

WOMEN PHILANTHROPISTS – SPEAK UP!



Sara Wason has spent most of her professional career as a fundraiser, but she's equally comfortable on the other side of

the solicitation, as a philanthropist. In her position as Executive Director of Foundation Relations at Syracuse University, Wason secures funding for programs that enhance entrepreneurship, education, and other issues that matter to the Syracuse community and to women.

In 1999, Wason and her friends Marion Hancock Fish and Laura Lavine attended the first WFCNY gathering at Aminy Audi's home. They were excited about and inspired by the idea of women giving to women. The trio became Charter Donors in honor of their lifelong friendship, joining the group of trailblazing women who were committed to leaving a legacy of support and empowerment for women in our community.

A native of Syracuse, Wason returned to the area from a brief stint in California after rekindling a friendship with her soon-to-be husband, Jay. They both have strong roots in Central New York and decided to make this their home and raise their three children here. Wason has volunteered with several local not-for-profits, but confesses that she feels most connected to the WFCNY and its focus on "being with women and for women."

Sara Wason believes that when you invest in women, you invest in the community. She feels that despite some socioeconomic gains, too many women

are still living on the edge, struggling as heads of households to raise children and make ends meet. She stresses that women philanthropists understand and embrace causes that reflect systemic issues like education, health, domestic violence, and poverty. And because she's convinced that women are at the center of communities, she wants that support to be used pragmatically – for food, clothing, fuel, housing, and for developing the skills that will translate into greater opportunity, confidence, and self actualization. Build up a woman, says Wason, and you buoy a community.

Wason's involvement with the WFCNY has stayed strong through the years. Along with her continual financial support, she has given generously of her time and talents as chair of the Governance Council, Grants, and Fund Development committees. Her favorite programs are those that creatively help the truly marginalized in our community —refugees or women reentering the workforce as entrepreneurs and in non-traditional jobs.

In her current role as a member of the Fund Development Committee, she's determined to help the WFCNY reach its goal of \$1 million to tell a million stories. "Women are a force and they need to understand the power of philanthropy and the need to use their pocketbook and their voice to inspire their sisters to embrace this power," says Wason. "And we need more attention paid to getting women out of poverty, as this is the shortest path to a healthier, more vibrant community."

2013 GRANTEES

Boys & Girls Clubs of Syracuse	\$2,000
SMART Girls Small-group workshops to help girls make healthy physical and emotional lifestyle choices.	
CAP for Madison County	\$3,400
Moms Moving Forward/Early Childhood Focused on rural moms, bi-monthly programming, and networking.	
Catholic Charities	\$3,750
Ready, Set, Apply of Onondaga County Weekly house meetings with staff and residents to assist female residents with the steps to apply for jobs.	
Cayuga Community College	\$1,875
Direct Selling Women's Entrepreneurship Program A 30-hour training program promoting leadership skills and entrepreneurial thinking.	
Child Care Solutions	\$1,180
It's Your Business A 1-day mini conference on family childcare.	
The MoST Museum of Science and Technology Foundation	\$4,800
Young Women Scientist Summer Camp New program — A day camp to help build interest in science among 4th- and 5th-grade girls.	
On Point for College	\$2,000
Post-secondary and career advancement for women Outreach and financial resources for 10 college students.	
Rescue Mission Alliance	\$3,000
Family Transitions in Cayuga County Trauma counseling, case management, crisis intervention, and transportation to help homeless women and families move into affordable, stable housing.	
Syracuse Northeast Community Center	\$3,000
Teen Mom Time Parenting program and weekly skill-building meetings with pregnant teens and teens with a child under age one.	
TOTAL GRANTS:	\$25,005

Get rid of the paper!

Sign up now to receive The Women's Fund newsletter via email at www.womensfundofcny.org or call (315) 422-9538.

ABIGAIL HENSON OWNER, LOFO

"My Kickstarter grant did so many things for me. First and foremost, it gave me confidence knowing someone else believed in what I was doing. Since it was a match program it inspired me to save even when I had very little to put aside — it proved that small savings lead to more substantial earnings. The actual funding itself came at a time when I had to move my entire business and incur all of my startup expenses all over again; it was a godsend. It helped me pay for the bare necessities of what I needed to move in the next direction. Grants like these, little as they may be, help significantly. They acknowledge the challenges of someone just starting out, and they empower women to invest in the reality of their own dreams. At least that's what my Women's Fund grant did for me."



Central New York Community Foundation, Inc.

WOMEN'S FUND OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2013

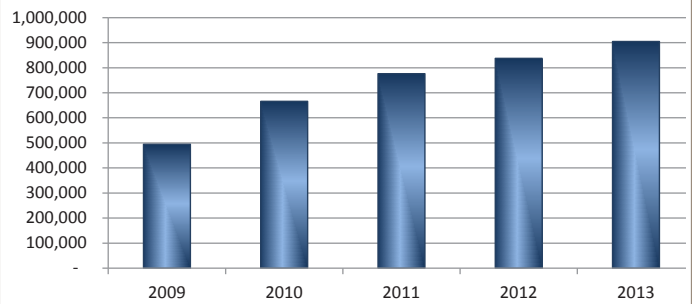
Balance Sheet

Assets	
Investments	\$914,426
Receivables	12,595
Total Assets	927,021
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	25,354
Total Net Assets	901,667
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$927,021

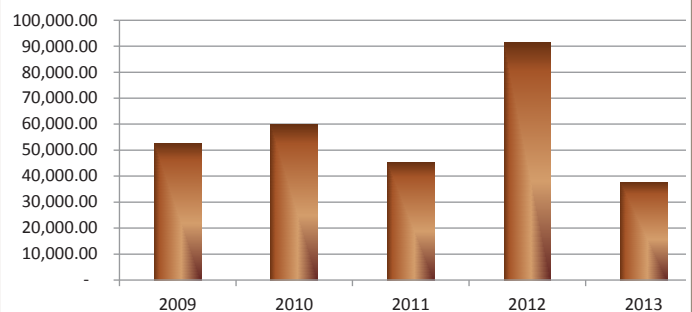
Statement of Activities

Revenues	
Contributions	\$38,062
Return on Investments	77,868
Other Income	8,271
Total Revenue	124,201
Expenses	
Grants	25,005
Operations	34,934
Total Expenses	59,939
Change in Net Assets	64,262
Net Assets Beginning of Year	837,405
Net Assets End of Year	\$901,667

Total Assets by Fiscal Year



Gifts & Pledges by Fiscal Year



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

With the Women's Fund of Central New York's generous funding, Syracuse Habitat for Humanity (SHFH) was able to purchase Girls Build curriculum kits and implement the Girls Build program, which partners with youth organizations to educate and engage girls about Syracuse Habitat for Humanity, homeownership, and community need.



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP FOR MADISON COUNTY – MOMS MOVING FORWARD PROGRAM

This grant was given to fund meetings and activities promoting health and wellness for mothers and their children in rural Madison County. The grant is being used to pay for transportation, groceries, supplies, and child care support. Community Action Partnership for Madison County has been attempting to get comprehensive programming like this in place for a long time, and this grant finally made it possible. Now, moms have transportation to visit the Syracuse Regional Market. The organization can pay for groceries for cooking meetings and snacks for participants, and can buy folders and print fliers. Incredibly important is the ability to support the cost of child care with the help of the grant from the Women's Fund.

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR – FALL 2013

Because of you, our generous donors, the Women's Fund of Central New York has been able to make a significant impact in the lives of CNY women and girls through our grants. This is especially true in the last five years as our local economy has struggled. From 2009 to 2013, we've contributed more than \$118,000 to local programs that empower women and girls.

Thanks to your generosity, our endowment has grown to almost one million dollars. This is a milestone not only for the Women's Fund but for

our community. The endowment is an insurance policy for our future – ready to fund hard-working women entrepreneurs when they need a helping hand to grow, ready to fund mentoring programs so young girls can find their own path to personal well being, ready to fund innovative programs that advance women and girls in CNY. The endowment is there in good times and in hard times.

We are so proud of what you have created in the Women's Fund of Central New York that we are celebrating! This

We've been able to grant funds to Catholic Charities for computers in the women's shelter as well as for transportation and child care to help women more effectively apply for jobs. The program director had a chance to ask some of the women how this grant has helped them. This is what they had to say.

"Thank you so much for the computers in the shelter. It is very nice for us to be able to find jobs and housing. For me personally, it's been helpful to look up my medical issues."

—Christine

"We really appreciate having a computer in the house."

— Sue

"I like that it's entertaining, finding apartments, employment, etc. I love being able to go on Facebook to stay up on family stuff."

—Anita

"I like to job search, keep in touch with family, and educational information."

—Reneshia

fall we are kicking off the "Tell a Million Stories" campaign to focus on the positive results of our grants and on our final stretch to one million dollars. We have captured a few of the stories inside this annual report. Join us at one of our events, read our blog, or visit our website to hear more of them. And please add your voice to the campaign by donating to the Women's Fund so we can truly "Tell a Million Stories."

FAREWELL



On behalf of all of the volunteers of the Women's Fund, we extend our best wishes to Diana Gerrish as she relocates to Seattle. Thank you Diana for all of your leadership as our Chair! We will miss you!

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

(April 2012 – March 2013)

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