



WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF GREATER SAINT LOUIS

Perspectives: The Newsletter of the Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis



The mission of The Women's Foundation of Greater Saint Louis is to be a catalyst for change in raising awareness and providing funding for women's issues using a collaborative philosophy.

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Dear Pat,

WFSTL board member Mary McMurtrey says that it's the best thing that's ever happened to her (besides her family)...What is it? RUNG, a boutique with women's clothing and accessories. The next time you see her and she looks fabulous, ask where the outfit is from. And what does this have to do with the Women's Foundation or women's issues? The proceeds from RUNG will benefit the Women's Foundation of Greater Saint Louis and help fund our grants to organizations working on women's needs.

Joan Esserman
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The Women's Foundation of Greater Saint Louis is affiliated with the national [Women's Funding Network](#), a group of funding organizations who are changing communities through thoughtful charitable investment.

The Foundation embraces diversity and supports a non-political agenda. The Foundation welcomes support from anyone who is committed to removing the societal and economic obstacles women sometimes face in the St. Louis region.

When Women and Girls Prosper, Communities

Thrive... When Communities Thrive, the World Becomes A Better Place for Everyone.

--- THE WOMEN'S FUNDING NETWORK

"Countries are more stable when women are economically and politically empowered."

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Oct.



Created by young entrepreneur Ali Kindle, RUNG has gently used clothing to help women climb the corporate ladder..."dress for the job that you want to have," is what her grandfather told her. We all know that nice clothes can cost more than we want to spend, but not at RUNG. Items are business casual to business cocktail (including jeans for those dress down days) and accessories...purses, jewelry and the like. This is women donating clothes, buying clothes and at the same time supporting organizations in the community that help women. It's full circle. And it's terrific. Stop by and take a look. Or as we now like to say, "Shop 'til you drop!"

RUNG: 9739 Manchester, just west of McKnight
(across from La Hacienda)

Open Tuesday through Friday, 10-6, Saturday from 10-5.
314-918-0575 / www.shoprung.org

Bring in your gently used items or email info@shoprung.org for a pickup. And bring your credit card or cash to take advantage of what might be one of the best things to happen to you.

Pat Rich, President

WOMEN MAKING CHANGE - Come be Inspired

How do you make decisions about charitable donations? A friend asks? The party sounds like fun? Tracy Gary, author of

31, 2008 - St. Louis

QUICK LINKS:
[Women's Funding Network](#)

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Inspired Philanthropy, suggests that many of us would like to see our philanthropic giving make transformational changes... changes that we think will help our community, our society or whatever your passion.

WFSTL is bringing Ms. Gary to St. Louis in October. While Tracy is here the Foundation will be hosting several events including a reception where she will speak to philanthropic values. We hope you will come and bring your friends and colleagues. To receive an invitation just e-mail us at wf_stl@yahoo.com. Please feel free to forward to a friend.

PERSPECTIVES

The statistics are staggering: violence against women is definitely increasing. Experts working to help these women explained the variety of issues women in an abusive relationship face at a meeting co-hosted by WFSTL and Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH).

Addressing the topic and its impact on our community at the April meeting were:

Jennifer Carter, MSW - Education Coordinator of the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, who cited the facts regarding the increase of violence against women. Underlying the violence is an effort to control and to demonstrate power on the part of the abuser. Entering into the equation are economic dominance and abuse, the need to have health insurance tied to the spouse's work, the lack of access to necessary dollars to get out of the relationship, as well as credit issues.

Erin Ercoline, MA - Executive Director, ALIVE, (women's shelter and provider of services to victims of domestic abuse and their children), who discussed helping women and their children in these violent situations, including a 24-hour crisis line.

Also participating in the panel were Kathleen Holmes, MPH, RN- Program officer at the Missouri Foundation for Health, whose organization supports programs that address domestic violence; and Zachary Wilson, MSW - Development Director at the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

An obvious conclusion: we have a lot to do to solve this problem. WFSTL is committed to continuing the conversation and facilitating change.

WFN CONFERENCE

WFSTL board members Jane Klieve and Pat Rich attended the Women's Funding Network International Conference in Denver in April. Attended by an inspiring group of some 300 women from around the world, the WFN has 160 member foundations circling the globe from the Midwest to Mongolia...literally.

Speakers highlighted the myriad of issues women and girls face.

Foundations are focusing on such issues as:

- Sex trafficking - The Atlanta Women's Foundation;
- Financial empowerment and how women who earn money use it to give their children an education and a better life - several African women's foundations.
- Housing - Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis, collaborating with the city of Memphis and many organizations including Urban Strategies, a St. Louis-based group.
- Financial education for women, starting with young girls - The Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City

Anna Deavere Smith, actress, activist and playwright, performed her monologue *The Woman Effect: Collected Stories*...very moving. Dr. Sally Roesch-Wagner, the executive director of the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation, shared Gage's story. Gage, who lived in the 1800s, is a frequently unrecognized progressive visionary of women's rights and social change. Dr. Roesch-Wagner performed in vintage dress and talked about the issues of that day including women's right to vote, slavery and sex trafficking. Who knew? The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Time for networking, one-on-one conversations about issues affecting women's funds and their work were predominate areas of discussions. As one fellow conference attendee said, "So exciting; it's exhausting!" And much food for thought for what we can do in St. Louis.

New Board Members

WFSTL's board members and donors are the driving force behind the only local organization dedicated to creating change for the women and girls in our region. We are proud to welcome five volunteers who will join the WFSTL board of directors in June.

Each has taken an active role in our programs and projects. All are committed to women's issues.

They are:

- * Diane Drollinger, chair of our communications committee;
- * Joan Esserman, member of our grants committee;
- * Robbye Frank, who hosted the Perspectives "Women Making Change" program;
- * Agnes Garino, our newsletter editor; and
- * Julia Muller, who spearheaded our last Perspectives program, Violence Against Women.

We deeply appreciate the many hours these women have already committed to WFSTL's work and mission and look forward to their service on the board.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please email me at wf_stl@yahoo.com.

GIVE

Do you care about women and girls in the Greater St. Louis region? Do you want to be part of the *only* foundation in our area whose giving goes exclusively to organizations working on women's issues?

Honor the special women and girls in your life with a gift to the Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis. It's the gift that keeps on giving!

Visit [our website](#) to make your gift today.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested in the Women's Foundation.