



WOMEN'S FUND of OMAHA

**Identifying Issues.
Funding Solutions.
Leading Change.**

NEWS



In this Issue:

- WomanSpirit Award Honors Maryanne Stevens
- New Hope Life Center Receives Inaugural Changemakers Grant
- Applications Being Accepted for New Women's Fund Circles Group
- Special Thanks to Our 2010 Fund Drive Donors

Our Mission

The Women's Fund of Omaha examines issues and conducts research to provide informed support for initiatives that improve the lives of metropolitan area women and girls.

Wall Street Executive Will Share 'Pearls' of Wisdom at Fall Luncheon



Keynote speaker Carla Harris will share knowledge she's gathered during a two-decade-long career working in the intense and competitive Wall Street environment at the Women's Fund of Omaha's Fall Luncheon

on Oct. 27. The 11th annual event takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ramada Plaza Hotel.

After earning her MBA from Harvard Business School, Harris went to work for Morgan Stanley in the Mergers & Acquisitions department. She quickly learned that hard work and intelligence were not enough to succeed. Over the years, Harris developed key survival tools, which she calls "pearls." Early in her career, Harris promised herself that when she reached senior management, she'd help others by sharing this advice.

Harris has climbed the corporate ladder and is now a managing director. She heads the Emerging Manager Platform at Morgan Stanley Investment Management, where she also provides investment advice to corporations, public pension plans, foundations and endowments. In her spare time, Harris is an accomplished vocalist and author. Those attending the Fall Luncheon will receive an autographed copy of her book, "Expect to Win."

The event also will include announcements of grants totaling \$134,000 and presentation of keys to a mini-van to the Recycled Rides recipient.

See page 5 for more details and a ticket order form, or go to www.omahawomensfund.org.

A Few of Carla's Pearls:

"Success in a corporate environment involves stellar performance, integration into the politics and risk taking. In today's highly competitive marketplace, the 'same ole, same ole' just won't do."

"Relationships are one of the keys to success in any industry. Your network gives you power and is one of the most important competitive advantages you can have in business."

Recycled Rides Program Seeks Nominations

Omaha-area nonprofit agencies are invited to nominate a female client to receive a refurbished 2005 Dodge Caravan mini-van that will be awarded at the Women's Fund of Omaha's Fall Luncheon on Oct. 27.

The vehicle was donated by State Farm Insurance to be used in the "Recycled Rides" program. The van is being refurbished and repaired by Northwest CARSTAR Body Shop located on N. 120th Street in Omaha. "Recycled Rides" is a national awareness program, sponsored by the National Auto Body Council, in which body shops repair and donate used vehicles to families in need.

Application letters should include compelling reasons why the agency's client deserves to receive the van. How would having a vehicle help her improve her life and help her better support her family? Why is she deserving of the car?

Details on applicant requirements and the nomination process are available on the Women's Fund website (www.omahawomensfund.org). Applications are due Aug. 31.



Ellie Archer

*Looking back on
the Past Year's
Accomplishments . . .
With an Eye toward
the Future*

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Message from the Director

Over the past two decades, the Women's Fund of Omaha has become a respected expert, effective voice and empowering resource for Omaha's women and girls. Our 20th anniversary in 2010 provided an opportunity to celebrate with friends, reflect on where we've been and look to what lies ahead.

Since its beginning, the Women's Fund has invested nearly \$3 million in local initiatives focused on pressing needs in our community. More than a dozen research reports have been published on topics including women's leadership, domestic violence and working women.

Our hope is that within the next few years, we will have contributed to substantial progress in our three focus areas of economic self-sufficiency, leadership development and domestic violence. Your support makes this possible. We thank you.

RECENT WOMEN'S FUND ACCOMPLISHMENTS and PROGRAMS:

Intimate Partner Violence Report: The study looked at survivors' needs and available services in the community and made recommendations for next steps. Several community working groups continue to meet to find ways to enhance service delivery.

Community Survey: Poverty, employment and financial literacy are the top issues affecting Omaha-area women in the next year, according to a Women's Fund of Omaha survey of nonprofit agencies. The most critical issues facing Omaha-area girls were identified as lack of self-esteem, staying in school and emotional/mental health.

Grants: In honor of its platinum anniversary, the Women's Fund awarded \$20,000 grants to three nonprofit agencies that provide exemplary services in the areas of economic self-sufficiency, domestic violence and leadership. Excellence and WomanSpirit grants brought the total to \$125,000.

Ready To Serve: During the third annual board training workshop, speakers stressed the importance of board members being passionate about the organization's

cause. To date, approximately 600 people have been trained to better serve our community.

Ready To Run: Women interested in running for elected office or working on a political campaign learned the ropes from those already in office and campaign advisers. Topics included making the decision to run, communicating your message, raising money and more. Nearly two dozen women who participated in past workshops have been elected to office.

Talk of the Town: Quarterly Talk of the Town meetings promote networking opportunities among nonprofit agencies and provide information on topics of interest to these agencies. The next session on Aug. 23 will focus on what's being done to better address domestic violence survivors' needs.

Visit the Women's Fund website at

www.omahawomensfund.org

for more information on these initiatives.

WomanSpirit Award Honors Maryanne Stevens

Maryanne Stevens, RSM, Ph.D., was recognized for her leadership and impact on the lives of local women and girls at a May 6 celebration event where the Women's Fund presented her with its prestigious WomanSpirit award. Initiated in 1996, the WomanSpirit Award recognizes a woman whose leadership has had a significant impact on the lives of women and girls in the Omaha community.

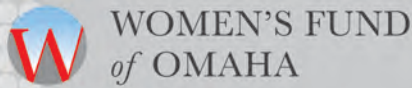
Stevens is president of the College of Saint Mary. Under her leadership over the past 15 years, the college has embarked on a capital campaign, launched new graduate programs and opened an on-campus residence hall for single mothers.

Stevens' leadership extends into the community. She currently serves on the Nebraska Educational Finance Authority and the Nebraska Independent College Foundation, and she is chair of the Madonna School for Exceptional Children board of directors. From 2005 to 2010, Stevens was a member of the Women's Fund of Omaha board of directors.

Stevens is the eighth recipient of the award, which establishes a perpetual annual grant in the honoree's name.



Dr. Maryanne Stevens, RSM, second from left, receives the WomanSpirit award from Barbara Weitz, Mary Heng-Braun and Dianne Seeman Lozier, event chairs and former recipients.



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to Our 2010 Fund Drive Donors



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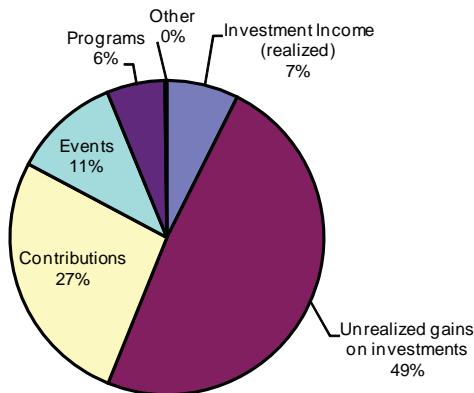
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Please accept our apologies if we have inadvertently omitted a name. Every gift is important to us and greatly appreciated.

Women's Fund of Omaha 2010 Financial Summary

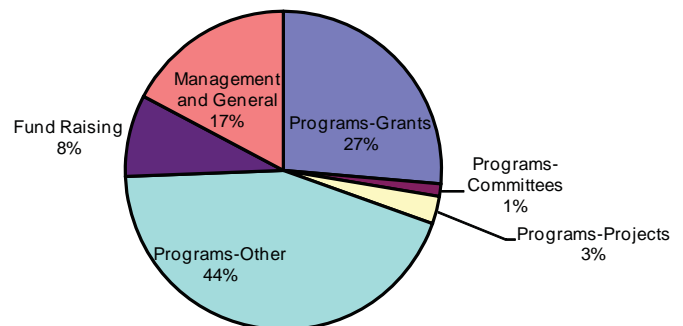
2010 Revenues

Investment Income (realized)	75,018
Unrealized gains on investments	494,638
Contributions	270,315
Events	112,041
Programs	60,855
Other	2,210
Total Revenues	1,015,077



2010 Expenses

Programs-Grants	115,037
Programs-Committees	5,571
Programs-Projects	12,288
Programs-Other	191,973
Fund Raising	36,434
Management and General	75,331
Total Expenses	436,634



Women's Fund of Omaha 11th Annual Fall Luncheon

EXPECT TO WIN

Author and Keynote Speaker



Carla A. Harris

Managing Director
Morgan Stanley Investment
Management

Thursday
October 27, 2011
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m

Ramada Plaza Hotel
3321 South 72nd Street

Carla Harris is on *Fortune's* list of "The 50 Most Powerful Black Executives in Corporate America," and she is one of *Essence Magazine's* "50 Women Who are Shaping the World." A highly sought-after speaker with a national following, Carla is coming to Omaha to share her pearls of wisdom on charting a sure path to success. Please join us for this popular annual event . . . and expect to win!

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Yes! I want to support the Women's Fund by attending the 11th Annual Fall Luncheon.

To register go to www.omahawomensfund.org, call the Women's Fund at 402-827-9280 or fill out and return this form. Act early and guarantee your spot at one of Omaha's most popular business events! Corporate reservations must be received by October 7, 2011, to guarantee program listing. Seating assignments will be emailed the week of the event.

_____ **Corporate Table** - \$1,500 (\$1,150 tax-deductible) Includes a table for 10, table signage and program recognition.

_____ **Individual Corporate Ticket** - \$150 (\$115 tax-deductible)

_____ **Individual General Admission Ticket** - \$75 (\$40 tax-deductible)

_____ Sorry, we are unable to attend, but please accept our donation in support of the Women's Fund's work of improving the lives of women and girls in Omaha.

Company _____

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Women's Fund Board Members Recognized with Awards

Board members Pam Brown and Anne Branigan have been honored by local agencies for their work in the community.

In February, Brown received the 2011 Making Democracy Work Award from the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha. The award recognizes a woman who has gone beyond the expectations of her job to make Omaha more vibrant and strong. Brown was honored for her long history of being dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in Omaha as a volunteer and as a state legislator.



The late Senator Pam Brown, left, and Linda Duckworth, League of Women Voters of Omaha president.



Anne Branigan with her daughter Kate at the WCA Tribute to Women event.

Despite battling cancer, Brown continued to dedicate her time and energy to advocating for causes she believed in until shortly before her death in June.

Branigan, senior vice president of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, was one of 11 outstanding women honored by the Women's Center for Advancement (formerly the YWCA Omaha) at its 24th Annual Tribute to Women event. She was recognized for her role supporting and encouraging both individual and business success, as well as her involvement with community organizations.

Branigan currently is president of the Women's Fund Board of Directors.

How does the Women's Fund bring about change?

Identifying and researching major issues impacting the lives of women and girls in the Omaha area.

Educating the public on these issues.

Funding initiatives that benefit the women and girls of our community.

Omaha Fashion Week Event Benefits Women's Fund

Some of the hottest local fashion designers will showcase their newest looks during Omaha Fashion Week.

Join the Women's Fund for the Thursday, Aug. 25, runway show at the Nomad Lounge in the Old Market. Purchase tickets for fashion-themed drawings (available at the runway show only) and find out what nonprofit agency will receive a \$5,000 grant selected by a vote of Women's Fund Changemakers. These donors support the Women's Fund mission of improving the lives of Omaha-area women and girls through an annual pledge of \$200 or more, which qualifies them to help decide which agency receives the grant.

Featured designers for the Thursday runway show are Masey Root, Williams Torres, Megan Hunt, Jessica Seeley, Hollie Hanash and Yolanda Diaz.

Hunt is owner/designer of Princess Lasertron, a local company that has expanded from simple hairpieces and brooches to gowns and bouquets and serves more than 150 brides a year. Diaz, who is showing her children's collection at the Thursday show, is the first Omaha Fashion Week designer to have her work mass-produced and sold wholesale to boutiques around the U.S.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m. Thanks to Coventry Health Care of Nebraska for sponsoring the Women's Fund Changemaker VIP party. Purchase your tickets for the Thursday night runway show from Omaha Fashion Week at www.omahafashionweek.com. Learn how you can become a Women's Fund Changemaker at www.omahawomensfund.org/donate.



Participants take part in self-defense training at New Hope Life Center for Women.

Grant Profile:

New Hope Life Center for Women Receives Inaugural Changemaker Grant

New Hope Life Center for Women is making a difference in the lives of our community's most vulnerable women. Its typical client has been an addict for more than 10 years, has been incarcerated multiple times, has children cared for by social services and has been sexually abused. New Hope's mission is to assist women who are committed to overcoming their past failures by helping them address core life issues and by partnering with them as they find new hope.

Last fall, Women's Fund Changemakers selected New Hope Life Center from a field of three agencies to receive the first-ever Women's Fund Changemaker Grant.

New Hope Life Center's goal is to create long-term behavior change. The center offers residential, non-residential and after-care programs. The residential program requires a minimum nine- to 12-month commitment and involves three tiers.

During the first 30 days of residence, individuals begin work with a life coach, case manager, therapist and small group therapy. The second tier lasts approximately nine months, during which time the participant works and learns to successfully implement new habits while building a new community of support and making new friends. The final two months of the program focus on updating personal goals and establishing additional support mechanisms. After-care support continues with the therapist, case manager and mentor for the next 12

months and is available for all program alumnae as long as support is needed.

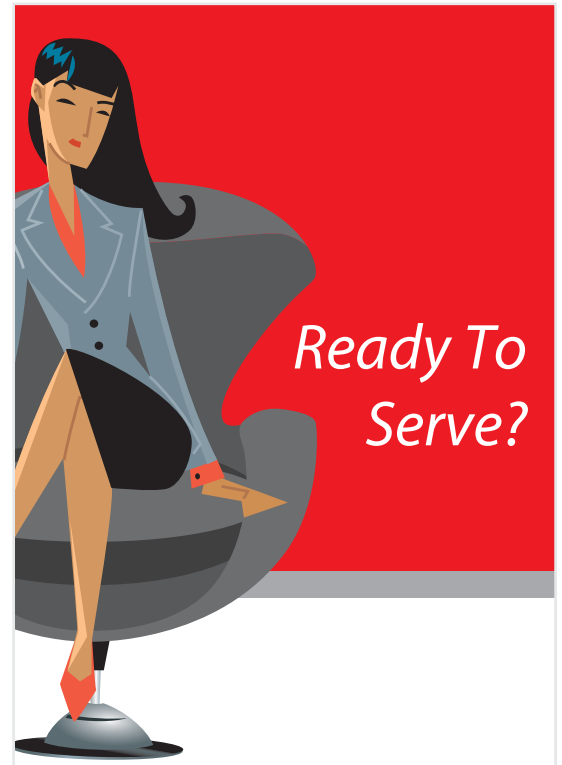
Jane (not her real name) says she was given another chance at life at age 41 because of New Hope. Although she attended college for four years, Jane was never able to complete a degree because of drugs. She lists an 18-year-long "career" of drug addiction and a stay in a maximum security women's prison among "the list of incompletes and epic failures that I thought defined who I was."

"Today, none of that defines who I am," Jane says. "I am a new creation full of hope and faith."

She has a full-time job and is taking classes to learn medical billing and coding.

"New Hope provided me with coping skills and daily living skills necessary to not only live, but to thrive. The resources that they shared with me have been invaluable," she adds.

Traditional 12-step program recovery success rates are reported to be less than 20 percent. "The New Hope Life Center for Women has shown that they can reverse these outcomes and provide dramatic results for women, families and the community, achieving a 75 percent success rate, and those results are continuing in a fourth year of programming for women," said Kathleen McCallister, president and founder. This success impacts not only the clients, but also their families and the entire community.



Learn About Upcoming Board Opportunities

Women hold just 23 percent of the appointed positions on Omaha-area board and commissions, according to the latest Women's Fund research. A new initiative is being launched to make women aware of upcoming opportunities to serve in order to increase this percentage.

Openings for the remainder of 2011 on city boards and commissions are posted on the Women's Fund website at www.omahawomensfund.org. Details on how to apply for these volunteer positions are included. The Women's Fund website will be updated periodically to include additional openings on city, county and state boards for 2012 and beyond.

Special thanks to volunteer Judy Seeman for compiling this information.

The Women's Fund has been examining the topic of women and leadership in Omaha for more than 15 years. Findings are available in reports posted on the Women's Fund website under the Research tab.

As a result of its research, the Women's Fund launched the Ready to Run workshop for women interested in running for political office and the Ready To Serve board training workshop. Past attendees are encouraged to check out the list of upcoming board positions and submit their applications.

Women's Fund Changemakers are donors who pledge \$200 or more annually to the Women's Fund. Learn more about this opportunity to make a difference in your community at www.omahawomensfund.org.



WOMEN'S FUND of OMAHA

7602 Pacific Street, Suite 300
Omaha, NE 68114
Phone: 402.827.9280
Fax: 402.827.9283
www.omahawomensfund.org

Editor: Sherry Thompson

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WOMEN'S FUND *Circles* OMAHA'S NEXT CHANGE LEADERS GATHER ○ GROW ○ GIVE BACK

Applications Being Accepted for New Women's Fund Circles Group

Applications are being accepted through Sept. 30 from young women interested in membership in the inaugural class of Women's Fund Circles. The new organization will introduce members to the Women's Fund's work, while providing them with the chance to connect with female leaders in the Omaha area. Quarterly events will include opportunities to network, gain knowledge and give back to the community.

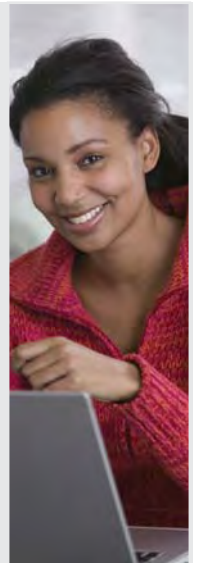
A seven-member steering committee worked with a Women's Fund advisory group to develop guidelines for the organization, and they will serve in leadership roles as Women's Fund Circles officially launches in December. The steering committee includes Michelle Zych, chair, and members Colleen Etheridge, Amy Jacobberger, Sarah Johnson, Sarah Lukas, Caroline Moore and Jay Warren.

Application information is available on the Women's Fund website (www.omahawomensfund.org) and on the Women's Fund Circles Facebook page.

Stay Connected to the Women's Fund

Keep up to date with all of the Women's Fund news and events through our award-winning website, email newsletters and social media channels. Bookmark www.omahawomensfund.org and check back often for all of the latest happenings.

Sign up to receive our monthly email newsletters by joining our "email club" (on the home page of the website) or send a note to info@omahawomensfund.org. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and take part in the online conversations. We'd love to hear your thoughts!



Make a Difference

Donate to the Women's Fund

It's simple: Go to www.omahawomensfund.org and donate online, or mail a check to:

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7602 Pacific Street, Suite 300
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