WITH BUFFALO’S HIGH POVERTY RATE AND THE NUMBER OF SINGLE MOTHERS RAISING CHILDREN ON THEIR OWN, WE MUST BREAK THE CYCLE IN ORDER TO BUILD A THRIVING COMMUNITY FOR US ALL. EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE ARE KEY COMPONENTS. THE WNY WOMEN’S FOUNDATION HAS PINPOINTED THE GREATEST NEEDS OF SINGLE MOTHER FAMILIES AND IS DILIGENTLY WORKING TO TRANSFORM THE SYSTEM.”

SUE GARDNER, ESQ., KAVINOKY & COOK, EMERITUS BOARD MEMBER

RESEARCH HAS ALREADY SHOWN THAT WOMEN ARE THE “ADMINISTRATORS” IN THE FAMILY. THEY MAKE THE HEALTH APPOINTMENTS AND TAKE THE MAJORITY OF THE DAYS OFF WHEN CHILDREN ARE ILL. AS A COMMUNITY, I BELIEVE WE NEED TO SUPPORT FAMILIES WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THEIR CHILDREN. ALL OF US CAN CONTRIBUTE AT LEAST ONE OF THESE THREE THINGS TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY BETTER: TIME, TALENT OR TREASURE.”

ELLEN GRANT, PHD, CITY OF BUFFALO, BOARD MEMBER

25% OF CHILDREN LIVE AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE IN ERIE & NIAGARA COUNTIES
In our first year as an independent organization, we were driven by the fact that 18% of women and girls live in poverty in the region we are all proud to call home. The same drive led to our formation 13 years ago, when a group of influential women saw the need for a philanthropic organization committed to women and girls in our community as a way to significantly impact poverty. That is still why we are still here today, to work towards economic self-sufficiency for all women and girls in Western New York and, along with others, to help the region become a vibrant, thriving community with opportunity for all.

2012 was a groundbreaking year in the history of the WNY Women’s Foundation. Building on the initial vision of our founders, many of whom remain engaged with the Foundation today, with the support of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County and the Community Foundation for Buffalo, we have completed the transformation to an independent Foundation. The transition to independence was not just a matter of changing our name and logo. It was a matter of diligence and work of the Board and Staff to build a new entity based on the existing one. The strategic plan for the organization called for the transition to independence to enable us to not only invest in programming, but to invest in advocacy work and to act as an independent partner in collaboration with philanthropic partners, business leaders, politicians and other community leaders. We are thankful for and excited about this new phase in our history.

As you will see in this report, the Foundation Board is committed to providing leadership and funding in three strategic areas: Out-Of-School-Time, Quality Childcare and Family Sustaining Jobs; all working directly and collectively toward improving the economic self-sufficiency of women and girls. Our advocacy efforts will enhance our investments and enable them to succeed even further. In our first year of independence we increased our presence and agenda from WNY to DC, strengthened community dialogue through our speaker series and achieved significant increase in public engagement.

All of our efforts stem from the Pathways to Progress report which we released in 2010. This groundbreaking study was the first region-wide assessment of the status of women and girls in our community. It answers the question: "If I have a dollar to invest in women and girls, where should the investment be made?" It still is our call to action and guides the work you will read about in this report and our work going forward.

Yet, it is stories from the women and girls that we serve which fuels the passion for our work. A recipient of our investments in the program Assets for Independence wrote us, “I want to thank the program for helping me transform my life. Because of your support, I am feeling strong and heading in an upward direction, one goal at a time.”

We are proud of what we were able to accomplish in 2012 and we have you to thank for that. We hope you are as proud of our work as we are. You have made it possible. Thank you for your generosity. Together, we are one step closer to transforming our community by focusing on the future for women and girls.
WHAT IS OUR VISION?
A community in which all women and girls have the opportunity to thrive.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?
To remove roadblocks and provide opportunities to enable women and girls to become self-sufficient. We believe that when women and girls are secure, entire communities are stronger.

HOW DO WE DO OUR WORK?
• **Research** the status of women and girls in our community.
• **Invest** donor resources to mobilize seed funding for innovative programming.
• **Lead** collaborations to develop groundbreaking solutions to be a catalyst for social change.
• **Educate** the community and donors about issues and solutions facing women and girls.
• **Advocate** for public policy changes that support our mission and vision.

The Foundation is a member of the Women’s Funding Network, an organization of over 135 Women’s Funds across the globe, representing over $450 million in assets. Together, we are working together to create an international movement towards improving the lives of women and girls.

WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS DOES THE WNY WOMEN’S FOUNDATION SUPPORT?
Since 1999, we have invested in initiatives that support adolescent educational opportunities, quality childcare, and access to human services and training. We currently provide leadership and funding for innovative and best-practice models that strive for both short and long-term impact within the following three strategic areas based on our Pathways to Progress report:

1. Affordable, accessible, quality childcare
2. Family sustaining jobs for women and their families
3. Excellence in out-of-school time programs

All of our initiatives have a direct impact on improving economic self-sufficiency of women and girls. The Foundation is a member of the Women’s Funding Network, an organization of over 135 Women’s Funds across the globe, representing over $450 million in assets.
BUILDING ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY THROUGH FOCUSED INVESTMENTS

59% Adolescent educational opportunities
32% Quality child care
9% Access to human services & training

Investments 1999-Current

18% OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE IN OUR REGION

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Collaboration is key to our success. We work side-by-side with community-based groups to leverage skills and expertise to make the most impact with our investments. We know that the way to a strong, healthy Western New York is to work together to achieve common goals.

Boys and Girls Club of Buffalo
Buffalo Museum of Science
Buffalo Prep
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Buffalo State College
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Canisius College
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Child Care Resource Network City of Buffalo
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Neighborhood Legal Services
Niagara County Community College
Northwest Buffalo Community Center
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NYS Department of Labor
Read to Succeed Buffalo
Say Yes to Education Buffalo
Seneca Babcock Community Association
The Belle Center
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University at Buffalo
Westminster Foundation-Buffalo Promise Neighborhoods
In January 2010, the WNY Women’s Foundation released the Pathways to Progress for the Women & Girls of Western New York report, the first region-wide assessment of the status of women and girls. The report provides a roadmap for removing barriers facing women and girls. It also provided a set of data-driven indicators as mileposts for tracking progress in the status of women and girls and monitored investment impact.

Pathways to Progress presents the status of the region’s 582,102 women and girls using the metaphor of the “pathway” to portray sometimes steady and sure, but often bumpy and obstacle-ridden, journeys. Along the way are prime opportunities to intervene and smooth pathways toward stronger outcomes. The report focuses on the pathways of five hypothetical women and girls at a crossroads in their lives. For these women, strategic investment can remove roadblocks, advance their pathways to success, and help the region leverage their full potential. These pathways are defined broadly to encompass the full diversity of WNY women and girls as personified by the following fictional profiles:

**MARIA** is an adolescent girl among the region’s 35,000 girls age 10-14 who are entering the difficult, transitional stage from childhood to adulthood, a period of self-discovery, growth and potential, and the launching pad for lifelong success. She is the future of WNY.

**GINA** is a single mother among the 17,000 WNY women raising children on their own and living in poverty. While she represents the face of impoverished families in WNY, she also offers a critical opportunity to build economic security for families and disrupt a perpetuating cycle of poverty.

**FRANCINE** is a victim of intimate partner violence suffering among the nearly 5,400 cases of intimate partner violence against women in WNY in 2008. Thousands more are never reported. She represents the pervasive problem of violence against women and an opportunity to thrust what is often treated as a private matter into the regional spotlight to reshape attitudes, heighten attention from leaders and commit to prevention.

**BARBARA** is an aspiring leader among the 99,000 professional women in WNY, Barbara has the potential to contribute to a more balanced voice in the policies and practices shaping life in WNY, whether through public office, top-level management or civic engagement.

**MRS. WILLIAMS** is a senior woman and one of 60,000 women age 75+ in WNY, part of the region’s growing population of frail elders. With women outliving men, the challenges of frailty, from isolation to poor health, are disproportionately experienced by women, making Mrs. Williams the litmus test for an elder-friendly region that can support and leverage the contributions of its growing senior population.

**THE TOTAL INVESTMENT AMOUNT OF ACTIVE PROGRAMS IN 2012 WAS $399,718 TOWARD REMOVING ROADBLOCKS FACING MARIA AND GINA IN THREE KEY STRATEGIC AREAS OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME, QUALITY CHILD CARE, AND FAMILY SUSTAINING JOBS.** The Foundation is committed to continuing to invest in these strategic areas as they work directly and collectively towards improving the economic self-sufficiency of women and their children.
FOCUS AREA: MARIA  AN ADOLESCENT GIRL
REMOVING ROADBLOCKS: OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME

Out-of-school-time provides opportunities for Buffalo Public School students’ to attend a quality Out-of-school-time program – a leverage point for removing roadblocks to academic success. Further, the program provider follows a universal program quality standard that offers a wide array of enrichment and learning opportunities.

INVESTMENT: NORTH WEST BUFFALO COMMUNITY CENTER | $276,068*
PROGRAM: AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING @ BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL #59

Our pilot after-school program at Buffalo Public School #59, the Dr. Charles R. Drew Magnet School, is based on a national best practice model. The program, run by our partner, the Northwest Buffalo Community Center, with support from the Buffalo Public Schools, successfully enrolled 100 fifth through seventh grade. The initiative has illustrated significant improvements toward student attendance and performance, as well as exposure to different challenges and learning opportunities. The initiative also involves creating and implementing a quality measurement tool and professional development program that encourages programs to focus on the quality of experiences students have in after school and summer programs. As part of the initiative, we introduced a nationally recognized assessment tool, Youth Program Quality Intervention, to analyze after school programs.

WHAT IS OUR IMPACT?

- 100% students enrolled advanced to the next grade level.
- 79 students out of 100 enrolled maintained or increased classroom grades.
- 89 students out of 100 enrolled increased English/language arts skills.
- 77 out of 100 enrolled maintained or increased math skills.
- The program will continue to be supported by NWBCC through 21st century funding.

*Total investment for 2012-2013 program year

FOCUS AREA: GINA  A SINGLE MOTHER LIVING IN POVERTY
REMOVING ROADBLOCKS: CHILD CARE

Quality child care helps to improve affordability, quality and accessibility of child care available for low-income households – a leverage point in removing roadblocks to poverty. Ensuring reliable, quality childcare helps women continue to remain employed and feel that their children are in a safe and nurturing environment.

INVESTMENT: RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK | $65,000*
PROGRAM: QUALITYSTARSNY

QUALITYstarsNY is New York State’s quality improvement and rating system for early childhood programs. It is designed to recognize programs that demonstrate quality above and beyond meeting New York’s strong regulatory standards. QUALITYstarsNY helps to improve program quality by making assessments that are research-based and then providing supports such as technical assistance and professional development in line with a quality improvement plan. The quality of participating programs are measured at five levels – One-Star to Five-Stars – and are communicated to the public to support families in their search for early childhood services. The Research Foundation of CUNY, supported the QUALITYstarsNY initiative’s progress, monitored and analyzed the data implementation on a statewide effort.

WHAT IS OUR IMPACT?

- Increased the number of child care sites participating from 20 to 58.
- Manage program provider’s participation: independent observations conducted using best-practice tools.
- 88% of providers are on target with their quality improvement plans.
- Continue to educate the community about program.
- Established a leadership learning community for others to continue to improve and to learn from each other.

*Total investment for 2011-2012 program year
FOCUS AREA: GINA  A SINGLE MOTHER LIVING IN POVERTY

REMOVING ROADBLOCKS: CHILD CARE

Family Sustaining Jobs have the ability to reduce barriers to single, female heads of households’ seeking education and employment – leading to investments in home and small business growth – a leverage point in removing roadblocks to poverty.

INVESTMENT: BELMONT HOUSING RESOURCES FOR WNY | $58,650*

PROGRAM: ASSETS FOR INDEPENDENCE

The Assets for Independence Program supported the establishment of Individual Development Accounts (IDA) and provided women with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level with various supports and training to assist with saving toward asset acquisitions of a home or small business.

WHAT IS OUR IMPACT?

86 WOMEN PARTICIPATED IN THE IDA MATCHED SAVINGS PROGRAM

OF THE 86 SAVERS, 49 HAVE REACHED THEIR GOAL:

• 44 Have purchased a home
• 5 have started their own business
• 36 are currently saving in their accounts for their home purchase
• 1 woman is currently saving for her small business start-up.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 86
AMOUNT SAVED: $76,826.23
SAVINGS + MATCH FOR ASSET: $220,000.00
PER DOLLAR INVESTED: $23.52

*TOTAL INVESTMENT FOR 2011-2012 PROGRAM YEAR

"THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM AT THE DR. CHARLES R. DREW SCHOOL OF SCIENCE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE DAY FOR MANY STUDENTS AND AN ASSET TO THE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC LEARNING. THERE WERE SEVERAL STUDENTS IN MY MATH CLASSES THAT WERE FALLING BEHIND AND AT RISK OF FAILING. HOWEVER, WITH THE HELP OF MISS TIFFANY AT THE PROGRAM THESE STUDENTS ARE NOW CAUGHT UP ON THEIR WORK AND TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS ON A REGULAR BASIS." MS. WENDY M. CASEY MATHEMATICS TEACHER, 7TH AND 8TH GRADE

FAMILIES IN POVERTY IN WNY ARE HEADED BY SINGLE WOMEN, WITH POVERTY LEVELS AMONG THIS POPULATION RISING OVER THE PAST DECADE
LIFELONG GIVING CIRCLES

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Sherry Sutton
Trina Tardone
Donna Valentine
Christa Vidaver
Mark Walter
Nancy Ware
Marilyn Wilson
Carolyn Wrinn
Mary Ann Zielinski

FALL IN FASHION
IN-KIND DONORS

Mia Acharya
Karen Baker-Levin
Alison Basil
Amy Bueme
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Candace Darby
Caitlin DeRose
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Tony Walker & Co.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO ENSURING THE
ACCURACY OF OUR DONOR INFORMATION.
TO CHANGE OR UPDATE YOUR NAME, PLEASE
CONTACT US AT 716-887-2621 OR EMAIL
LINDSAY@WNYWFDN.ORG

“I am privileged to write in support of the after
school program located at BPS School #59. During
the time my child has been in the program, which
is since it began, I have witnessed her tremendous
growth and development. Her homework has
improved and also her grades.
My child’s development came not only in the area
of academic achievement but in leadership and
character as well. My daughter has quickly learned
to manage her time, work in group situations
under strict deadlines, and has
recognized the importance of a
strong work ethic, persistence
and intellectual integrity.”

Ms. Frazier School #59 Parent
SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our belief in partnerships extends to our co-funding investment models as well as our endowment at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. As one of 750 different charitable funds benefitting Western New York at the Community Foundation, together we will make the lives of women and girls in our community better.

BALANCE SHEET  December 31, 2012

ASSETS:
CASH $425,714
PLEDGE RECEIVABLE 64,755
ASSETS HELD IN TRUST 1,058,170
OTHER ASSETS, NET 3,005

$1,551,644

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS LIABILITIES:
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES $20,140
REFUNDABLE ADVANCES 8,500

28,640

NET ASSETS:
UNRESTRICTED 1,423,004
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED 100,000

1,523,004

$1,551,644
WHY WOMEN & GIRLS?
WHY WESTERN NEW YORK?
WHY NOW?

Women are the key to creating lasting change in the community.

When a woman is economically self-sufficient, she is able to uplift her family, her neighbors, and her community. When women falter, the region falters. When women thrive, the region thrives.

When you give to the WNY Women’s Foundation, you are investing in research, collaboration, and programs that help women improve their lives, creating stronger families, stronger communities and a better Western New York for us all.

GIVE TODAY!
www.wnywomensfoundation.org

“QualitystarsNY has provided us with another way to assess what we do, make improvements, and give feedback to the state about the process. Working with a consultant has proven to be invaluable especially when combined with funding for staff training and materials.”
Ms. Barbara Stone Reden, MEd Director of Early Childhood Services Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo
Get involved & spread the word!

👩‍💼 WNY Women’s Foundation   📞 @WNYWomensFndn
WNYWomensFoundation.org

WNY Women’s Foundation, Inc. * 742 Delaware Avenue * Buffalo, NY 14209 * 716-887-2621