



For the full *Girls' Health in Girls' Hands* report, visit www.cfmco.org/womensfund.

GIRLS' HEALTH IN GIRLS' HANDS: Turning a Plan into Action

What happens when a group of young women ask big questions? They come up with big answers! As part of the Girls' Health in Girls' Hands (GHGH) project, 50 Monterey County girls gathered input from 1,200 other girls throughout the county. They then developed a report outlining the policy changes and program innovations required to improve how pre-teen and teen girls access health information, support and care. The girls presented their findings at a community forum hosted by CSU Monterey Bay, and to school boards, city councils and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. Their report highlights five health priorities and over 40 recommended strategies.

What's next? The girls are taking the lead on implementing the strategies they developed. In Greenfield, the GHGH team is planning a health forum for teen girls bringing together health experts and planning interactive sessions for over 50 girls. Funding health forums is a priority for Women's Fund grantmaking in 2010.

Celebrating Women's Leadership

The Women's International Perspective (The WIP) and the Women's Fund celebrated International Women's Day on Monday, March 8th with an engaging evening event.

Linda Tarr-Whelan, a distinguished senior fellow at Demos (non-partisan public policy research and advocacy organization),

President Clinton's ambassador to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, and author of ***Women Lead The Way: Your Guide to Stepping Up to Leadership and Changing the World***, delivered the keynote address.

A panel discussion followed including Dr. Amy Sands, Monterey Institute of International Studies Provost, Linda Alepin, Founding Director of the Global Women's Leadership Network of the Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University, and Christine Grumm, CEO of the Global Women's Funding Network.

According to Tarr-Whelan, both businesses and governments do better when they adopt a 30% measure for women in leadership positions. "Often without even thinking about it, we are seeing the world through men's eyes and don't realize a woman's perspective is missing," she writes in her book. Chris Grumm highlighted money as a tool to make change happen and encouraged attendees to write checks to organizations they care about and to "speak up."

The WIP (thewip.net) is the global source for women's perspectives. Founder Kate Daniels Kurz serves on the Women's Fund Leadership Council.

Look for next year's International Women's Day celebration – it promises to be even bigger and better!



International Women's Day panelists: (l to r) Linda Alepin, Christine Grumm, Dr. Amy Sands, Linda Tarr-Whelan

MICROLOAN FUND GROWING IN IMPACT

The Women's Fund offers the only microloan fund for women in Monterey County. Research tells us that investing in a woman's economic self-sufficiency is a critical strategy for changing not only her life, but that of her family. Supporting female entrepreneurs is one innovative strategy to achieve this. The Women's Fund has invested in classes for women along with providing access to micro-financing.

"We won't always know whose lives we touched and made better for our having cared, because actions can sometimes have unforeseen ramifications. What's important is that you do care and you act."

— CHARLOTTE LUNSFORD

We have already recommended three loans to local entrepreneurs this year. **Silvia Lucassians**, a graduate of the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA), is building a farming business with her funds. **Socorro Diaz**, a graduate of El Pajaro CDC's Women's Business Education and Loan Program, is expanding her alterations and bridal business in Salinas. **Michelle Alcorn**, a graduate of the Marina Technology Cluster, creates and markets fair trade handbags.

The Women's Fund has the ability to impact even more women because it has doubled its lending capacity in 2010 through a generous \$25,000 contribution from the Rudy E. Futer Fund for Human and Humane Needs of the Community Foundation for Monterey County.

Big Returns on Small Investments

Local men and women celebrated women's economic empowerment at our recent event at Cima Collina winery in Marina. Hosted by winemaker Annette Hoff, and catered by Les Dames d'Escoffier, the afternoon featured several exemplary women who have benefitted from programs supported by the Community Foundation for Monterey County. The Foundation supports women's economic empowerment through its Women's Fund, General Endowment grant program and the Literacy Campaign.

Monterey County Supervisor Jane Parker introduced speakers from local organizations including Rising International, Monterey County Free Libraries, and El Pajaro Community Development Corporation. Local women described how they've directly benefitted from each of these powerful programs. Paula Smith, a Rising Representative, spoke of the friendships she has made with women from all over the world and her ability to double her family's monthly income. Alejandra Zarazua was motivated to improve her literacy skills so that she could help

Right (l. to r.): Event speakers: Carmen Herrera-Mansir, Jayanti Addleman, Alejandra Zarazua, Kathleen Green, Paula Smith, Carmel Jud and Women's Fund Director Tobi Marcus.



Left: The Honorable Susan Dauphine, CSUMB President Dr. Dianne Harrison, Barbara Baldock, Supervisor Jane Parker

her children with homework. Time spent with her tutor and mentor has inspired her to reach beyond earning her GED to pursuing a degree in nursing. Kathleen Green told of the microloan that enabled her to launch a new product line and shared how her classmates helped her expand the vision for her business.

The attendees were clearly inspired and motivated by these stories, and a host of important connections were made that will continue to support women's economic empowerment.

Once again, through this event, we are reminded of the power of bringing together people with a common interest to make an investment in their community!

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*Margaret D'Arrigo-Martin and Jeri Gattis
enjoy Women's Fund book discussion.*

Woman to Woman

BY KIM BUI-BURTON
LIBRARY DIRECTOR, MONTEREY PUBLIC LIBRARY



When I'm asked why I give my money and time to the Women's Fund of Monterey County, I pause, dig past the easy answers and land on the deep, true ones.

I've lived on the Monterey Peninsula for 47 years. This is my home, and I hope never to leave. I've been loved and supported by wonderful women of all ages, cultures and backgrounds, in so many ways, through school, heartache and family tragedy, marriage, motherhood, divorce and career. Instead of giving back, though, I give for much more selfish reasons.

I hate waste, and I hate feeling helpless. I've worked throughout Monterey County—with teenage mothers struggling to learn how to read, with grandmothers raising their grandchildren because the parents have been deported, young girls shyly finding their way through puberty in a

house of silence, women surviving abuse, mothers trying to transition to life after prison with children they barely know. I don't want these lives to go to waste in the county I call my home.

As a donor to the Women's Fund, I invest in the lives of girls and women in Monterey County, and in their families, their businesses—growth for my chosen community. I don't have to feel helpless. I am part of the "world behind this one," as my poem for the mothers in the Salinas halfway house describes:

*There is a world behind this one
that we wake to every day,
sometimes the thought
comes too slow,
or the words barely arrive,
or a lifetime seems to pass, in the dark,
before we touch light.*



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To get involved, contact
Tobi Marcus, Director
831.375.9712 x125
tobi@cfmco.org

www.cfmco.org/womensfund