2015 Report to our Funders

Our mission is through collective philanthropy, the Fund for Women invests and advocates by bringing together our knowledge, passion, and commitment to empower women and girls in Delaware to achieve their potential. To accomplish this mission, FFW annually awards grants to organizations promoting women and girls in Delaware. Your contributions are tax deductible through our relationship with Delaware Community Foundation (DCF).

The Fund for Women was established in 1993 by 16 visionary First Founders who vowed to recruit 1,000 Founders, each contributing $1,000, to fund a $1 million endowment goal to be held at the Delaware Community Foundation. In 2009, the Fund for Women reached its original goal of 1,000 Founders and we continue to grow. Today, more than 1,500 women and men have become Founders and, thanks to their generosity and fundraising success, as of 3/31/15 the endowment exceeded $3.3 million due in part to the fundraising efforts of the Swingin’ With a Star (SWAS) Golf Tournament.

The Fund for Women is managed by a Board of Trustees made of women from all three counties of Delaware. We are committed to the principles of transparency, diversity, and good governance. We are an all-volunteer organization with the exception of a part time program support manager assisting with our fundraising activities.

New Founders
In our fiscal year 2014, we were pleased to have 180 new Founders join the Fund for Women. We are thrilled to continue to grow the Fund for Women and thank all of our Founders who work tirelessly for us to spread the word. For information about becoming a Founder go to www.DELCF.org/FFW.

Our Grant Profile
For over 20 years, the Fund for Women has been supporting the women and girls in Delaware and now have cumulatively awarded $2.1 million in grants. However, each year we have many more organizations applying for grants than we can fund. A grants committee, comprised of Founders, reviews the grant applications and recommends the grant awards. The graph below reflects the yearly distribution of grants amounts compared to the number of total grants distributed. This year we were able to draw less from the proceeds of our endowment and so we had a decline in the number of organizations we could fund. We are working hard to return to the higher level in 2016.
2015 Grant Recipients
In 2015, we are awarding $143,545.00 to thirteen nonprofits. **Statewide:** Child, Inc., $10,000.00; Children & Families First, $10,000.00; Delaware Hospice, $13,000.00; Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, $10,000.00; Ronald McDonald House of Delaware, $10,000.00; Survivors of Abuse in Recovery (SOAR), $14,970.00; and Wilmington Senior Center, $10,000.00. **Kent County:** Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity, Inc., $10,000. **New Castle County:** Family Promise of Northern NC County, $10,000.00; Friendship House, $8,000.00; and Goodwill of Delaware & Delaware County, $7,575.00. **Sussex County:** La Red Health Center, $15,000.00; and Sussex County Habitat for Humanity, $15,000.00.

Our grant applications open in early January each year. You can find information at DelCF.org/FFW.

Endowment
The Board of Trustees is committed to the growth of the Fund for Women’s endowment. Therefore our philosophy for withdrawals from our endowment, as stated in our Governing Guidelines, is “The corpus of the Fund Endowment will remain intact, with annual draws at the level recommended by the DCF to maintain the growth of the Fund relative to inflation.” In 2015 the level was 5% of the Fund balance over the previous rolling 12 quarters.

We are in the fifth year of our “Next Million Campaign” to continue to grow our endowment to be able to serve more women and girls in Delaware. The 2015 year is for the first 6 months of the fiscal year.

**New Funds Added to Endowment**

Operating Income and Expenses
While focusing on the “Next Million Campaign” the Board of Trustees is evaluating how to better balance revenue and expenses. We completed the FY2014 year with $22,676 in our operating account. Our FY2014 expenses of $35,803 exceeded our revenue of $25,907 by $9,896. Our model focuses on building our endowment and using our operating account to balance our budget. To that goal our operating account was at $42,113 at our nine month mark in 2015.

**2014-2015 Board of Trustees**
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The Fund for Women is an active member of the Delaware Grantmakers Association to ensure we are using best practices and to better understand the needs in the State of Delaware.