

Leveling the playing field for Rhode Island women and girls

Despite the obvious advances for women and girls since the 1963 publication of *The Feminine Mystique*, Rhode Island women still earn only 76 cents to a man's dollar, and two out of five of them earn less than poverty level wages. They comprise the fastest-growing segment of the homeless. The sexual assault rate is alarming. One in six girls attempts suicide during adoles-

cence. Teens are giving birth in alarming numbers.

"The challenges are daunting," admits Simone Joyaux, who came to the Foundation two years ago with a vision: the Women's Fund of Rhode Island. In 2001, the Foundation accepted her challenge by housing and seeding the new fund with \$2.5 million, with a goal to double that amount within three years.

Joyaux became its founder and first chair, but hardly its only proponent. In just a few months, the Women's Fund of Rhode Island has recruited dozens of women in five committees (see next page), and commissioned major research on the status of women and girls in Rhode Island compared to other states.

Grantmaking will play a big role. Joyaux continues, "When

we meet our first fundraising goal of \$5 million, we will be able to generate approximately \$250,000 annually for grants. Women's funds across the nation have been able to encourage small business training among low-income women, teach construction skills to adolescent girls, provide case management services to women with AIDS, help girls involved in the juvenile

justice system, and provide legal support, counseling and advocacy to women transitioning from welfare to work," she listed.

"And still have remaining funds for video documentaries, voting drives, and violence prevention."

The Women's Fund will support fresh solutions to problems that have faced women and girls for generations, while celebrating their unique role in society.

the Women's Fund OF RHODE ISLAND



Women's Fund of Rhode Island Volunteer Committee Members

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Sharon Chancellor
Management Development Consultant

Very Reverend Maria DeCarvalho
Dean, Cathedral of St. John

Amanda Frye Leinhos
Executive Director, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

Frances Gammell
Retired Business Owner

Cynthia Garcia Coll, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Education, Brown University

Miriam Inocencio
President/CEO, Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island

Simone P. Joyaux, ACFRE
Fundraising and Organizational Development Consultant, WFRI Founder and Chair

Margaret A. Laurence, Esq.
Attorney

Margaret Goddard Leeson
Rhode Island Foundation Board, Community Volunteer, Vice Chair

Susan Rittischer
President/CEO, YMCA of Greater Providence

Deborah Ruggiero
Sales Manager, Citadel Communications Corp.

Lila Sapinsley
Television Host and Community Volunteer

Hon. O. Rogerie Thompson
Superior Court Judge

Myrth York, Esq.
Attorney

STATUS OF WOMEN STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Toby Ayers, Ph.D.
Director, RI Commission on Women

Miriam C. Coleman

Deborah B. DeBare
Executive Director, RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Sandra Enos
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Justice Studies, Rhode Island College

Christine C. Ferguson

Cynthia Garcia Coll, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Education, Brown University

Juana I. Horton
Executive Director, Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce

Miriam Inocencio
President/CEO, Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island

Linda Katz
Policy Director, The Poverty Institute, RI College School of Social Work

Carol Malysz
Director, Center for Women and Enterprise

Jane E. Nugent
Senior Vice President, Research and Information, United Way of Southeastern New England

Hon. Teresa M. Paiva-Weed, Esq.
Moore, Virgadamo and Lynch, Ltd.

Roberta Richman
Assistant Director of Rehabilitation Services, Department of Corrections

Hon. Elizabeth H. Roberts
RI State Senator

Catherine Walsh
Program Director, RI Kids Count

Sally Zierler
Professor, Department of Community Health, Brown University

GRANTS POLICY AND PROCESS COMMITTEE

Lori Bicki

Jodi L. Glass

Olinda Matos
Program Associate, RI Kid's Count

Linda H. Newton
Assistant Vice President/Professional Relationships, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island

Rachel Paras
Swearer Center for Public Service, Brown University

Anne Marie Silvia
Community Volunteer

Hon. O. Rogerie Thompson
Superior Court Judge, Committee Chair*

Judy Titzel
Community Volunteer

Nondas Hurst Voll
Executive Director, Fund for Community Progress

Chinnru Joy Wu
Student, Brown University

Myrth York, Esq.
Attorney

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Stephanie Chafee
Community Volunteer

Mimi Freeman
Community Volunteer

Frances Gammell
Retired Business Owner

Angela Gora
President, Gora Communications

Simone P. Joyaux
WFRI Founder and Chair, Committee Chair

Margaret Goddard Leeson
Rhode Island Foundation Board, Community Volunteer, Committee Co-Chair

Mary-Anne Van Degna
Community Volunteer

FALL 2002 EVENT COMMITTEE

Deborah Ruggiero
Sales Manager, Citadel Communications Corp., Committee Chair

Karen Harris
Account Executive, The Allied Group

Jilda Hazzard
Independent Consultant

Margaret A. Laurence, Esq.
Attorney

Yvette Mendez
Marketing and Community Relations Rep., Neighborhood Health Plan of RI

Marsy Mittlemann
Community Volunteer

Barbara Nauman
Promotion Director, Providence Journal

Kibbe Reilly
President, Reilly Consulting Associates

Laurie White
Senior Vice President of Operations, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce