



# The Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona

*Fostering equity and opportunity for women and girls.*



SUMMER 2011

## *Robidoux & Silverman:*

### “We heard the call for social change”

More than 750 people celebrated the Women's Foundation's visionary co-founders Melody Robidoux and Harriet Silverman at WFSA's 18th annual luncheon in April.

Recalling the Foundation's inception, Harriet noted, “Twenty years ago, Southern Arizona had the highest default of spousal support and the highest teen pregnancy record, among other social concerns. We heard the call for social change and the Women's Foundation was born.”

“It was exciting to see so many women in Tucson who were eager to get involved in raising money specifically to improve the lives of women and girls,” Melody added. Thanks to those women, and thousands of other individuals, the Women's Foundation has awarded more than \$1.7 million to 173 southern Arizona organizations serving women and girls, including our 2011 grantees (see pages 3-4).

While honoring the past, the luncheon also celebrated the future. Jessica Hammond

spoke about her journey from being a GED student to being a GED tutor for other women in her southside neighborhood, thanks to support from WFSA's grantee partner, the **Literacy for Life Coalition**. Kristen K., a domestic violence survivor, also has gone from being a program participant to an instructor in the **Manos Amigas** Poverty to Payroll program for other women who fled abusive relationships.

Unidas participants Dari Zwart, Carmen Orozco and Priscilla Beck announced their 2011 grantee, the **Southern Arizona Center Against Sexual Assault's** Youth Advocacy Program. These amazing young women spoke movingly about their participation in Unidas, inspiring a standing ovation from the audience. Unidas is the Foundation's philanthropy program for girls.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our 20th anniversary celebration a success – sponsors, supporters and the 2011 luncheon committee: co-chairs Sonja Brown and Rachel Gelbin, Diane Dvoskin, Sharon Eaker, Sandy Hogan, Marsha Jacquay, Laura Nance, Susan Parker-Hotchkiss and Claudia Torres.



Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona co-founders Harriet Silverman (left) and Melody Robidoux were honored at the WFSA 18th Annual Luncheon. See more photos on page 4.

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The mission of the Women's F

# Unidas

## Girls Leading Through Philanthropy

By Darijn Zwart, Unidas Co-facilitator



This year's Unidas team has taken leadership through several transformations – a key one is Girls Fly! an event that Unidas co-hosted on Saturday May 7. Each Unidas girl was responsible for hosting an activity – aviation, equestrian, athletics, or the arts – in which participants had the chance to engage in something they might never have done before and connect with people from all walks of life. In the afternoon two Unidas girls introduced one of the keynote speakers and in the process had the opportunity to bring the public speaking skills they have been working on to life. Overall, Girls Fly! was a big accomplishment for Unidas but also a milestone for each individual girl involved as she got a chance to shine.

The planning and implementation of the event was done in unison with the annual grant-making process, in which Unidas chose teen abuse as their funding focus and selected SACASA's teen advocate program as their grantee. After a year of teambuilding and new experiences, the Unidas girls graduated on Saturday May 14. Family members came together to support their daughters, granddaughters and sisters, and celebrate their achievements. Through a pair of interactive activities, family members got to experience what it is like to be a part of Unidas.

The 2010-2011 Unidas participants were Elise Bailey, Alexis Beaver, Priscilla Beck, Alexis Freeman, Ceila Maunwaring, Carina Melgarejo, Carmen Orozco, Elaya Skinner and co-facilitator, Daijn Zwart.

*After a summer hiatus, Unidas will return in the fall of 2011. If you know a high-school-aged girl who might be interested in enrolling in this award-winning after-school program, or for more information, please contact Laura Penny at 520-622-8886.*

## Girls' Endowment Close to Meeting Financial Challenge

In 2010, the Lovell Foundation challenged Unidas to establish southern Arizona's first endowment solely dedicated to girls' leadership and philanthropy – if we could raise \$25,000, the Lovell Foundation would match it.

We enthusiastically launched a campaign that, to date, has raised more than \$21,000 for the endowment.

**Now we need your help to meet our goal!** Please consider a gift to our endowment to support future generations of girls to be confident, compassionate leaders and grant-makers. Our secure website, [www.womengiving.org](http://www.womengiving.org), makes it easy. Or, you can send a check to the Foundation office at 2250 E. Broadway Blvd, 85719.

With your support, we know we can be successful!

# Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona

## 2010-2011 Annual Grants

### LITERACY FOR LIFE COALITION\*

#### Women's Literacy Network

The ultimate vision of the Women's Literacy Network (WLN) is for women to increase their social and economic capital. The WLN provides opportunities, training, and support for women to serve as leaders and agents of change in their families and neighborhood communities.



Literacy For Life Coalition

WLN participants develop marketable skills that transfer to the workplace, enabling families to improve their quality of life. Neighborhood women inspire, teach and support other neighborhood women, setting up a dynamic whereby women in the Sunnyside neighborhood become empowered. With funding from WFSA in year one, this program now has a solid foundation and with a second year of funding, will continue to build on this vision.

### INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE TUCSON

#### The Refugee Well-Being Project

The Refugee Well-Being Project serves all refugee women in the community, and seeks to 1) raise awareness regarding women's issues and community resources, 2) build skills that are critical to becoming a thriving American and 3) empower refugee women and their daughters to advocate for themselves. The Refugee Well-Being Project utilizes the *promotora* model in which successfully resettled refugee women (Well-Being Promoters) work with newly arrived women from their own culture to teach financial literacy, household management, and how to access services such as education, healthcare, and parenting support.



### ACCIÓN\*

#### Creating Systemic Change for Southern Arizona's Women Entrepreneurs

This program will increase access to business credit, make loans and provide training to women entrepreneurs who face barriers to securing the financial resources they need.

ACCIÓN utilizes its micro-loans to provide both the financial capital to fuel a small business and a hands-on opportunity for



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financial literacy training around business and personal development opportunities. With this grant, ACCIÓN will issue 45 loans totaling \$270,000 to women entrepreneurs helping to support the creation and/or maintenance of 72 jobs provided by these businesses.

### CHICANOS POR LA CAUSA

#### Young Women's Literacy and Empowerment Project

The Young Women's Literacy and Empowerment Project is an after-school program which is both school and community-based. The program will serve 30 young women ages 14-18, four days a week from 3pm-5pm. The first hour will be focused on educational objectives and the second will be dedicated to social awareness of women's issues through hands-on training and civic engagement. These young women, along with tutors, will address educational objectives and then engage in service learning activities with organizations dedicated to women's issues to develop young women's educational competence and self-empowerment.



Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.

A PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY

Thank you to the following individuals who served on our 2011 Grants Allocation Committee: Stephen Cornell, Chair; Alexa Aaronson, Bonnie Aaronson, Abra McAndrew, Marie McDermott, Edna Meza Aguirre, Deb Turner, Roxanne Veliz, Nancy Weeks, Sharhonda Woods and Dari Zwart.

\*Founders' Award, as designated by WFSA founders Melody Robidoux and Harriet Silverman, for exemplifying the mission of WFSA.

# Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona

## 2009-2012 Equity & Opportunity Fund Grants

In an effort to have a greater community impact with its grant-making dollars, the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona in 2009 established a multi-year pilot initiative addressing women's needs around economic self sufficiency. The initiative, called the Equity and Opportunity Fund, is based on the belief that women offered financial literacy training and other forms of self sufficiency opportunities will be better equipped to provide for themselves and their families on a long-term basis. Specifically, the initiative strives to build the long-term economic security and financial independence of low-income, women-headed families. July 1, 2011 marks the beginning of the final year of WFSA's inaugural Equity and Opportunity Fund grants.

### NEW BEGINNINGS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

#### ELEVATE: Women's Economic Empowerment Network

ELEVATE is a framework for helping low-income women achieve their financial goals by combining education and supportive services with a network of specialists who enable them to take actions that accelerate change. Progress is reinforced through purpose-driven clubs that also help break the isolation of poverty. The program is a loop that constantly incorporates new information, participants and alliances, ultimately engaging successful participants as change agents for new clients.



### PRIMAVERA FOUNDATION

#### Her Family

Primavera's HomeOwnership Program serves women and their families whose annual incomes are at or below 110% of the area median income. *Her Family* expands this initiative to provide financial empowerment services to single, head-of-household mothers and their daughters. Primavera not only provides opportunities for homeownership for these mothers through financial education courses, homeownership education courses, one-on-one credit counseling, and down-payment assistance, but goes a step further and directly empowers the next generation of women, their daughters, through a series of age-appropriate financial courses and savings incentives.



### WFSA 18th Annual Luncheon

LEFT: Brenda Koedyker & former WFSA Executive Director Carol Sack

BELOW LEFT: Brint Milward & Meredith Hay

BELOW RIGHT: Wanda Moore & Dianne Grobstein



# MISSION

Foundation of Southern Arizona is to foster equity and opportunity for women and girls.

## Thanks to Our Donors!

The Women's Foundation acknowledges these tribute and memorial gifts received between March 1, 2011 and May 15, 2011:

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Tucson, AZ 85719  
(520) 622.8886  
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