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### Save the Date and Prepare to Be Uplifted

Get ready for an evening of inspiration with author, blogger, speaker and activist, Courtney Martin. Courtney is an outspoken and prolific writer whose work has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Newsweek, the Christian Science Monitor and many other prominent publications. She has also appeared on Good Morning America, The TODAY Show, The O'Reilly Factor, CNN, and MSNBC. Her popular TED Talk, *This isn't her mother's feminism,* has been viewed over 695,000 times.

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In a review of Martin's powerful book, Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters: How the Quest for Perfection is Harming Young Women, Arianna Huffington declared, "Courtney E. Martin sounds a clarion call for all of us --- mothers, daughters, pundits — to stop counting

calories and start changing the world." Courtney will wow us with her powerful take on feminism today.

This event is scheduled for October 28th from 5–7 pm at the New Haven Lawn Club.

#### **One-day Conference**

The Fund is also participating in the University of New Haven's one-day, **Women in Leadership Conference:** Redefining Leadership and Success, on October 28th. It will be a day of inspiration, activating women to seek their highest level of personal and professional development. There will be nationally renowned experts presenting a full array of practical techniques and leadership strategies that can be applied both professionally and personally.



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NEW HAVEN, CT PERMIT NO. 7

### Are You Inspired to **Help**?

You can make a donation to the Community Fund for Women & Girls at any time online at fundforwomenandgirls.org or by mailing your contribution in the enclosed return envelope.

If there is a beloved woman that you would like to honor with an individually named fund, a gift or pledge of \$10,000 or more can create such a fund benefiting women and girls' programs in perpetuity. For more information, call Sharon Cappetta at 203-777-7071.

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# News You Can Use is bring 28th,

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# details for inside Look

# The Community Fund for WOMEN & GIRLS

Summer 2014

🕎 a component fund of The Community Foundation *for* Greater New Haven



# **WINNING** for Women & Girls: Changing Systems — Moving Women Out of Poverty

Proving that perseverance pays off, Mothers for Justice (MFJ), an advocacy group supported by Christian Community Action, Inc., helped ensure the passing of SB 106, "An Act Concerning Improving Employment Opportunities Through Education and Ensuring Safe School Climates." After more than two years of tireless advocacy work by the Mothers and their partners, the new law, allows women in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to seek training and education in order to improve their employment potential. Prior to the change, working toward a GED or college degree was not counted as eligible work credits for those receiving temporary assistance, making it nearly impossible to move out of poverty. Women were forced to abandon furthering their education — an important means to maximizing earning potential and workplace success.

The Fund for Women & Girls began funding Christian Community Action's work to teach advocacy skills back in 2008. In 2010, a \$10,000 grant from the Fund allowed MFJ to create

their powerful teaching tool, *Living in a Broken System,* a documentary short. The film clearly demonstrated how common-sense changes in state statutes and regulations would improve results for vulnerable families by eliminating barriers. Once created, members of MFJ diligently sought out audiences for their documentary, and targeted legislators, public policy leaders and partner organizations. Honing their advocacy skills, MFJ met with legislators, prepared and delivered testimony at various hearings and made themselves available as resources. As MFJ co-leader, Kim Hart explains, the group is driven by the belief that, "The voice of the people most impacted by the issue should be heard, and their recommendations should be used in the making of public policy."

Supporters of the Fund for Women & Girls can take great pride in the growth and success of MFJ and in helping to move women out of poverty.

Watch Living in a Broken System at fundforwomenandgirls.org



# The Fund Supports ALL Connecticut Women

Although the work of The Community Fund for Women & Girls focuses on women and girls of Greater New Haven, we collaborate with agencies across Connecticut to make life better for all of Connecticut. Recently we participated in the following:

#### Women's Day at the Capital — March 12th

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In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), we joined other area leaders to discuss gender equality in Connecticut. This year's panel discussion addressed Journalism and Gender: When Women Report on Politics and Public Policy.

Teresa Younger, then executive director of the PCSW, opened the day's lively discussion with a guote she lives by — "Be the kind of woman that when your feet hit the floor each morning the devil says 'Oh crap, she's up.'" Members of the panel, top area reporters, reflected the sentiment of that statement as they shared stories indicating that assertiveness and tenacity were required to ensure that women's voices are heard.

Carol Ross, from the Fund Advisory Board, shared the following, "The Fund for Women & Girls is delighted to work together with the Permanent Commission to promote the social and economic advancement of women and girls in our region

and beyond. Their dedicated work and timely research reports help us to direct resources where they will have the most impact."

#### The State of Girls — May 21st

Members of the Fund participated in a panel program in partnership with the Girl Scouts of Connecticut to discuss the challenges faced by girls throughout Connecticut and the results of a report from the Girl Scout Research Institute, The State of Girls: Unfinished Business.

"The report finds that while there is promising news for girls in areas such as their educational attainment, many girls are being left behind, and not all girls are faring the same. In particular, black/African American and Hispanic/Latina girls face significant challenges in making successful transitions to adulthood."

View the full report at girlscouts.org/research/publications/stateofgirls



# Connecticut Ranks High for Women **Pay Equity** Remains Elusive

Although Connecticut was recently ranked 3rd best in the nation for women to live and work, Connecticut full-time working women earn only 78% of what their male counter-parts earn. This disparity Results in a yearly wage gap of \$13,229 for the average Connecticut woman. For a Connecticut woman with a college degree, that gap increases significantly to \$1.2 million over a working lifetime.

We applaud Governor Malloy's creation of THE GENDER WAGE GAP TASK FORCE to address our state's ranking as 26th in the nation regarding pay equity.

In 2013, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act and to advocate for the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would move our nation closer to pay equity, the Fund for Women & Girls hosted Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and Teresa Younger, executive director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.



Forever is how long The Community Fund for Women & Girls intends to support women.

20/20 +\$2M

The Fund has been supporting women and girls in the 20 cities and towns of Greater New Haven for nearly 20 years.

Our goal is to increase the endowment by \$2 Million to make more resources available for women and girls in our region.





# Summer **Update**

#### **Board** — Welcomes and Thank Yous

The first half of the year has truly flown by, with lots of behind-the-scenes action taking place. The Fund welcomed four new board members in January — Heather Calabrese, Beth Higgins, Mubarakah Ibrahim and Betty Trachtenberg, Lesley Mills and Nancy Casella completed their six-year terms as members of the Advisory Board. We are grateful for their service and wish them well in their new endeavors. They now join the Fund's Alumnae as long serving members dedicated to our mission.

### **Grant Impact**

Your donations are currently serving 18 area nonprofits, (such as the Eli Whitney Museum, whose *Make a Difference* workshop is pictured above) as they contribute to the evolution of women and girls in our community.

For grant stories, visit fundforwomenandgirls.org

#### **New Leader at Partner Organization**

The Fund applauds the appointment of Carolyn M. Treiss as the executive director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Carolyn is a graduate of the UCONN School of Law, UCONN School of Social Work and of Bates College. She is a former legislative program manager at the Department of Social Services and the former director of NARAL Pro-Choice CT. She has also served on the boards of the Connecticut National Organization for Women and the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, a 2013 Community Fund for Women & Girls grantee.

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