A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Working together, collaboration, partnership – these are some of the buzzwords we hear in our Western New York philanthropic community. No single organization can foster the changes we are all working towards in our region. **We strive daily to do our part, pursuing the mission and vision of the WNY Women’s Foundation in concert with work that others are doing to make a difference.**

2013 saw the commencement of our third major programmatic initiative – the **MOMS: From Education to Employment** program in partnership with Niagara County Community College, our first investment in Niagara County. This program, providing support and guidance to single mothers working towards credentials that will qualify them for a family sustaining job, began with an initial goal of enrolling 50 single mothers in the first academic year. We not only enrolled 83 single mothers; the initial outcomes achieved were even more positive than expected. We have exciting plans to expand the reach of this program in the near future – impacting more single mothers and families.

The MOMS program demonstrates the approach we take to tackling issues facing women and girls – bringing focus to an issue, doing the research, and convening community partners and funders to understand how we can work together to create change, both on a systemic level and in the lives of individual women and girls.

As you will see in this Annual Report, the WNY Women’s Foundation has demonstrated exciting growth. 2013 marked our strongest fundraising results to date and our impact in the Western New York region is spreading. **The incredible support from all of our donors in 2013 is confirmation of the passion in our community behind the WNY Women’s Foundation charge of changing the story for women and girls; helping women and girls improve their lives, achieve their dreams and through these changes, creating a stronger, more vibrant WNY community.** We are honored to have the opportunity to work with all of you in making this happen. Thank you.
WHY WNY WOMEN’S FOUNDATION?

We focus our work and our funding solely on improving the lives of women and girls. Buffalo is the 4th poorest city in the nation – with surrounding communities also struggling. The majority of families living under the poverty line in Western New York have single moms as the head of the household, and these moms need good paying jobs to move their families out of poverty. When women get the tools they need to land a job with a family-sustaining wage, and children have somewhere safe and productive to be while their mom’s are at work, our community gains more contributors to the economy.

All of our initiatives have a direct impact on improving self sufficiency of women and girls. Women are the key to creating sustainable change in our region. When you help a woman out of poverty - you change the future for her family and our community.

WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS DOES THE WNY WOMEN’S FOUNDATION SUPPORT?

Since 1999, we have invested over $1.2 Million in initiatives that support and leverage support for adolescent educational opportunities, quality child care, and access to human services and training. We currently fund innovative and best-practice models that provide both short and long-term impact within the following three leverage points based on our Pathways to Progress report:

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

BUILDING ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY THROUGH FOCUSED INVESTMENTS

Investments 1999-Current

56% Adolescent educational opportunities
8% Quality childcare
35% Access to human services & training

OUR VISION

is a community in which all women and girls have the opportunity to thrive.

OUR MISSION

is 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.
The founders of the WNY Women’s Foundation began this organization for one simple reason – as community leaders, they were not seeing significant amounts of funding directed towards women and girls needs specifically. Fast forward to today and the research and need for investing in women and girls as a critical piece in the success of our region is acknowledged.

Our Emeritus Board, many of whom are founders, and the current Board of Directors make-up an impressive group who demonstrate unwavering support for our mission. **We are fortunate to have their support in advocating for and investing in women and girls our region and thank each for their time, energy, expertise, and passion.**

**2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Marsha Henderson

Cheryl Howe

Hodan Isse
Countless volunteers and committee members make-up our Foundation. We know that when women work together, they can accomplish anything they put their minds to. Some have ideas; some have technical expertise; some have financial means; and some an intimate knowledge of what it takes to make the difference, because we endure and experience it in our everyday lives. All this human capital is essential to fulfilling our mission.

"I believe that when women are economically independent, their families flourish, and when families flourish the entire Community flourishes. The WNY Women’s Foundation is a group of committed women reaching out to help other women, and I am proud to be a part of them."

ANNE SALDANHA, M.D., FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER

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Executive Director

Misha J. Russo
Director of Development & Communications

Lindsay M. Gallson
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Kristin Somers
Michele Trolli
Sujata Yalamanchili
2013 GRANTEE PARTNERSHIPS: MEASURING OUR IMPACT

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.

To guide our work, we and many of our partners, use our Pathways to Progress Report which presents the status of the region’s 582,102 women and girls. By using the metaphor of the “pathway” to portray the sometimes steady and sure, but often bumpy and obstacle-ridden journey, 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.

**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.

**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, who need support in its growing senior population.

**FRANCINE**
is a victim of intimate partner violence suffering among the thousands in WNY. 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 and 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.

**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.

**BENEFICIARY**
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.

**2013 GRANTEE PARTNERSHIPS:**

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IN 2013, THE FOUNDATION DIRECTLY INVESTED $341,631 TOWARD REMOVING ROADBLOCKS FACING MARIA AND GINA IN THREE KEY STRATEGIC AREAS OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME, QUALITY Childcare, AND FAMILY SUSTAINING JOBS. OUR EDUCATIONAL AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS ACCOUNT FOR A MUCH GREATER INVESTMENT IN CHANGING THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN WESTERN NEW YORK.
GRANTEE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:
NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MAPPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOTHERS (MOMs): FROM EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT

- Reduce barriers to education & family sustaining work
- The challenges faced by single moms to succeed in college – juggling child rearing, finding quality and affordable child care, time management, managing finances when policies reduce benefits, a limited support network, and running a household - cannot be overcome alone.

In September 2013, we initiated a partnership with Niagara County Community College (NCCC) to create the MOMs: From Education to Employment Initiative - to improve retention, graduation, and employment rates within targeted educational programs such as health, tourism, and STEM careers, where there is a high demand for employees and jobs with family sustaining wages. WNY Women's Foundation’s $132,274* grant covered the entire pilot year’s expenses.

Women in the program receive comprehensive services including:

- Achievement Coach
- Emergency Funding
- Workforce Development
- Career Coach
- Child Care
- Certification Funding
- Peer Support

“Since entering the program, it has helped me remain in a positive position in my life to help me understand how to stay diverse, educated, open-minded and accept the challenges towards success.” ALICIA O., 30-YEAR OLD SINGLE MOM WITH THREE GIRLS AGES 3, 7, AND 11

OUR IMPACT:

From September 2013 - June 2014, 83 women have participated in the MOMs Program:

- 12 HAVE GRADUATED WITH AN ASSOCIATES DEGREE
- 7 HAVE GRADUATED WITH A WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE
- 15 GRADUATES OF NCCC (ALUMNI) RETURNED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MOMS CAREER SERVICES
- 93% RETENTION FROM FALL TO SPRING SEMESTER IN WOMEN ENROLLED IN SCHOOL & PROGRAM
- BEGIN TO ALTER THE CAMPUS CULTURE TO ONE WHERE SINGLE MOTHERS FEEL VALUED AND SUPPORTED
- CREATION OF A SUSTAINABLE MODEL FOR NCCC AND OTHER LOCAL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT

*TOTAL INVESTMENT FOR 2013-2014 PILOT SCHOOL YEAR

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR MAKING THIS PILOT YEAR PROGRAM POSSIBLE:

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, First Niagara Foundation, Joseph and Anna Gartner Fund, Josephine Goodyear Foundation, and Joy Family Foundation
QUALITYstarsNY helps to improve child care 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. Through our support, dozens of centers have been able to participate in this program. WNY Women’s Foundation 2012-2013 grant of $30,000 was a part of the overall grant of $65,000 beginning in 2010.

The second year of the after-school pilot program at Buffalo Public School #59, the Dr. Charles R. Drew Magnet School, continued to be 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 eighth grade. WNY Women’s Foundation’s Year 2 Grant was for $179,357.

**OUR IMPACT:**

**YEAR TWO RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>5TH GRADE</th>
<th>6TH GRADE</th>
<th>7TH AND 8TH GRADE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPA increased or remained the same</td>
<td>29 OF 34: 85%</td>
<td>28 OF 29: 97%</td>
<td>27 OF 34: 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math grades increased or remained the same</td>
<td>7 OF 34: 21%</td>
<td>14 OF 29: 48%</td>
<td>12 OF 34: 35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA grades increased or remained the same</td>
<td>10 OF 34: 29%</td>
<td>9 OF 29: 31%</td>
<td>14 OF 34: 41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT:** M&T BANK

**PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS SPEAKER SERIES**

Our ‘Pathways to Progress Speaker Series’ brings leadership voices in our community forward. Why? Because the first step to progress is having the conversation.

- **“Unequal Pay for Equal Work: What does it mean for you and your community?”**
  With New York State Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes; New York State Senator Tim Kennedy

- **Belmont Housing Resources**
  Karyn Hausknecht

- **A Community Conversation and Call to Action around “Lean In” by Sheryl Sandberg**

- **How the Book Empowers You... And all Women.**
  With Diana Cihak, Women Events; Alice Jacobs, WNYWF Chair; Peggy Kingsley, M&T Bank
“Until QUALITYstarsNY came in I thought we were good but we had to step it up and we got the support to improve.”

“Quality of child care has improved at our facility and we can see reactions in parents whose kids are enrolled. We have seen great strides made because of QUALITYstarsNY.”
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS FOR MAKING OUR WORK POSSIBLE

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“My involvement with the WNY Women’s Foundation has connected me with so many of the women who make our region a great place to live. The Foundation plays a key role in stewarding our community’s assets to fund impactful programs for women and girls, and its mission is one that I’m proud to support.”

KATIE DUNN, VOLUNTEER (FAR RIGHT) WITH FELLOW VOLUNTEERS & KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE 2013 WHAT SHE’S MADE OF CELEBRATION
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 for Greater Buffalo, together we will make the lives of women and girls in our community better.

---

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**December 31, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS:</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>CASH</td>
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<td>PLEDGE RECEIVABLE</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES</td>
<td>$5,747</td>
<td>$20,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFUNDABLE ADVANCES</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>$8,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$5,747</td>
<td>$28,640</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS:</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>$1,591,734</td>
<td>$1,423,004</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</td>
<td>$39,659</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$1,631,393</td>
<td>$1,523,004</td>
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</tbody>
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**2013**  
$1,687,140  

**2012**  
$1,551,644
WHY WOMEN & GIRLS?

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, advocacy, and programs that help women improve their lives, creating stronger families, stronger communities and a better Western New York for us all.

“The WNYWF Out Of School Time initiative elevated the conversation around need and impact of quality Out of School Time programming for our community and the understanding, tools and assessments needed to continually improve quality at the point of service, organizational and system levels.”

-KIMBERLY ANN LUCE, BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES PROJECT DIRECTOR & CO-CHAIR OF THE AFTER SCHOOL NETWORK OF WNY

www.wnywomensfoundation.org

GIVE TODAY!

You can now designate your gift to the WNY Women’s Foundation through the New York State and Federal campaigns!

State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) 
#999-01102

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) 
#61837
Get involved & spread the word!

📍 WNY Women’s Foundation    📩 @WNYWomensFndn
WNYWomensFoundation.org