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WOMEN'S  
FUND  
OF  
GREATER  
OMAHA

## Women & Leadership

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A Status Report

Third  
In A Series Of  
Reports  
On The Condition Of  
Women and Girls  
In Omaha

Prepared By  
The Women's Fund Of  
The Omaha Community Foundation

October 1996



## Purpose For Research

The Women's Fund of the Omaha Community Foundation conducts research to meet several objectives:

- To provide a quantitative and qualitative overview of issues facing women in the Omaha area;
- To aid in decision-making by the Women's Fund Board regarding both board-initiated and community-initiated grant making;
- To guide the efforts of the Women's Fund to reach out to established and grassroots women's organizations for the next phases of its work;
- To increase the Women's Fund credibility as an organization knowledgeable of the issues effecting the lives of REAL women and capable of providing valid, reliable and meaningful data and information about women;
- To aid decision-making by the leadership of our area, including corporate leaders, civic policy makers and those who are allocating the limited resources available for philanthropy, by providing a "gender lens" through which to view important day to day issues and critical long-term issues that our community faces, and;
- To provide the philanthropic community with current, reliable data which makes a compelling case to support additional funding for programs targeted at women and girls.

## Research Committee

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## Why Research On Women & Leadership?

Throughout the Women's Fund's development and introduction to the Omaha community, board, staff and volunteers have been asked:

- Are things getting better for women in Omaha?
- Are women getting ahead in Omaha?
- Are we growing our own women leaders in Omaha?

These questions have been raised by both men and women -- many of whom have been consciously striving toward that end. Their concern and interest in this aspect of our community's life has been evident. This report was developed in response to these sincere inquiries.

As we began this project, we *believed* that the proportion of women in leadership positions in Omaha has increased over the last decade. Since no concrete data existed to support or refute our belief, however, we decided to document "how it is" today. This is baseline data. The follow-up question which each of us will have to answer for ourselves, is more challenging: How do we want it to be tomorrow? And, if "how we want it to be tomorrow" requires change, how do we go about making change happen?

With a great deal of respect and appreciation for all those who have been highly supportive of and challenging to our efforts and mission, The Women's Fund is pleased to present the third in a series of reports on the condition of Omaha-area women and our community.