

Empowering girls and women

Fund for Women Holds Second Annual Brunch

More than 150 people gathered at the Radisson hotel in Corning on May 8th for the Fund for Women's second annual brunch. The event was an opportunity to celebrate the Fund's achievements, award this year's grants, and demonstrate solidarity in the effort to help women and girls in the local community to thrive.

Extraordinary Achievements, Ambitious Goals

Chair Rachel Wood told participants that the Fund had exceeded her expectations in the past two years. Key achievements include growing the endowment to \$320,000; increasing the number of Founders and Friends from 20 at the Fund's inception to more than 420 today; and, most importantly, awarding more than \$46,800 to girls, women, and non-profit organizations.



Merchandise sales raised \$950 for the Fund.

Wood also underscored the leadership's commitment to creating a more efficient and inclusive organizational structure. She laid out the Fund's goals for the coming year, which are to: grow the endowment to \$1 million in order to increase the support the Fund can provide; build the community by extending the Fund's geographic reach; and create an effective infrastructure. All these goals support the Fund's overarching mission of empowering women and girls to realize their potential.

On a more personal note, Wood explained why she helped start the Fund for Women. Sharing candid examples of challenges in her own life, Wood noted that financial resources, connections to medical experts, and the support of family and

friends made a tremendous difference. "Unfortunately," she said, "that same kind of support is not available for many women and girls in this area." She said her involvement with the Fund is simply "the right thing to do."

More than \$28K in Funding

Consistent with the Fund's mission, the day's main event was the presentation of \$28,600 in grants and special funding.



Sue Bleiler awards the Pamela Kish Grant.

Sue Bleiler kicked things off by presenting a \$10,000 donation to the Falck Cancer Center from the Pamela Kish Fund. Reflecting on her friendship with Kish, who lost her own battle with cancer last August, Bleiler told the audience, "She taught me that every day is a gift."

Continued on page 3

Centerpieces and favors echoed the education theme.



FFW Mission Statement

We help girls and women achieve economic self-sufficiency and realize life goals through funds and programs in the areas of education, health, wellness, career and life skills.

FFW Vision Statement

We live in a community of women empowered and equipped to realize their life goals.

FFW Steering Council

Rachel Wood, Chair
 Penny Gregg, Vice Chair
 Melanie Anastasio
 Nancy Andrews
 Kimberly Cutler
 Wei Gu
 Randi Hewit
 Carol McGill
 Deb Mills
 Ann Nicholson
 Missy Rittenhouse
 Amy Schwartz
 Chris Sharkey
 Bonnie Sirianni

The Fund For Women

**P.O. Box 777
 Corning, NY 14830**

The Community Foundation

**307B East Water Street
 Elmira, NY 14901**

Tel: 607-734-6412

Fax: 607-734-7335

Email: Fund4Women@Yahoo.com

FFW Web Site

www.communityfund.org/fund-for-women

We welcome your input! Send questions or comments about this newsletter and submissions for future issues to: allisstudio@allisstudio.com

FFW Bulletin Graphics/Layout

Alli's Studio

Content Editor

Judith Navoy

Photography

Michelle Neumayer Photography

Newsletter Sponsor

Workforce Development & Learning
 Corning, Inc.


Fund for Women was founded in 2009

**From the Leadership****Rachel Wood & Penny Gregg**

What another amazing year for the Fund! In the last twelve months, the Fund for Women has handily exceeded our annual goals for membership and endowment money. And most importantly, at our brunch in May we granted \$28,600 to girls, women, and non-profit organizations in our community!

We know that these results are made possible by the work of our members and our community friends. Each FFW committee has spent hours (days even) enthusiastically working on their specific objectives, enabling this collective result of empowering girls and women. Additionally, many local businesses and organizations have contributed time, space, and money to build awareness and grow community by hosting events and/or underwriting costs. Thank you to all of our members and community organizations for your generous support.

Looking ahead, our focus is twofold. First, to continue the momentum in building the endowment and membership. The endowment built by membership will provide the grants that enable girls and women in our community to attain their life goals. We also will focus on managing the "growing pains" associated with becoming a larger community. We will work tirelessly to ensure that we are inclusive and provide girls and women from diverse backgrounds opportunities to serve. We will continue to maintain a structure that is effective and efficient – one that serves the members and the community, while also conserving expenses. This fall the Fund will be electing the leadership position of Vice Chair. All Founders and Friends in good standing will receive ballots in early fall.

Again, thank you for a fantastic year, and here's to an even better one! 

Continued from p1...Fund for Women Holds Second Annual Brunch

Next, Missy Rittenhouse and Sara Palmer acknowledged the 2011 grant recipients. This year's grantees included 16 girls and women, most of whom are applying their grants toward college tuition, and six non-profit organizations offering programs in the areas of education, healthcare, and career development. The Fund also awarded seven grants from the Patricia Murphy Young Memorial Fund, which supports individuals and organizations in the field of community nursing.

"The quality of submissions this year was exceptional," said Palmer. "We were thrilled to be able to award grants to everyone who applied."

Stakeholders: In Their Own Words

Although there were only a handful of official speakers on the agenda, many more voices were represented, thanks to an "audio heirloom" created by Randi Hewit. In this special ten-minute audio presentation, members and grant recipients described the impact that the Fund for Women has had on their lives.

Twelve-year old Jayne Pomplas explained how she used her 2010 grant to take violin lessons and study traditional Irish music. Thanks to the Fund's support, she was able to travel to Ireland, where her talent earned her a silver medal at the prestigious All Ireland Fleadh Competition. "I continue to play violin every day, with several lessons a week to help me grow as a musician," said Pomplas.

Nilofer Hussein, a two-time grant recipient and nursing student, said, "The Fund for Women gave me hope." She told the audience, "When I am successful and I tell my story, the Fund for Women will be a huge part."

You can hear the full audio heirloom at www.communityfund.org/fund-for-women

2011-2012 Grant Recipients

Organizations

Career Development Council
Catholic Charities
Family Service Society
Health Ministry of the So. Tier
So. Tier Hospice & Palliative Care
YWCA of Elmira & the Twin Tiers

Individuals

Carey Andrews
Audrey Arnold
Cindy Atwell
Hannah Dennison
Jessica Ellis
Marissa Haight
Jennifer May Hayes
Samantha Hughey
Nilofer Hussain
Kayla Emo
Mackenzie Kriel
Autumn Rose Lester
Jessica Pollack
Jayne Pomplas
Maria Scuteri
Elizabeth Van Duyne

Patricia Murphy Young Memorial Fund for Community Nursing

Mary Ambrose
Bernadette Busch
Pamela Manktelow
Maryann Mineo
Patricia Terry
Kathy Tong
Health Ministry of the So. Tier

Pamela Kish Fund

Falck Cancer Center

Congratulations to all of our grant recipients!



Members network before and after the formal program at the FFW's second annual brunch.

A Look at Some of This Year's Grant Recipients

Kayla Emo

Reading a grant application is like stepping briefly into the life of another person. You might discover a story you relate to, feel thankful you've never faced the same challenges, or find yourself wishing you had the author's talent, strength, and drive.

Kayla Emo's grant application to the Fund for Women was a story that touched us all. Kayla, the daughter of a corn farmer and the oldest of six children, grew up on a small farm in Avoca. In January 2010, she traveled eight-thousand miles away to the small village of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with a team from her church. There, the young woman was overwhelmed by gaunt faces of all ages asking for food.

Kayla was so moved by her experience in Addis Ababa that she returned to Africa that summer to live in a village called Korah. Korah is one of the poorest places in all of Ethiopia—a leper colony of more than 75,000 people who are considered the outcasts of society. The people of Korah live with diseases including leprosy, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. They make their homes and find their food in a local trash dump.

While in Korah, Kayla worked with an organization that sponsors children to attend boarding school. She taught English in a pre-training camp to prepare the children for the school, where English is the primary language.

Kayla's experience inspired her to become a nurse. With the help of the Fund for Women, she will be doing just that. Next fall, she will attend Corning Community College as a third-year nursing student. Her dream after completing school is to return to Ethiopia.

Maria Scuteri

If you lived in Watkins Glen any time between the early 70s and late 90s, chances are you've heard of Scuteri's Restaurant. Better yet, you probably ate there...and if you didn't, you missed some of the best pizza and Italian dishes in the Southern Tier.

Maria Scuteri grew up knowing and loving the restaurant owned by her grandfather and managed by her father. Since Scuteri's closed in 1997, Maria has dreamed of re-opening her family's restaurant and resurrecting this local institution, which served up good times as well as good food.

But Maria's family went through a series of financial hardships that made that impossible. To make matters worse, her father was diagnosed with cancer and was out of work for nearly a year. But through it all, Maria pressed forward with her goal of one day becoming a chef.

Maria spent her last two years of high school studying culinary arts at GST BOCES. This fall, she will be attending Johnson & Wales University to obtain degrees in both culinary arts and food service entrepreneurship. With the encouragement of her high school guidance counselor, Maria applied for a Fund for Women grant. The Fund is pleased to help Maria realize her dreams of becoming a chef and reopening the restaurant that has meant so much to her family and the town.

Southern Tier Hospice & Palliative Care

Although all six of this year's non-profit grantees submitted very strong applications, one program stood out because it was so distinctive and touching.

Lost But Not Forgotten is a program of Southern Tier Hospice & Palliative Care in collaboration with the Rockwell Museum. This program draws upon the Mexican belief about Monarch butterfly migration to promote healing among teen girls and women who have experienced a difficult loss.

Hospice has been working to develop its perinatal bereavement program due to an increase in referrals to the organization by area hospitals and medical clinics. "Perinatal losses [the death of a baby shortly before or after birth] can be extremely complex, and we saw a real opportunity to explore this particular area of grief and loss," explained Chelsea Ambrose and Andrea Barber, bereavement social workers at Hospice.

Lost But Not Forgotten is a two-part program. Teen girls from the High School Learning Center in Corning, who have recently experienced a loss in their own lives, will begin the program this fall by working with hospice social workers to learn about the grieving process and the importance of support. Gigi Alvarez, director of education from the Rockwell Museum, will then share the folklore of the Monarch butterfly. Using art as a tool for grief management, the program culminates with the girls painting two canvasses reflecting the story of the butterfly. Each girl will keep one canvas for herself and pass the other on to a woman who has lost a baby, as a way to honor and keep the memories of their loved ones alive.

Our Endowment: What are Component Funds?

Many of us know the basic structure of our endowment, that it is a field of interest fund within the Community Foundation. The Community Foundation is like our bank—managing the money we put towards the endowment. Over the last two years, designations have been made to “component” funds. We now have three, described below.

Component funds allow donors who share our vision to create specific grant-making programs that more closely reflect their particular philanthropic goals. By partnering with the Fund for Women, these donors enjoy sharing their plans for strengthening the community with the FFW’s network of committed members and often find other donors eager to get involved in the work of their fund as well.

Patricia Murphy Young Fund

This fund was created by a FFW founder in memory of Patricia Murphy Young, R.N. Recipients of the annual grants must work, volunteer or be continuing



their education in the field of nursing.



Pamela Kish Fund

Several individuals and FFW members in our community made a one-time grant in memory of a community friend and educator, Pamela Kish, who lost her battle with breast cancer last August. A \$10,000 donation was made in her

memory at the Falck Cancer Center in Elmira. These funds will be used to support low-income women diagnosed with cancer.

Janet's Fund

Janet's Fund was established by the extended family of the late Leon “Ham” and Louise Barile Andrews in loving memory of their daughter. Janet was first and foremost a devoted and loving mother to her two



adoring daughters. Professionally, she was an award-winning middle school teacher, department head, and cheerleading coach for over two decades. Janet had the benefit of a supportive and loving family living in the same neighborhood as well as adequate resources. Her family wishes Janet's Fund to be another legacy in her name and a reminder that all women in transition need to be embraced by their community at large. These emergency funds will provide one-time “gap” assistance to help women facing a temporary financial emergency – e.g., payments for car, home, or insurance; money for groceries, interview clothing, or medicine.



Sherry Geary was the lucky raffle winner at the FFW's second annual brunch. This quilt, made from fabric featured in the center-pieces at last year's brunch, raised \$1,700 for the Fund.

Who makes up the Fund for Women?

The diversity of our membership enriches us as an organization because we can pool our talents and experiences to learn from each other and grow. In each newsletter, we'll give you a peek at some of the people who make the Fund for Women so special.

Member SPOTLIGHT



Wei Gu

Member since: December 2010

Job/Field of Study: Finance

Hobbies: Travel, playing piano

Reason for joining the Fund for Women: Utilize my professional skills to give back to the community.

Best advice ever received: "The woman of wisdom is never of two minds; the woman of benevolence never worries; the woman of courage is never afraid."

Wish for women and girls: Be independent and believe in ourselves.

Motto: If I put my heart into it, I can do anything.

Member SPOTLIGHT



Jackie Pope

Member since: October 2009

Job/Field of Study: Local business owner, Glass Menagerie

Hobbies: Reading, history, travel, architectural preservation

Reason for joining the Fund for Women: I've seen great potential in young women who fall between the cracks, and I wanted to join an organization that would help empower them. I also wanted to help the working poor, many of whom are single mothers. Finally, I joined for the camaraderie of like-minded women.

Best advice ever received: From my dad: "We are all caretakers during our time in this world. We have a responsibility to take care of what has been given for those who follow."

Wish for women and girls: Follow your heart and strive toward the passion in your soul.

FUND FOR WOMEN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 18, 2011	American Trail Horse Competition
September 21, 2011	Film Series movie, TBA
October 12, 2011	Annual Business Meeting
October 13, 2011	Canstruction @ Arnot Mall in support of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier
Oct 13-23, 2011	Canned Art Display @ Arnot Mall
November 16, 2011	Film Series movie, TBA
January 18, 2012	Film Series movie, TBA
February 24, 2012	A Not So Still Life with CMOG
March 21, 2012	Film Series movie, TBA
June 10, 2012	3rd Annual FFW Brunch



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

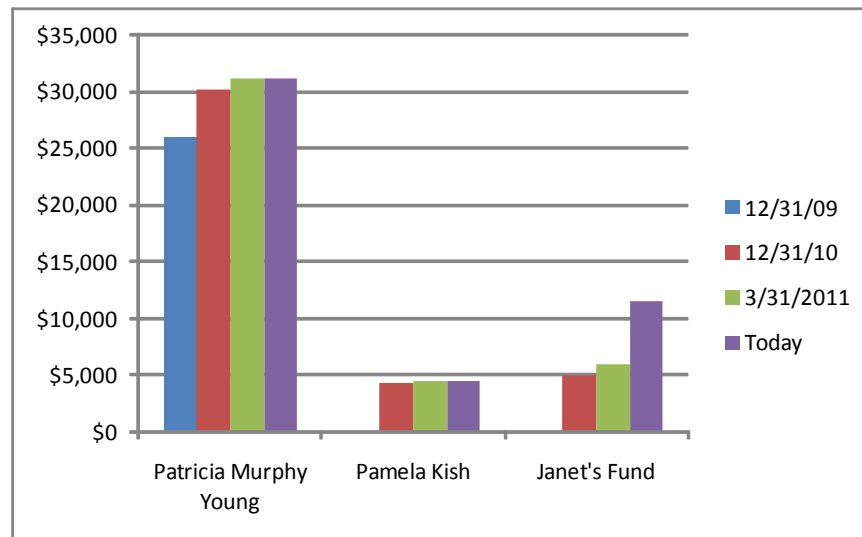
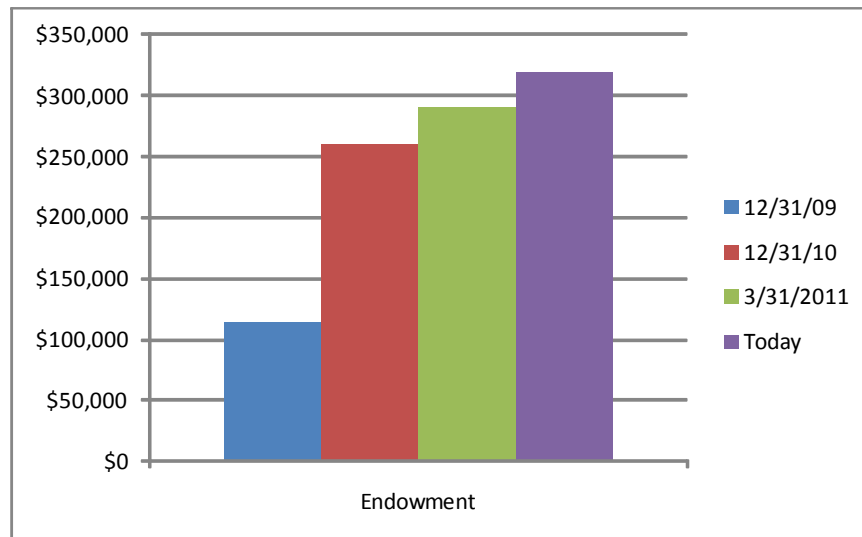
Open Position: Vice-Chair for the FFW

To review this volunteer position description and to submit your nomination, download the application at:
www.communityfund.org/fund-for-women

Deadline for submission: August 1, 2011

2010 Annual Financial Report

We are pleased to share the following financials highlighting the impact of the many donors who have helped us realize our goals. Through the generous contributions of individuals, businesses, and organizations in both money and services, we have succeeded in growing our endowment beyond the 2010 goal of \$250,000. Our membership doubled, with those monies going directly to the endowment. Our committees worked tirelessly to advance our mission of "living in a community of women empowered and equipped to realize their life goals." The Fund held several events to raise awareness, increase collaboration, and grow membership. And as you can see in the Operating Activities section, we accomplished that net cash positive! I hope you'll agree that we are off to a grand start.



Operating Activities	
	FY2010
INCOME	
Event Sales*	9,113
Auction	830
Donations (incl. startup)	8,998
Interest Income & Other	110
Total Income	\$19,051
EXPENSES	
Event Expenses**	(9,513)
Printing & Postage	(3,417)
Office Supplies & Other	(759)
Total Outflows	(\$13,689)
NET	\$5,362

*Event Sales include ticket and merchandise sales
 **Event Expenses include food/beverages, decoration, and merchandise purchases

Join The Fund For Women!

Please complete this form and return it to the address below.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

(NOTE: We do not share member information or email addresses with any other organization.)

Giving Categories

FOUNDER

- I will make a one-time gift of \$1,000
- I will make four (4) gifts of \$250; one per year for four years
- I want to arrange a payment schedule; please contact me
- I would like to make a gift of stock
- Other: _____

FRIEND

- I will make an annual gift of ___\$25, ___\$50, ___\$100, Other _____

FELLOW (For men who want to join.)

- I will make a one-time gift of \$1,000
- I will make four gifts of \$250; one per year for four years
- I will make an annual gift of ___\$25, ___\$50, ___\$100, Other _____

This donation is a gift. Please send a letter of acknowledgement to this recipient:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make every cent of your contribution count!

Donate online at www.communityfund.org/fund-for-women. A nominal fee will be deducted to offset the costs of credit card processing, but your donation is 100% tax-deductible. You may donate with a check if you prefer to avoid the fee. Please make checks payable to the Fund for Women.

I authorize the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc. to list my name as a Founder, Member or Fellow of the Fund for Women. I also understand that photographs taken at events or meetings may appear without compensation in print or electronic materials related to the Fund for Women.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please clip this form and return it to:

Fund for Women at the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes
307B East Water Street
Elmira, NY 14901

Thank you!



P.O. Box 777 • Corning NY 14830