



# Empowering Women and Girls



THE  
**WOMEN'S FUND**  
OF ESSEX COUNTY

# The Need is Real

Traditional philanthropy is not meeting the needs of women and girls. Nearly *eighty percent* of the nation's poor are women and their children, but *less than 7.5 cents of every dollar* donated by organized philanthropy goes to programs which specifically address the needs of women and girls.

In Essex County thousands of women and girls face life-diminishing issues including homelessness and abuse, bullying, poor health, financial illiteracy, inadequate job skills and education. The majority of the families living below the poverty level are women-headed households.

# Social Change Begins Locally

Founded in 2003, The Women's Fund of Essex County is a charitable organization dedicated to promoting local philanthropy while addressing many of the critical issues impacting women and girls.

## ***We believe:***

- The power of women's philanthropy leads to creating positive social change.
- Strong women and girls foster strong families and communities.
- Social change is best sustained when it begins at the community level.

# The Power of Women

Each year we raise funds and award grants to selected nonprofit programs in Essex County that serve women and girls in need.

## **For maximum effectiveness,**

- We target programs with proven track records, measurable objectives and established budgets. We evaluate and monitor program success.
- We rotate our field of funding each year to reach as many women and girls as possible.
- We make 1-3 year grant commitments.
- We pool individual donations ensuring the greatest impact of each donor's contribution across a range of issues.



# Research-Based, Targeted Approach

In Essex County over 2,500 nonprofit agencies provide valuable community service. The Women's Fund simplifies donor decision making. Our extensive due diligence enables us to find targeted, effective programs that have significant impact on the lives of women and girls. Many of these programs are "hidden gems" which may not be on the radar of most donors. We fund programs where our donors' support really makes a difference.

*Our grant awards directly serve over 2,000 women and girls in our communities annually.*



# Collective Success

When we empower women and girls by investing in them,

- We unlock their potential as strong, talented and contributing individuals.
- We build stronger families.
- We create lasting community change.

And, as donors, we are empowered by the deep satisfaction and knowledge that each of us can make a difference.

Thanks to the generosity of our individual, local business, corporate and foundation contributors, The Women's Fund has awarded over \$400,000 through 60 grants to nonprofit programs across Essex County. Thousands of women and girls in need have benefited from these programs.

We raise donations through our secure website, our Annual Appeal, our Annual Grant Awards Luncheon and our "Power of the Purse" evening.



***Our fundraising events are celebrations of the collective power of women's philanthropy.***

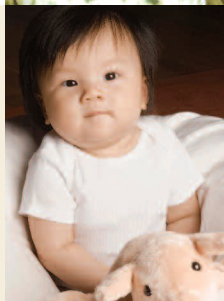


# Accountability, Experience & Transparency

The Women's Fund of Essex County is a volunteer organization of dedicated, energetic women.

- Our Executive Committee and Advisory Board members have broad philanthropic, community and professional experience ensuring strong governance and oversight.
- Our mission and decisions are guided by written bylaws, a disciplined and transparent grant process, and periodic strategic reviews.
- We maintain a growing endowment for additional future support.

The Essex County Community Foundation provides our nonprofit umbrella, as well as administrative support. The Foundation is also responsible for overseeing the effective management of the financial assets of The Women's Fund.



# Our Mission & Vision

The mission of The Women's Fund of Essex County is to promote philanthropy as we raise and distribute funds to organizations that provide opportunities and solutions for women and girls in need throughout Essex County.

We envision a future where women and girls in our neighborhoods and surrounding communities are no longer challenged by the issues of poor health and safety, financial insecurity or societal barriers that today may impede their ability to lead secure, strong and fulfilling lives.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

To make a donation,  
or for more information, please visit us at  
[www.thewomensfundec.org](http://www.thewomensfundec.org)



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The Women's Fund is a collaborative fund of  
The Essex County Community Foundation.

