

## A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR

My name is Diana Gerrish and I am the new Governance Council Chair of the Women's Fund of Central New York. I work at Lockheed Martin in Liverpool as an Engineering Program Manager and live in Syracuse with my husband Dave and two children, Wesley (7) and Hattie (4). We share the house with two cats and a dog. I have been volunteering with the Women's Fund since 2006, starting in committee work and becoming a Governance Council member in 2009. This year, I have the honor of succeeding Sarah Merrick as the Chair.



I am keenly aware of the needs of women and girls in our community, and I am proud to help through the Women's Fund grant process and fund raising. Personally, my volunteer work has helped me grow. I have learned to expand my thinking beyond daily tasks, and, with the other Governance Council members, help shape the Women's Fund of CNY for the future. I am often inspired and energized by the many talented and stimulating women donors, volunteers and grant recipients I've met through the Women's Fund. Please join me in supporting the Women's Fund of CNY's mission through your contributions of time, talent and money. I'm sure you will find it a rewarding experience.



## Save the Date Fall Breakfast Event

Thursday, November 8th

8:30-9:30 a.m.

Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Tickets and more information  
will be available on the  
website soon.

## YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK: MENORAH PARK

Menorah Park has been caring for Central New York seniors for 100 years. Over the years, many of its on-staff certified nursing attendants have wanted to work toward earning high school diplomas or GEDs. But they didn't have the money, time, or other resources to pursue their dreams.

Administrators at Menorah Park looked into partnering with other nursing homes that offered on-site trainings, but found that employees couldn't make the necessary transportation and logistics work. That's when the Women's Fund stepped in. A 2010 grant let Menorah Park administrators buy computers to help staff with their educations. Thanks to the Women's Fund, the organization is now able to offer a collaborative program called ESPORT, which helps build confidence and life skills—crucial ingredients in any self-improvement plan.

After that first infrastructure grant, Menorah Park partnered with the employee union to offer GED training. Shirley Hicks, a dietary associate with Menorah Park for 17 years, was the first employee to get her GED. Success story number two was Melissa Doris, a CNA who said she was embarrassed at not having a high school diploma. She wanted a GED so she could show her children the importance of education. Melissa was chosen by the New York Association for Continuing/Community Education as the New York State Adult Education Student of the Year. She traveled to Albany to receive her GED certificate, and had the chance to make a short speech to the state legislature.

Thanks to the Women's Fund grant, Menorah Park hosts on-site training and education, including courses that directly affect employees' skills and wage-earning capacities. And that kind of empowerment helps everyone in the community.



**DONATE NOW**

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womensfund](https://mygiving.cnycf.org/womensfund)

**Get rid of the paper!**

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

## NEWS & NOTES

### Global Growth

When it comes to driving economic growth in developing countries, entrepreneurship is key. And women make excellent small-business owners. "Being an entrepreneur allows a woman to be economically independent, more so when there are highly opportune markets to be tapped," said Sairee Chalal, founder of Fleximoms, in an interview in *USA Today*. Chalal and others attended the recent Dell Women's Entrepreneur Network conference in New Delhi, which brought together some of the top businesswomen in the world. "India is a green field of amazing opportunities," Lakshmi Pratury, founder of the Ink Conference, told *USA Today*. "The unorganized sector—household help, people who sell vegetables by the side of the road—are almost all women. That's what's going to work in India: many, many small-business owners." See more at <http://tinyurl.com/6ql9vkd>.

### And speaking of entrepreneurs . . .

Sharon Vosmek, CEO of Astia, a venture accelerator for women-led high-growth companies, has four rules for up-and-coming women entrepreneurs. Number 1: Less QQ, More Pew Pew! Or less whining, more shooting at your goal. Find the other three at <http://tinyurl.com/6mzxnxp>.

## Tell us what you think!

Visit our website and click on "Summer Survey 2012" to share your feedback on how we can better serve donors, women and girls in the Central New York community.

## FUND FACTS

- WFCNY launched its new website last month! Check it out at [www.womensfundofcny.org](http://www.womensfundofcny.org).
- Welcome to our three new Governance Council members – Patricia Callahan, Shelby Redmond, and Carol Wixson.
- Thank you to Governance Council members who have recently finished their board service – Lee Gatta, Carolyn May, Sarah Merrick (chair), Shannon Nelson, Elizabeth Ross, Karen Schroeder, and Laura Spring.

## 2012 Governance Council Members

Karen Ashe-Cortez  
Hon. Minna Buck  
Patricia J. Callahan  
Karen DeJarnette  
Jill Dungey  
Caragh Fahy  
Diana Gerrish

Linda Henley  
Joanne Lenweaver  
Susan Marteney  
Lisa D. Miller  
Annemarie Mosley  
Jill S.G. Palmeter  
Shelby Redmond

Barbara Spears  
Rosie Taravella  
Eileen J. Winter  
Carol Wixson  
Dianne Wolczyk

## SUCCESS THROUGH GIVING



If success were measured by the sheer number of awards a person accumulated, Dr. Judith Mower would be a superstar. In the last nine months alone, Judy has received a Community Team Spirit Award from the Salvation Army for her

business leadership and philanthropy; been named one of "The 100 Who Inspire Girls to Lead and Achieve" by the Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways; received an Orange Circle Award for altruism in the Syracuse community from her alma mater, Syracuse University; and been given the 2012 Wisdom

Keeper Award by F.O.C.U.S Greater Syracuse.

It's no coincidence that so many community groups have chosen to honor Judy Mower. Her energy, wisdom, passion, and vision have helped make Central New York a better place for decades. In 1998, Judy was one of a small group of like-minded women who created the Women's Fund to empower women as philanthropists and transform the lives of women and girls around the Central New York region. As a founding member, Judy contributed \$10,000 to the fledgling organization. "I needed, and wanted, to be comfortable giving to things I felt passionate about," she recalls.

Clearly she accomplished that goal. Her initial gift was followed by annual donations,

including her most recent pledge of \$20,000. But dollars and cents are only part of what Judy has to offer. "It's important for me and other women to learn how to give money, use money, and ask for money," she says. "That's how women become community leaders."

For Judy, the real rewards of giving go far beyond any public recognition. "I've gotten to a point in my life where I don't need to buy more things," she explains. "It's very meaningful for me to give back. I feel satisfied knowing I've helped someone else, and that I can help change our corner of the world for the better."

The Women's Fund is fortunate to be on Judy Mower's long list of charitable priorities.