



Women's  
Foundation  
*of* MINNESOTA

GROWING EQUALITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

fund  forward



*The Women's Foundation of Minnesota invites you to invest in one of Minnesota's greatest resources—women and girls. We are introducing a \$15 million fund>>forward campaign to double our endowment, amplify our voice, and accelerate our investment in social change. With your support, we will continue to grow a state of equality for all women and girls in Minnesota. With your support, we will grow stronger communities, and a stronger Minnesota.*

VALERIE SPENCER - CHAIR, FUND>>FORWARD

MARY LEE DAYTON - HONORARY CO-CHAIR, FUND>>FORWARD

WENDA WEEKES MOORE - HONORARY CO-CHAIR, FUND>>FORWARD



Women's  
Foundation  
of MINNESOTA



## A Message from Lee Roper-Batker President and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota is growing. We are leading the way to a state of equality for all women and girls.

Two decades ago, our foremothers recognized a gender gap in philanthropy and equality and responded by creating this foundation. Thanks to their foresight and the gutsy, strategic leadership of a generation of women, we've created new opportunities and produced measurable results.

### Just look at what we've done in the last five years.

- Quadrupled and focused our grantmaking.
- Won two international advocacy awards for our research reports on the Status of Women in Minnesota Counties and the Status of Women of Color in Minnesota.
- Launched and completed the first generation of girlsBEST (girls Building Economic Success Together) programming.
- Created an evaluation program to measure the impact of grants.
- Delivered on diversity—half of our board and staff are women of color, and 60% of our funding goes to organizations of color.
- Grown women's philanthropy—we've tripled our donor advised funds and created women's giving circles for under-represented communities.
- Welcomed more than a thousand new donors to our cause.

### In fiscal year 2006 we reached three \$1 million benchmarks.

- For the first time, we awarded over \$1 million in grants in a single year.
- We completed our five-year girlsBEST grantmaking initiative, which included the distribution of over \$1 million in grants.
- We received three contributions of \$1 million or more from women for women.

Yes, we are growing. And with your support, we will continue the legacy of our foremothers. We will unleash the power of women and girls—as donors, grantees, innovators, and leaders—to shape a society that reflects our values.

*Imagine* a Minnesota with full equality for all women and girls.

*Imagine* a Minnesota that removes barriers and invests in success for all women and girls.

Now, let's make it happen. fund  forward



LEE ROPER-BATKER





We know that when women and girls prosper, communities thrive. We've seen it happen. But not often enough. Every year, we are forced to turn away 80% of the requests we receive from non-profit organizations trying to grow equality through social change. We can do better.

We have a vision. We have a plan. And with your support, we will have the resources to help Minnesota's communities thrive.

**How will the fund>>forward contributions be used?**

- \$11 million is earmarked to double our endowment and establish a permanent fund for girls.
- \$4 million is earmarked for growth funds in our three programmatic areas.
  - **Grantmaking:** To sustain current distribution levels in Social Change and girlsBEST Funds.
  - **Research:** To fund a new comprehensive research project and statewide listening tour focused on girls.
  - **Philanthropy:** To reach out to new donors, donors from under-represented communities and to inspire a new generation of philanthropists.

**WHAT ARE WE DOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

*Growing equality for women and girls is a process. The Women's Foundation of Minnesota is thorough in its approach.*

- *We fund and build capacity of innovative programs working to advance long-term social change for women and girls.*
- *We conduct valuable research, which we use to inform our grantmaking, educate opinion leaders and policymakers, and raise public awareness of the status of women and girls in Minnesota.*
- *We measure social change, with specific indicators for tracking progress.*
- *We promote philanthropy and provide our donors with important training and tools to help shape a society that reflects the values of women and girls.*



*“The Women’s Foundation of Minnesota not only created the “What About Us” educational campaign, it inspired an unexpected movement to better protect Pan Asian girls...a tutoring program, a shelter for runaways...the response is beyond anything we could have imagined.”* – ANGE HWANG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASIAN MEDIA ACCESS



**ECONOMIC**

**JUSTICE**

### **Imagine a Minnesota...**

where women thrive economically. Communities will benefit when women—as a result of education, employment opportunities, and economic development—make poverty history.

### **We’re making it happen.**

In communities all across the state we’re funding organizations like Southwest Minnesota’s Higherself; Northeast Minnesota’s Lindy’s Dream Builders; Southeast Minnesota’s Southern Sudanese Community; East Central Minnesota’s Today’s Women at Saint Cloud State University, and Staples Stompin’ Grounds; Northwest Minnesota’s GIRLS program at Warren Alvarado Oslo High School; and the Metro Area’s Minnesota Women Fire Fighters’ Association and the Women’s Initiative for Self-Empowerment.

### **We’re making it happen.**

In the past five years the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota

- made 98 grants
- to 47 organizations
- at \$1.6 million
- produced award-winning research on the economic status of women
- learned that rural women and women of color face unique and significant challenges to achieving economic equality
- and introduced one brand new fund just for girls, girlsBEST.



### Imagine a Minnesota...

where women experience the world as a place of safety, and our media, policy makers, families and popular culture reject violence against them.

### We're making it happen.

In communities all across the state we're funding organizations like Northwest Minnesota's Community Resource Alliance and Cultural Diversity Resources Inc.; Northeast Minnesota's Program to Aid Victims of Sexual Assault; the Metro Area's Breaking Free and Casa de Esperanza; and the statewide Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

### We're making it happen.

In the past five years the Women's Foundation of Minnesota

- made 28 grants
- to 17 organizations
- at \$357,000
- produced award-winning research on the well-being of women
- learned that 50% to 60% of female welfare recipients had experienced violence at the hands of a male partner
- and documented domestic violence services in each county for use by the public and policy makers.

**SAFETY &**

**SECURITY**



*“By funding Sisters in Harmony, the Women’s Foundation helps African and African American women access treatment and survive breast cancer. Not only do we help African and African American women navigate the system, we work to change the system so that it can better serve this group of women.”*

– DIANE HAULCY, SISTERS IN HARMONY PROGRAM DIRECTOR, WOMEN’S CANCER RESOURCE CENTER



**HEALTH &**

**REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

### **Imagine a Minnesota...**

where all women have local, legal, affordable, safe and comprehensive health care.

### **We’re making it happen.**

In communities all across the state we’re funding organizations like the Metro Area’s Women’s Cancer Resource Center and Midwest Health Center for Women as well as the statewide Women and Families Network and Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota.

### **We’re making it happen.**

In the past five years the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota

- made 24 grants
- to 12 organizations
- at \$306,000
- produced award-winning research on the health status of women
- learned that 53 of Minnesota’s 87 counties do not have family planning clinics
- and that women of color have less access to prenatal care than white women and women of color nationally.



### Imagine a Minnesota...

where women are free from discrimination, able to act upon their dreams, and no one questions their dignity and human rights.

### We're making it happen.

In communities all across the state we're funding organizations like Central Minnesota's Women's Network of the Red River Valley; Southeast Minnesota's Women's Resource Center of Winona; the Metro Area's District 202, Steppingstone Theatre for Youth Development, and YWCA; and the Girls International Forum.

### We're making it happen.

In the past five years the Women's Foundation of Minnesota

- made 40 grants
- to 34 organizations
- at \$420,000
- produced award-winning research on the educational status of women
- and learned that African American, Hispanic and Native American women in Minnesota are less likely to have two- or four-year college degrees than white women.

**HUMAN****RIGHTS**

INVEST IN WOMEN AND GIRLS



INVEST IN THE FUTURE



**POLITICAL**

**REPRESENTATION**

### **Imagine a Minnesota...**

where women enjoy equal influence at all levels of government, bringing new perspectives and expertise that advance equality and justice.

### **We're making it happen.**

In communities all across the state we're funding organizations like Southeast Minnesota's Life-Work Planning Center; the Metro Area's Somali Action Alliance; and the statewide Minnesota Women's Political Caucus Education Council and the Democracy! Fund.

### **We're making it happen.**

In the past five years the Women's Foundation of Minnesota

- made 12 grants
- to 12 organizations
- at \$249,000
- produced award-winning research on the political representation of women
- learned that over 50% of Minnesota counties have no women county commissioners
- and laid the groundwork for the White House Project in Minnesota.

*Grantmaking numbers in this document reflect only competitive grants made between 2001-2006.*

FUNDING OUR VISION  fund  forward

**Funding our vision.**

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota relies on the imagination, foresight and contributions of individual philanthropists to fund our vision of equality. Help us build on our momentum. Help us grow a legacy of equality for all women and girls in Minnesota.

**Together, we will make it happen.**

fund  forward



Women's  
Foundation  
of MINNESOTA

*"I invest in women and girls so our grandchildren will have a healthier life, and because my grandmother will have my hide when we meet on the other side if I don't." – BARBARA FORSTER*





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