

WNY

# Women's Fund

Transforming our community by investing in women and girls



## "Pathways to Progress" – Charting the course for women and girls in our community

During the spring of 2008, the WNY Women's Fund organized a meeting of the largest providers of services to women and girls in WNY. The goals were to identify the most important needs of women and girls in our community, how success in resolving such needs could be measured, and the most effective role the Fund could play. The attendees prioritized needs for (1) baseline information (2) indicators for measuring progress over time (3) policy insights and (4) strategic recommendations. Five issues were identified as foci for this work:

- Economic security
- Education
- Health and well being
- Violence and safety
- Leadership and political participation

The UB Regional Institute is the independent researcher of *Pathways to Progress* and is providing in-kind support to the project as well. The Women's Fund is the lead underwriter, committing \$45,000 to the project. Additional funders include the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, and the Robert J. and Martha B. Fierle Foundation.

An Advisory Committee of thought leaders with deep expertise in specific areas was organized in the fall of 2008. This leadership group will ensure that the voices of ALL women and girls in WNY are heard. The findings will be complete in the fall of 2009. The Women's Fund is committed to securing this information, and sharing it broadly so the entire community can understand these needs and can participate in developing actions that address them. The Fund will use this information to make strategic investments that give all women and girls the opportunity to thrive.



## Winter/Spring 2009

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS**

### Thursday, March 12, 2009 ADAM Fundraiser for the Fund

Proceeds will go directly to the Women's Fund.  
Featuring special extended hours:  
10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
ADAM  
5454 Main Street,  
Williamsville, NY 14221

### Wednesday, June 3, 2009 Inaugural Signature Event – An Evening with Academy Award Winning Actress Olympia Dukakis

5:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
Kleinhans Music Hall  
(see back panel for more information)

For additional information for the events listed above, please contact our office at 887.2621 or [heidi.henzler@uwbec.org](mailto:heidi.henzler@uwbec.org).

#### Pathways to Progress Advisory Committee

Gwen Arcara, Executive Dimensions  
Lana Benatovich, NFJC of Western New York  
Diane Bessel, Ph.D., United Way of Buffalo and Erie County  
Susan Block, Child Care Resource Network  
Lauren Breen, University at Buffalo Law School  
Elizabeth Conant, Community Leader  
Allison Duwe, Coalition for Economic Justice  
Constance Eve, Women for Human Rights and Dignity  
Kathleen Granchelli, YWCA of Niagara County  
June Hoeflich, Community Leader  
Lourdes Iglesias, Hispanics United  
Pam Kefi, International Institute of Buffalo  
Helene Kramer, Good Schools for All  
Brenda McDuffie, Buffalo Urban League  
Heidi Milch, CCNY, Inc.  
Ann Monroe, Community Foundation of Western and Central New York  
Mary Murphy, Murphy Insurance  
Karen Nelson, Planned Parenthood of WNY

William O'Connell, Esq., Homeless Alliance  
Cindy Odom, Girl Scouts Council  
Tanya Perrin-Johnson, City of Buffalo  
Barbara Peters, Healthcare Professional  
Jamie Pimlott, Ph.D., Niagara University  
Jessica Pirro, Crisis Services  
Linda Ray, Family Justice Center  
Crystal Rodriguez, Commission on Citizen's Rights and Community Relations  
Melinda Rath Sanderson, Canisius College Women's Business Center  
Susan Sizemore, Erie County Commission on the Status of Women  
Patricia Shelly, University at Buffalo Institute for Women and Gender  
Irene Snow, M.D., Buffalo Medical Group  
Mary Brennan Taylor, The Niagara County Commission on the Status of Women  
Margaret Toohey, Lewiston Insurance Agency  
Connie Vari, Kaleida Health  
Myrna Young, Everywoman Opportunity Center

### Make a Special Gift

If you are looking for a unique gifting opportunity, please consider making a contribution to the WNY Women's Fund in honor or remembrance of someone you admire. It is a special way to pay tribute to family and friends.

# A Message from the Executive Director

During this time of economic turmoil and uncertainty, the importance of investing in the women and girls in Western New York has never been more evident. We know that when you empower a woman, you simultaneously empower her family, her community, and her country. We also know that during a recession, women are affected disproportionately. **There has never been a more important time for you to choose to generate lasting change. Together, we can create a better world for women and girls – those in your life and those you have never met.**

Through the dedication and passion of the Women's Fund Board, donors and volunteers, we are driving systemic change and creating a better life for women and girls in Western New York. I would like to thank several Board members, whose terms are ending, for their generous and invaluable service to the Fund:

- Dorothy Ferguson
- Sue Hoskins
- Mary Jo Hunt (Past Board Chair)
- Martha Hyde
- Ann Swan

There are many ways to support the Women's Fund. Please let us know how you would like to become involved by emailing me at [brigid.doherty@uwbec.org](mailto:brigid.doherty@uwbec.org).



Brigid Doherty

## WNY Women's Fund Leads the First New York State Summit of Funds

Six women's funds from across New York State gathered together in September, outside Seneca Falls in Lake Geneva, to share best practices and explore opportunities to work collaboratively. This meeting marked the first time a group of US women's funds gathered together on a state-wide level. The WNY Women's Fund led the organization and implementation of this important meeting. The Funds attending ranged from, those with modest but growing budgets to the New York Women's Foundation, which invests nearly \$1,000,000 in its community.

The Women's Funding Network (WFN) facilitated the two-day meeting. In total, there were more than 20 staff and board members in attendance. The New York Women's Foundation has offered to have other Funds visit them and learn about their highly successful grants process. A lively discussion took place around collaborating on advocacy platforms, and those discussions will continue in the future.



## Donor Circles

**Visionary**  
**(\$100,000 or more)**  
Peggy\* & Charles Balbach

**Catalyst**  
**(\$50,000 or more)**  
The Community Foundation  
for Greater Buffalo  
Patricia Garman  
Sally Marks  
The John R. Oishei  
Foundation  
Anne Saldanha, M.D.  
The United Way  
of Buffalo & Erie County

**Members of the  
Peggy Balbach  
Founder's Circle**  
**(\$25,000 or more)**  
Ann & Robert Brady  
Sarah Hill Buck  
The Peter C. Cornell Trust  
Brigid Doherty &  
René Jones  
Carol & Suzanne Fatta  
Dorothy Ferguson  
Sue Gardner  
Marsha Henderson  
Susan Hoskins  
Mary Jo Hunt  
The Hyde Family  
Charitable Fund  
Alice Jacobs  
Gail Johnstone  
The Gerald & Sandra Lippes  
Foundation  
Karen Penfold  
Wendy Pierce  
Corinne & Victor Rice  
Tricia Semmelhack  
Ann Swan  
Leslie & Howard Zemsky  
\*deceased

The WNY Women's Fund is now accepting on-line donations. Please visit our website at [www.wnywomensfund.org](http://www.wnywomensfund.org) and click on our "Give Now" button.

**Correction** – Due to an editing error in our last issue, the Peggy Balbach Founder Circle was misspelled. Additionally, the following names were accidentally omitted from the list of donors: Friends of Schwartz, Jackie LoRusso, Mickey McFarlane and Mindy Shine. We apologize for these errors.



## BlueCross Blue Shield Football 101

On September 15, 2008, nearly 100 women from across Western New York participated in BlueCross BlueShield Football 101 at the Bills Field House. Chaired by Board Member **Marcia O'Neil-White** and hosted by the Buffalo Bills, this annual fundraiser is a unique opportunity to go behind the scenes with Bills current players, alumni and staff. The women split up into teams and their "coaches" (the current players and alumni) taught them the X's and O's of the game. The focus this year was on real game-day action, as the teams ran actual plays, wore official NFL equipment and were given an inside look at the players' rituals and routines. Vic Carucci, senior writer for NFL.com, kicked off the event with his insight into the Buffalo Bills and his career as an esteemed sports journalist. John Murphy, WIVB sports director and Bills play-by-play announcer, capped off the evening with an entertaining, hands-on look at preparing for an actual NFL radio broadcast. At the end of Mr. Murphy's presentation, he rolled an actual game tape and two knowledgeable fans took the reins as play-by-play and color analysts! Every participant walked away from the event with a better understanding of the game, complete with their own official handbook. This popular fall fundraiser also included a delicious meal. The event sells out quickly. Pre-sale tickets for the 2009 event will be available in July.



### Thank you to the following Bills player and alumni "coaches":

**Current Players**  
Demetrius Bell, Offensive Lineman  
John Corto, Linebacker  
Chris Ellis, Defensive End  
Johnathan Stupar, Defensive End

### Alumni

Al Bemiller, 1961-69  
Mark Brammer, 1980-84  
Hilton Crawford, 1969  
Bob Dugan, 1964-65  
Charley Ferguson, 1963-69  
Marlon Kerner, 1995-98  
Adam Lingner, 1989-95  
Marlo Perry, 1994-1999  
Lou Piccone, 1977-82  
Ernie Warlick, 1962-65

## Making a Difference Through

# Fundraising Events



## Fall In Fashion

A fundraiser like none other in WNY, **Fall In Fashion** brings nearly 300 women to the Buffalo Club each fall for the most fashionable event of the year! The luncheon, which is consistently sold out, was highlighted by an incredible auction of designer clothing and accessories, and luxurious services. More than \$26,000 was raised at the 2008 event, all of which will support our *Pathways to Progress* project, and our summer programming for girls. A-list guests included fashion designer and Buffalo native Adam Lippes and New York City stylist Paul Podlucky, who not only attended the event, but also donated one-of-a-kind auction items. Special thanks to the dedicated event planning committee, lead by co-chairs **Shine Hassanali**, **Mindy Shine** and **Jody Ulrich**.

## Breakfast Series 2009

The WNY Women's Fund would like to thank Anucha Browne Sanders for her keynote address during the first installment of our **2009 Breakfast Series**. A former marketing executive at Kodak, IBM and the New York Knicks, Ms. Sanders is currently the University at Buffalo's Senior Associate Athletic Director for Marketing/Senior Woman Administrator. She spoke to a highly-engaged crowd at the Saturn Club on January 29, 2009, sharing her experiences, including her successful sexual harassment case against former New York Knicks Executive, Isiah Thomas, and Madison Square Garden. Board Members **Martha Hyde** and **Margery Nobel** hosted the event.



Anucha Browne Sanders

For information on any of the WNY Women's Fund special events, please visit our website at [www.wnywomensfund.org](http://www.wnywomensfund.org) or contact the office by calling 716.887.2621.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN IN OUR LIVES:

# AN EVENING WITH OLYMPIA DUKAKIS



## JUNE 3, 2009 WNY WOMEN'S FUND INAUGURAL SIGNATURE EVENT

[WWW.WNYWOMENSFUND.COM](http://WWW.WNYWOMENSFUND.COM)

Kleinhans Music Hall – 5:30-8:00 p.m.

With your reservation, you can write a tribute to a special woman or girl in your life. All tributes will be printed and bound in a book distributed the day of the event. Please visit our website or contact the Fund office for ticket information.

## CASH Grants Update

### Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program

Regularly-scheduled orientation sessions are being held locally for individuals who are interested in participating in an IDA. More than 50 people have attended one of the IDA orientations and more than 20 are currently participating in the program.



### CASH Coaches

Each CASH Coach provides their client(s) with information regarding free tax preparation, financial education, homeownership, and small business start-up opportunities, all of which are services now available through the IDA Program. Coaches and their clients create reasonable budgets and meet on a regular basis to execute financial plans.

## CASH Coaches Spotlight: Kelly Klinger

We met Kelly Klinger in the Spring/Summer 2008 edition of this newsletter.

As you will recall, Kelly is a dedicated volunteer of the CASH Coaches Program. A professional in the banking industry, Kelly decided to become a CASH Coach because she recently took control and ownership of her own finances, and she wanted to help others experience the same sense of empowerment and control. She loves

being a part of the CASH Program because it gives participants the opportunity to talk about a topic (personal finances) that can be uncomfortable and, even at times, embarrassing. Kelly has been assigned one CASH client\* so far, and meets with her bi-monthly. Originally, the client was overwhelmed with her financial situation and didn't know where to begin. Kelly was quickly able to establish trust and a sense of teamwork. Their first step was to create a written plan, which has already proven to be an effective way to organize bills and set



Kelly Klinger

achievable goals. Since they first began meeting in the fall of 2008, the client has gained confidence in her financial situation, began achieving her short-term goals and is "on the road to taking ownership of her financial obligations and, eventually, achieving all of her long-term goals". Kelly will continue to update the Fund on her clients and their progress as participants of the CASH Program.

\*All CASH Program clients are unanimous for the purposes of this publication.

The mission of the WNY Women's Fund is to be a leader in identifying, communicating and funding innovative, effective solutions that improve the lives of women and girls in Western New York.

The Fund is a collaborative effort between the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County and the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.