

WOMEN'S SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP A HUGE SUCCESS

By Meriel Stokoe, Education Director at the MOST

In 2012 the Women's Fund received a grant proposal from the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology (MOST) for a Summer Science Camp designed to get sixth-grade girls from the Syracuse City School District engaged in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). With support from the Women's Fund (grant cycles in 2012-13 and 2013-14) the MOST has held two week-long summer camps where the girls not only had fun while learning about science, they were also exposed to many new experiences.

Participants especially enjoyed meeting female scientists who came to talk about their careers. Listening to these women's presentations empowered the girls and made them aware of the many STEM career options available to them.

Field trips were also a great success and offered an opportunity for the girls to bond with one another. Both years, the girls visited the Clark Reservation State Park. During the

trips, the campers were led on nature walks and played games. The delight was evident on the girls' faces as they played and became acclimated to the outdoors.



During the 2014 camp season, a second field trip was added to visit Syracuse University. The girls toured labs, watched demonstrations, participated in experiments in a real lab environment, and even received a surprise visit from Otto the Orange! It was quickly evident how the trip had inspired the girls, many of whom talked about their aspirations to attend college while walking around the campus.

When the girls were asked about their experiences, many said "Make it longer, like a few years!"

As education director at the MOST, I have had the opportunity to see some of the girls again when they visited as part of our SCS D Sixth Grade Program. I am always greeted with hugs and high fives. It is so nice to see how happy they are to be back at the MOST to learn more about science!

2014 GRANTEES

On April 24, 2014, the Women's Fund proudly awarded grants to thirteen nonprofit organizations from Onondaga, Madison and Cayuga counties at the annual grant awards reception. This awards dinner marks 13 years of grant making by the Women's Fund for the benefit of women and girls in Central New York. The grants, totaling \$23,775, funded programs that support the advancement and full participation of women and girls in Central New York.

Booker T. Washington Community Center received **\$1,500** to pay for food and supplies for *Developing Safe and Healthy Relationships*, which provides workshops, support groups and counseling for women.

Mary Rose Clinic (Community Action Partnership) received **\$2,500** to cover medical expenses not covered by discounts or pro bono services for low-income women and girls in Madison County.

Child Care Solutions received **\$1,500** for event materials and speakers for its *Columbus Day Professional Development Conference*.

Contact Community Services received **\$1,000** for manuals, food and supplies for its *Mental Health First Aid for Women of Color* program.

Friends at Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnett Park received **\$1,250** to purchase materials for its *ZooGuide* internship program for 16-year-old low-income students.

Girls Inc. at the YWCA of Syracuse & Onondaga County received **\$3,075** to support its *Life Empowerment Action Plan* summer program, which helps young women evaluate their education and career choices, while also helping them build their leadership and financial management skills.

Museum of Science and Technology (MoST) received **\$2,500** to cover field trip expenses and transportation costs for its *Young Women Scientist Summer Camp*, which fosters interest in science among fourth- and fifth-grade girls.

Networking InterFaith Achievement (NIA) Ministries received **\$2,550** for a laptop, a printer and clothing to support the "EXPRESS" Yourself Support & Transitional Program. This 12-week program helps incarcerated women develop goals, life communication and interpersonal skills.

North Side Learning Center received **\$1,400** to support the costs of food, childcare, and publishing for the *Unity of Sisters* collaborative storytelling and poetry programming for African American women.

PEACE, Inc. received **\$1,500** to support field trips for the *Girls Empowerment Mentally & Socially (GEMS) to Jewels* program. The 24 sessions expose young girls to strong women in history.

Somali Bantu Community Association of Onondaga County received **\$2,000** for office supplies and internet access for its *Women & Girls Empowerment Project* that provides tutoring and afterschool programming to at-risk middle school and high school Somali-Bantu girls.

Visions for Change received **\$2,000** to support childcare for its *Circles* leaders program.

Women's Opportunity Center received **\$1,000** to offer special clothing for its *Non-traditional Scholarship Fund*, which offers women transportation, childcare and employment assistance.

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EMPOWERING REFUGEE WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Somali Bantu Community Association (SBCA) has been helping refugees in Syracuse since 2004. Thanks to the support and grants awarded from the Women's Fund, the work done by the SBCA over the last decade has impacted the lives of many women and girls.



SBCA secretary Khadija Musa

In 2011, the Women's Fund awarded the SBCA a grant to fund the *Mother and Children Program*, which provided refugees with English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, individualized tutoring, and citizenship classes. This program helped more than 50 mothers and their children, and was made possible with the help of volunteers from Syracuse University, who provided childcare so the mothers could actively participate in the weekly sessions. These women worked hard and studied long hours, and almost 30 of them passed the test on their first try, despite their rudimentary English language skills.

After two years of working with the women in this program, SBCA staff identified a significant barrier facing the Association and the refugee community at-large: while there were a great number of women refugees in the Syracuse area, very few were aspiring to assume leadership roles. In their native culture, these women and school-age girls stay at home and do not participate in local government, and the SBCA made it their mission to help these women assimilate to life in the U.S. and the new leadership opportunities available to them here.

From this initiative came the *Women Empowerment Project*, which focused primarily on building dialogue and negotiation skills in order to help these women learn to express their needs publicly and actively participate in local governance. The program, which was made possible through a grant provided by the Women's Fund, taught these women the skills needed to acquire and retain jobs, earn promotions, assume leadership positions in community organizations, and advocate on behalf of other

refugees like themselves. Many of the women in the program were motivated to finish high school and college degrees and aspire to professional careers previously unavailable to them, like those in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

As a result of the *Women Empowerment Project*, SBCA elected Mrs. Sangabo Abdi as its first female Board President and recruited Ms. Khadija Musa as its first female secretary. In September 2014, a group of young women from the program, along with SBCA's Executive Director, Haji Adan, visited Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner. During this visit, the women comfortably shared their thoughts about the program and the center's impact. The Mayor was thrilled with the work the SBCA was doing to empower the Somali Bantu refugee women, and encouraged them to work closely with other refugee ethnic communities, to leverage the leadership skills and lessons learned to help the refugee community address the challenges facing them.

This program, which originally began as a way to help refugee women learn English and gain U.S. citizenship, has grown and evolved into something that's not only helping these refugees start over in America, but is helping to educate them to make their lives and the lives of those like them better. The SBCA shares the core fundamentals of education, advocacy and creating change with the Women's Fund, and in working together, the two organizations have had an impact on countless lives.



Sheikhnoor Adan, Khadija Musa and Sangabo Abdi

ANNUAL DONOR LISTING 2013-14

The following list includes donors who supported the Women's Fund between **April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014** only. The giving categories represent total gifts made during that time period. Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of these listings. Please notify us of any mistakes or misspellings so we may correct them for future publications. Gifts of any amount to the Women's Fund are welcomed and appreciated – we are grateful for your support!

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Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2014

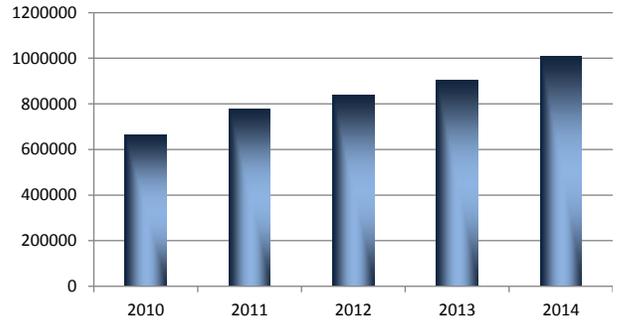
Balance Sheet

Assets		
Investments		\$1,016,958
Receivables		17,420
Prepaid Expenses		2,654
	Total Assets	<u><u>1,037,032</u></u>
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Liabilities		28,095
Net Assets		1,008,937
	Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u><u>\$1,037,032</u></u>

Statement of Activities

Revenues		
Contributions & Other Income		\$51,122
Return on Investments		104,682
	Total Revenue	<u><u>155,804</u></u>
Expenses		
Grants		25,200
Operations		23,334
	Total Expenses	<u><u>48,534</u></u>
	Change in Net Assets	<u><u>107,270</u></u>
	Net Assets Beginning of Year	<u><u>901,667</u></u>
	Net Assets End of Year	<u><u>\$1,008,937</u></u>

Net Assets by Fiscal Year



Contributions by Fiscal Year

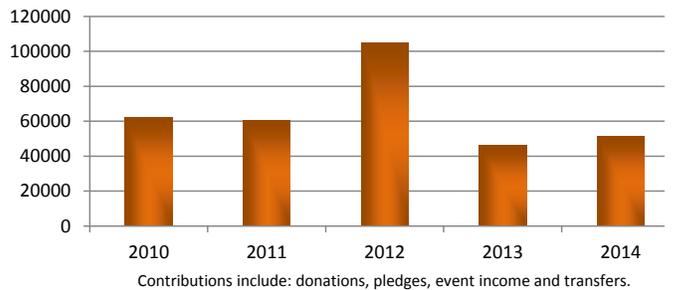


Photo:SRW Joyce Photography

Members of the Women's Fund Governance Council: Shelby Redmond, Annemarie Mosley, Patti Callahan, Carol Satchwell, Judy Pollman, Helen Kelley, Jill Palmeter, Karen DeJarnette, Elizabeth Quilter, Caragh Fahy



ENDOWMENT CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

On October 15, 2014, the Women’s Fund held its *Endowment Celebration Luncheon* at the newly-opened SKY Armory in Syracuse to celebrate reaching its \$1 million endowment milestone and its impact on women and girls in the Central New York area.

More than 150 people attended this wonderful celebration that began with a light reception followed by a plated lunch. Attendees also enjoyed a full program of speakers, which included a welcome by Caragh Fahy, Chair, Women’s Fund Governance Council, an introduction by Olive Sephuma, Director of Community Grantmaking, CNY Community Foundation, and a grant recipient spotlight by Meriel Stokoe, Education Director, Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology.

The keynote address was by the one and only Eve Ensler, Tony Award-winning playwright, performer, activist and the author of *The Vagina Monologues*, which has been translated into more than 48 languages, performed in over 140 countries, including sold-out runs at both Off-Broadway’s Westside Theater and on London’s West End (2002 Olivier Award nomination, Best Entertainment), and has run for 10 years in Mexico City and Paris.

Eve’s experience performing *The Vagina Monologues* inspired her to create V-Day, a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls, which she spoke at length about. The event ended with closing remarks by Karen DeJarnette, Vice Chair, Women’s Fund Governance Council.

MEET THE WOMEN OF THE WOMEN’S FUND



Name: Lindsey Ferrara

Occupation: Senior Project Manager, Eric Mower + Associates

Hometown: Seneca Falls, NY

Why you got involved with the WF: I was looking for an organization to volunteer for in Syracuse, and got an email from a coworker about the Women’s Fund needing help with their marketing committee.

Secret Superpower: I’m extremely awesome at collecting Disney trivia. Like that the Little Mermaid is the only princess to have a kid, or that the portrayal of the hyenas in *The Lion King* led to Disney being sued for defamation.

How would you like to change the world? By allowing everyone access to an education, and requiring everyone to work in retail or hospitality for at least six months. We will all be smarter, nicer people.

Favorite Book: *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant

Favorite Movie in the past five years: *Frozen* ... no judgments please

Musical talent? Singing in the shower

Coffee or Tea? Coffee

Snow or Sand? Snow

Heels or Flats? Heels

Favorite thing in your home? My 3-year-old German Shepherd, Ava

Book you hope to read? The Bible cover to cover

A book you read in school that positively shaped you? *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

What do you like on your pizza? Mushrooms

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Over the course of 2014, the Women's Fund worked tirelessly to reach our goal of building our endowment to \$1 million. Throughout the year, we shared our story and our goals with you to create a lasting endowment that would continue to support women and girls in our region for decades to come.

In this Annual Report, you are going to read the stories of women and girls whose lives we have touched through our grantmaking process. Stories of triumph, determination, and persistence. Stories like the Somali Bantu refugee women learning what it means to become U.S. citizens and take control of their own futures.

You believed in our story and our commitment, and through your financial support, you have become part of our legacy. We are forever grateful for the support you have shown us, and invite you to continue to help us write the next chapter in our organization's history.

Together, we can do more. Together, we can give an opportunity to a female entrepreneur, grant a student the ability to participate in a meaningful after-school program that enhances her education, and provide resources to local agencies that help them work more efficiently and effectively on behalf of those we want to support most. Please join me in making a donation today.

Eve Ensler, Tony Award-winning playwright and author of *The Vagina Monologues*, in her address to those gathered at our \$1 Million Endowment Celebration, reminded us, "[That] we find freedom, aliveness, and power not from what contains, locates, and protects us, but from what dissolves, reveals, and expands us." Ensler invited us to envision a world where we think bigger than ourselves and create opportunities for those who are more vulnerable than us.

This is our mission.

Respectfully,
Caragh Fahy