

A FUND FOR

women

*A component fund
of the Madison
Community Foundation*

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**AFFW
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Jan Gietzel

TOGETHER

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

WINTER 2006

“What is going on in this town?” Every time I turn around, someone is asking me for more money!”

You, too, have probably received many solicitations and many “asks” for money lately. The fact is, there exists great need, along with many worthwhile opportunities to support less urgent yet important issues. A Fund For Women (AFFW) would like to briefly outline why we think considering a year-end gift to our fund may be a choice you’d like to consider.

When you give to AFFW, you become a philanthropist. You determine what social change you’d like to see, and you support its evolution. Instead of fixing an immediate situation, you create possibilities for a better future. You become more than a generous person. You become a visionary whose generosity positively affects our social fabric.

AFFW works in perpetuity. The fund itself functions for the long run, making sure there will be support for women and girls for as long as the Madison Community Foundation exists. Giving to AFFW is care taking for generations to come.

AFFW supports women and girls. That’s why AFFW was founded. After solid research, it was revealed that even though there were grants intended for families or learning institutions serving both genders, the funds most often favored boys’ athletics, young men’s higher education opportunities, or male-oriented activities. The imbalance simply reflected societal trends.

Women determine where AFFW grants are distributed. Philanthropists have historically been male. Just as men generally made more money than women, they also managed more businesses. Today, women are finding there is great satisfaction and power in philanthropy.

AFFW listens to you. We ask for your input. We want to know how you’d like to see the fund focus, and where you’d like to see your contributions go.

People who give to AFFW are breaking ground and setting precedent. They are a unique group of individuals; an organization that believes all of society will benefit when women and children live better lives and are endowed with resources that foster self-sufficiency.

For these, and many more reasons, we thank you for considering AFFW as a part of your charitable giving this year.

Honor mothers, sisters, and friends:

We’re still looking for 1000 @ 100. A Fund For Women has entered its second year of our three year campaign to raise \$100,000 from 1000 donors.

Please join us in recognizing a special woman of your choice. Someone you admire, someone who affected your life in a positive way.

Donate \$100 (or more) to AFFW in her name, and we will notify her personally, and thank her publicly on-line. If you wish, write a short tribute to her to be published on our website. Use the enclosed envelope to send your donation. And check our website at www.affw.org to read tributes from our generous donors and the women who have inspired them.



Lateefah Simon, keynote speaker for this year's AFFW annual fundraising event, informed and inspired us with her story of being recruited off the streets of San Francisco to become a leader in helping troubled young women transform their lives. In 2003, Ms. Simon was the youngest woman ever to be awarded a MacArthur "genius grant," for her groundbreaking work.

Photos courtesy of Debbie Szymanski/Islandography



Community leader Addrena Squires, AFFW Executive Director Jan Gietzel and Lateefah Simon at the annual event at Monona Terrace in October.

Lateefah Simon sparkles at AFFW annual event

"I am the result of women investing in women and girls!" With that opening sentence, AFFW's annual event keynote speaker Lateefah Simon summarized why it is so important for us at AFFW to invest in projects that provide and celebrate opportunities for girls and young women.

At the October 20th event, Simon went on to tell her dynamic and inspiring story of being recruited off the streets of San Francisco by a new peer model program, becoming a leader and eventually heading this same program as its executive director. Along with many national and international awards, Ms. Simon was awarded one of the prestigious MacArthur "genius" awards in 2003 for her innovative work on behalf of troubled young women in San Francisco.

The importance of our fundraising and grants was also emphasized as Cheryl Rosen Weston highlighted and presented our six 2005 grants, totaling \$66,500. The money was given to programs and projects that work to eliminate barriers to self-sufficiency in the areas of domestic abuse, homelessness and provision of services to the elderly.

For the first time, our 2005 annual event included sponsored tables for many area young women and girls who shared in the fellowship of a community of women who support opportunities in education, employment and the development of strong self-esteem.

The incredible work of AFFW's Executive Committee, and the presence of 449 attendees, made this one of our most successful events as we netted over \$33,000 to be used for our grantmaking program. Congratulations, everyone. It was a spectacular evening!

Jan Gietzel
Executive Director

Simon Addresses City, County Officials

Lateefah Simon generously gave her time to appear at a "brown bag" lunch in the City-County building, arranged by AFFW. Ms. Simon shared her experiences with individuals from Dane County and the City of Madison who administer and are otherwise interested in juvenile justice.

Among many others at the well attended gathering, which took place just hours before Ms. Simon's inspiring presentation at AFFW's Annual Event, were Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, who introduced Ms. Simon, Chief Juvenile Judge John Albert, District Attorney Brian Blanchard, Police Chief Noble Wray, Director of Dane County Human Services Lynn Green, and Dane County Delinquency Services Manager Stephan Blue. A number of Dane County social workers also attended, and brought with them young people who participate in the County's Neighborhood Intervention Program.

Ms. Simon told the group her incredible story of early tragedy, then achievement and success. She described the program that had provided her with self esteem and hope, and discussed other intervention programs that have saved the futures of women and girls. Ms. Simon also interacted directly with many of the young people who attended.

Mr. Blue, who works with at-risk children and youth on a daily basis, stated that the presentation "reminded all of us that growth is possible, even in situations that appear hopeless." Ms. Green concurred, adding that "Lateefah Simon's story reinforces the County's belief that early intervention programs can make a difference in improving the lives of high-risk youth."

Investing in women is an investment in the future

Over the last dozen years, AFFW has been part of hundreds of girls' and women's success stories. As we honor them, we thank our generous donors, friends and volunteers for providing the resources that support our dynamic grantmaking program. The following quotes and short summaries speak volumes about how and why we all benefit when we invest in women and girls.

For Emuye Taylor, becoming involved with GIRLS'BIZ in 7th grade in 1996 helped provide the drive and direction she needed to succeed. Today, Emuye is a senior at Brown University, majoring in computer science. "Everything I learned (through GIRLS'BIZ) just sort of became a part of me...all of the women-owned businesses and businesswomen we talked to in my years with GIRLS'BIZ...took my aspirations to a higher level" Emuye Taylor

In 1998, AFFW provided support for a program for Women in Construction created by the Community Action Coalition. One of the women in the program, Jennifer Voicheck, developed a roofing business, helped by an AFFW grant that provided technical assistance, tools, books and advice. An excellent artisan, Jen ran a successful business for 5 years. When she was injured and unable to continue her roofing business, she explored other ways to continue in the construction business, thanks in part to her solid background from the Women in Construction program. Her new dream? To develop another business. This time she wanted to create a Habitat for Humanity "ReStore" to provide quality products to consumers, develop partnerships with companies regarding de-construction, save landfills from contaminants and non-essential waste and help provide money for a worthy organization. Jennifer Voicheck is now the director of Habitat's Re-Store. She has turned her dream into reality!



Emuye Taylor and two other GIRLS'BIZ alums are shown, helping out with GB Guide in 2004.



Three gifted and talented girls from Children of Promise-Madison (CAMP) attended this year's AFFW annual fundraising event at Monona Terrace to hear Lateefah Simon speak. CAMP received funding in 2005 from AFFW, and is a program of the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth (WCATY).

Over the years, AFFW has taken special pride in encouraging girls and women to develop to their full potential. In 2005, we were delighted to help support WCATY's Children of Promise - Madison program. Our grant helped nurture the gifts and talents of girls from families with limited financial resources.

Here's what one participant wrote to us, after completing a special writing course at Lawrence University: "My career goals in the future now have something to do with writing. Maybe an author, playwright or poet...Thank you SO much for making that dream possible for me."

Dear Friend of A Fund For Women:

At its heart, AFFW is about women helping women. This philosophy has never been more visible than in the six incredibly diverse projects that AFFW is supporting through \$66,500 this year in grant awards.

As an AFFW donor, you are an essential part of our efforts to help eliminate barriers to self-sufficiency for area women and girls. Thank you for your generosity, and give yourself a pat on the back for your part in supporting this important work. And, as you make your end-of-year financial plans, we urge you to remember A Fund For Women.

The following organizations are receiving grants this year from A Fund For Women: Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS), Wisconsin Initiatives in Sustainable Housing (W.I.S.H.), Porchlight-Housing First, Interfaith Hospitality Network - Second Chance Housing Project, Wisconsin Academy for Graduate Service Dogs (WAGS) and Jewish Social Services. Our grantmaking committee identified these innovative programs as particularly suited to our current initiative that is focused on helping eliminate barriers to self-sufficiency. For more information, we urge you to take a look at our website, (www.affw.org) where we have outlined these exciting local projects that benefit women and girls.

Thank you, and best wishes for a wonderful 2006.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Troller Cosgrove".

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margo Melli".

Susan Troller Cosgrove
Margo Melli

Co-chairs, AFFW Executive Committee

Start Your Own Fund

Any individual, family, business or organization can establish their own fund to support A Fund For Women.....forever.

• An AFFW endowment (or Named Fund) can be established with an initial gift of \$10,000 that is invested and managed by the Madison Community Foundation. After 12 full months, distributions of up to 5 percent of the fund's average balance over the past 12 months can be designated to AFFW's Endowment Fund or directly to AFFW's annual grants. Your fund can be named specifically by you. For example:

The Jane Doe Fund The Women Helping Women Fund
The Women of the Jane Doe Fund
Jane, Jenny & Jaime

• An AFFW Acorn Fund can be started with a minimum gift of \$1,000 each year for ten years. When the Acorn Fund reaches \$10,000, it becomes an AFFW endowment (or Named Fund) that is invested and managed by the Madison Community Foundation. The distributions of up to 5 percent of the fund's average balance over 12 months can be designated to AFFW's Endowment Fund or directly to AFFW's annual grants.

For further information, contact Jan Gietzel at (608) 232-1763 ext. 234 or affw@madisoncommunityfoundation.org

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If you'd like information about A Fund For Women, please contact Jan Gietzel at 232-1763, ext. 234. You can be a part of the 1000 @ 100 campaign and honor the significant women in your life.

www.affw.org



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