington "Adopt-a-Voter," www.wanaral.org or DaniFranco@wanaral.com. V-Day, www.vday.org. Vote, Run, Lead, www.voterunlead.org. The White House Project, www.thewhitehouseproject.org. Voter registration and absentee ballots, www.secstate.wa.gov/ elections.

Welcome, Planned Parenthood!

Planned Parenthood of Western Washington (PPWW) has joined the Women's Funding Alliance federation.

A health and reproductive rights center, PPWW is an invaluable resource for sexual health care concerns and provides much-needed medical services. This year PPWW celebrates its 70th year serving women and men in the Puget Sound area. Look for them under WFA in your workplace campaign brochure this fall!



Agency Spotlight: Northwest Women's Law Center

The Northwest Women's Law Center joined the Women's Funding Alliance federation in 1987 and has since become one of our longest-standing members. In 2003, the Law Center celebrated its 25th anniversary year, and in 2004, it achieved several successes with its ongoing *Celebrating Diverse Families* initiative.

The only initiative of its kind in the country, *Celebrating Diverse Families* focuses on ensuring that the law acknowledges, celebrates and protects the rights of all families in our communities, whether intergenerational, lesbian, gay, transgendered, bisexual, straight, unmarried, married or single-parent.

In February and May of 2004, the Law Center succeeded with two cases that won rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) couples. Now, when LGBT couples' relationships end, they are entitled to equitable distribution of assets and parental rights such as visitation if they have acted as parents for their domestic partner's children.

The Law Center has also led the fight for marriage equality in Washington, an issue that has gained national attention in 2004. Although the U.S. Senate has not passed a constitutional amendment, many state legislatures—including Washington—have passed statutes defining marriage as solely between a man and a woman.

On March 8, 2004, the Law Center made national headlines when, with Lambda Legal, it filed one of the first lawsuits in the country to gain recognition of the right of same-sex couples to marry. Law Center staff helped six lesbian and gay couples apply for marriage licenses in King County. When the clerk, with tears in her eyes, told the couples, who also wept, that she could not issue marriage licenses to them, the Law Center filed suit against King County. As the suit was being filed, clients held hands, cried, and hugged their children.

In the suit, the Law Center argued that the Washington State Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) violates the state constitution because one class of citizens is treated differently with respect to marriage. DOMA deprives LGBT persons of liberty without due process of law, and also violates the Washington Equal Rights Amendment, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

In August, the Law Center won the first round for marriage equality. A King County Superior Court judge recognized that for the state to prohibit some couples, but not all, from enjoying the fundamental right of marriage is unconstitutional.

An appeal to the Washington State Supreme Court is expected, but the Law Center will work tirelessly on this and other *Celebrating Diverse Families* cases to ensure that the law reflects all of the wonderfully complex and diverse families in our region.

Thank you, Northwest Women's Law Center, for everything you've accomplished in the last 25 years, and for all of the work you do to promote justice and equality!

For more details about the Northwest Women's Law Center, visit www.nwwlc.org. Updates on the national marriage equality debate can be found at www.freedomtomarry.org, www.millionformarriage.com, and www.hrc.org.



Northwest Women's Law Center at the April 2004 March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C.

Agency Events

October 6

Jubilee Women's Center
7th Annual Benefit Breakfast
Seattle, 7:30–8:45 a.m.
RSVP: (206) 957-1971

October 9

NARAL Pro-Choice Washington
24th Annual Liberty Ball Auction
Seattle, 5:30 p.m.
Info: (206) 624-1990/www.wanaral.org

October 14

Powerful Voices
2004 Annual Luncheon
Seattle, 12:00–1:30 p.m.
Speaker: Pramila Jayapal
Info: www.powerfulvoices.org

October 15

Passages Northwest
Fall Outreach Fair
Seattle REI, 6:00 p.m.
For families, to experience and learn about Passages Northwest.
Info: (206) 286-8601/kim@passagesnw.org

October 27

King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
"Kids Are Our Business Breakfast"
Renton, 7:30–8:30 a.m.
Info: (425) 282-0346/tdevoy@kcsarc.org

October 28

King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
"Take Action Against Domestic Violence" Awards Reception
Seattle, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
Info: (206) 568-5454

October 29

Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services
Annual Hope and Justice Auction
5:30 p.m.
Info: Karen Bosley, klboz@earthlink.net

October 30

Northwest Women's Law Center
Annual Auction
Seattle, 5:30–9:30 p.m.
Info: (206) 682-9552

November 4

Refugee Women's Alliance
"A Vision of Peace" Annual Auction
Seattle
Info: www.rewa.org

November 13

Chaya
"Building Community" Annual Dinner
Seattle, 6:00–9:00 p.m.
Info: (206) 568-7576

December 4

Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition
ArtWROC Benefit Sale, Olympia
Celebrating local low-income artists.
Info: (360) 352-9716

Donor Spotlight: *Inspirational Philanthropist* Nancy Nordhoff

Nancy Nordhoff is a third-generation Seattleite whose family has deep ties to the community. According to Nancy, “Philanthropic giving was in our blood.” In the 1920s her grandfather was the president of United Good Neighbors (the precursor



2004 *Inspirational Philanthropist*
Nancy Nordhoff (right) with 2003
recipient Ellen Ferguson.

to the United Way) and her grandmother was a founder of Children’s Orthopedic Hospital.

Nancy and her family have not only kept the family tradition of philanthropy alive, they have taken it to new heights! Nancy believes her activities are a link in her family’s philanthropic chain, connecting her grandparents and parents to her children and grandchildren.

Nancy’s earliest giving was fairly traditional: supporting causes she knew and believed in, helping to start initiatives, mentoring other philanthropists, and in some cases helping individuals. In the mid-1980s, Nancy says, “I came to the realization that I could be much more creative with the money I had. Cutting the ties of inherited money isn’t unusual and leads to so many new opportunities. For me it led to helping individuals and founding non-profits.”

A Class of ’54 graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Nancy had long been interested in serving women and girls in the community. After hearing about the Women’s Funding Alliance soon after it was founded, she volunteered to attend a focus group. For the nearly two decades since, she has been a committed mentor, friend, and supporter of the Alliance.

In 1988, Nancy started Hedgebrook, an organization that supports women’s voices and encourages the writing of their stories. By providing a nurturing environment and a diverse peer group, Hedgebrook has helped participants’ creativity flourish.

For Nancy, her sense of achievement comes not only from funding and building Hedgebrook, but from having an idea and taking action to make it happen. When asked, Nancy eloquently said, “Yes, I consider myself a philanthropist. I am not convinced that being a philanthropist is determined by the amount of money given, but by a generous heart giving as much as possible.”

Nancy, we couldn’t agree more! We are lucky to have such a committed supporter and such a great philanthropic role model. We are proud to recognize your contributions to improving the lives of women and girls in the Puget Sound area by naming you our 2004 *Inspirational Philanthropist*.

Scholarships *continued from page 1*

The 2004 BrenMar Scholarship recipients are:

- A determined and ambitious woman who dreams of opening a childcare business in her home. She needs only a required fence to become a state licensed childcare provider.
- A resilient thirteen-year-old whose grandmother’s limited income and health challenges keep them from buying the clothing and school materials needed.
- A woman who dreams of becoming a filmmaker and giving voice to people and organizations that might not otherwise be heard. Funds will pay for filmmaking classes.
- A woman who dreams of learning to drive, and giving back to her community by offering transportation to others.
- A woman who has helped other refugees to succeed while also raising her own and others’ children. Scholarship will help pay for her dream of nursing school.

Chocolate & Champagne!

Hosted by: Nicole Brodeur

November 10, 2004

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Lisa Dupar’s Julep, Seattle, WA

Women’s Funding Alliance invites you to celebrate our 2004 grantees, federation agencies, and scholarship recipients at a special event featuring chocolate and champagne.

The Alliance will also present the annual *Inspirational Philanthropist Award*, and two awards honoring the extraordinary efforts of federation agencies to effect social change in our community.

Mark your calendars for this fun and inspiring event! Invitations to arrive in October.

- A young woman who dreams of working with girls in the outdoors, helping them to find a sense of belonging and the freedom to question. Funds will pay for field training.
- A woman who is learning to succeed in a new culture at the age of 60 and helping her surviving family members thrive as well, dreams of learning to drive.
- A grandmother who dreams of keeping cultural traditions alive will receive formal training to help teach others crafts.

Thank you to our volunteer committee members—Gabriella Gardner, Melanie Martin, Rebecca Mason, Agnes Oswaha, Angela Powell, Shariffa Sabrie, Joan Whiley, and Alison Wysong—and all of our generous donors who make this scholarship program possible.

For more information on the Alliance’s scholarship program, contact Kate Dabe at kate@wfalliance.org or (206) 467-6733.

Choice and Reproductive Rights in Washington

By Marcy Bloom, Executive Director of Aradia Women's Health Center

A high school girl has unintended sex, and is unable to access emergency contraception in time to prevent pregnancy. A pregnant woman with two young children discovers in her second trimester that her fetus suffers from severe anomalies, but cannot find a doctor to perform a safe abortion. A woman who accessed an abortion using the safety and confidentiality of her doctor's office fears that her private medical records will be disclosed in a federal lawsuit, and she will be maligned and stigmatized for her choice.



Reproductive rights for women and girls are under serious attack in this country. The fight to retain these rights is going on everywhere: in our homes, our neighborhood clinics, our local hospitals and our family practitioner's offices. Our mothers, our daughters, our friends, our partners, ourselves—we are *all* on the front line struggling for the freedom to control our destinies and to truly choose when or when not to have a child.

The April 25 March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. was a breath of



March for Women's Lives

fresh air, a response to many of the concerns that Americans have about the direction of our country today. One million women, men and children proudly marched to support our rights, including access to safe, legal abortion and contraception.

In Washington State, we have worked long and hard to ensure that women of all ages, religions, incomes and cultures have "choice." Washington

has our own version of *Roe v. Wade*, the Reproductive Privacy Act, enacted into state law in 1991 by a vote of the people. Our state has no barriers to accessing safe abortion care, no dangerous parental consent or parental notification laws, and no mandatory waiting periods forcing women to wait after choosing abortion. Our state is one of only 12 currently providing funding for abortions to low-income women. Emergency contraception, while not yet over-the-counter, is available from a pharmacist with a prescription.

Choice, however, is a relative term. Washington suffers from a tremendous shortage of abortion providers. 87% of our state's counties do not have an abortion provider, and that number is expected to increase. Women are traveling longer and farther to find a safe abortion provider. Emergency contraception is difficult to access in rural communities. Medically accurate sexuality education for young people is not standard in our schools. And the rising rate of sexually transmitted infections among King County's youth is one of the highest in the country.

To be pro-choice means to be pro-family—we cannot have strong families without reproductive freedom for women and girls. Since 1972, Aradia has empowered women and girls in our community and protected choice through public education, legislative advocacy and feminist gynecological and abortion services. With the help and support of the many individuals and organizations working with us to protect reproductive rights in our area, we will ensure that women and girls in Washington State and throughout the Northwest get no less than they deserve: unobstructed access to safe, affordable, and respectful health care; statewide legislative advocacy; and medically accurate, thorough health and sexuality education.

To learn more about Aradia Women's Health Center, visit www.aradia.org.

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 \$2.6 million in the Puget Sound area to nearly 100 programs that address issues such as poverty, sexual assault, discrimination, domestic violence, education, and reproductive rights.

The Alliance works to ensure that women and girls have:

- ¶ *Economic Justice*
- ¶ *Freedom from Violence*
- ¶ *Health & Reproductive Rights*
- ¶ *Freedom from Discrimination*
- ¶ *Leadership Development*

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Women's Funding Alliance
603 Stewart Street, Suite 207
Seattle, WA 98101-1229
(206) 467-6733
www.wfalliance.org

The Women's Funding Alliance—improving the lives of women and girls since 1983.

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Suite 207
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W Women's Funding Alliance

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