

April 4, 2024



Dear Friends,

20 years. \$3million raised and granted to 150 nonprofit partners doing powerful work for women and girls. Thousands of women and girls positively impacted by their work.

This year, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of The Women's Fund of Essex County. When eight women gathered in a living room in 2003 to form an organization to fund programs for women and girls in Essex County, little did they know what a powerful force for good The Women's Fund would become.

We honored our Founders, Grant Recipients and Supporters on October 13, 2003, and the theme was "From a tiny spark burst a mighty flame." That mighty flame helped us raise over \$100,000 to fund our nonprofit partners.

This year, thanks to your generosity:

- We supported the work of nonprofits working to close pandemic-related **academic achievement gaps** for girls; **build self-esteem** skills for women in recovery; provide services and safety for **survivors of domestic abuse and trafficking**; **train women** for health care jobs; and other programs to support local women and girls. [Visit our website for a complete list of 2023 grant recipients.](#)
- Citizens Inn of Peabody received our highest award, the Above and Beyond Award in honor of the Founders' Circle, for their 40 years of helping families and individuals experiencing a housing crisis or food insecurity.
- The Support for Single Mothers Program, a dual-generation program of The Women's Fund and Northshore Community College, received additional funding this year. The program provided emergency funding to 68 single mothers. The average age of the women served was 34 and their average GPA was 3.4 (compared to 2.85 of the general student body.)

This year, The Women's Fund embarked on a completely new and unique initiative to address the crisis in mental health and well-being of adolescent girls. Our Resilient Girls Project has funded five nonprofits for three years in an intensive effort to find solutions to the crisis by building resilience in girls. Each of the five grant recipients proposed programs designed to build *competence, confidence, character, connection, contribution, coping, and control*—the seven qualities research has tied to resilience. The supportive cohort of five will meet regularly to share successes and challenges, as well as hear from experts in the field. The Wellesley Centers for Women will help us evaluate the programs and publish results at the end of the three years.

Trish Moore

Co-President

Wendy Roworth

Co-President

Bobbi Whiting

Treasurer

Susan Morgan

Secretary

Kathi Vander Laan

Grants Allocation

Committee Chair

Laurie Boggis

Lisa Buettner

Elizabeth Cartland

Elizabeth Darragh

Kathi Grunwald

Ellen Kallman

Eileen Kelly

Julia Shanks

Kim Trudel

Willa Worsfold

Investing. Impacting. Improving  
the lives of women and girls.



In a first for TWF, the Cummings Foundation agreed to fund 85% of this project. We are enormously proud and grateful for the trust Cummings Foundation has in us.

Our mission is to change the lives of women and girls in Essex County by identifying and funding organizations that provide impactful programs and services to those facing hardship.

A recipient of an emergency grant from the Support for Single Mothers program of The Women's Fund and Northshore Community College wrote:

*"I am so grateful and humble to be able to receive help from The Women's Fund of Essex County to help me get through a difficult time in my life. Words cannot express how I really feel."*

This single mom's words inspire us at the Women's Fund. We are also inspired by and grateful to YOU, our friends, volunteers, and donors, for enabling us to continue our work in making strategic investments in real change for women and girls throughout our community. Your commitment and understanding that whole communities thrive when women and girls thrive is the cornerstone of our work.

With your support, The Women's Fund will continue to fund the organizations that strive to meet the challenges facing women and girls and provide them pathways to safe, healthy, and successful lives.

We thank you for helping to create positive change and look forward to your continued support.

Trish Moore and Wendy Roworth  
Co-Presidents

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