

# Pursestrings

Women's Fund of Central Texas Member Briefing



We are a philanthropic fund established by the Austin Community Foundation to benefit women and children. Members of the Women's Fund combine their resources—the "Power of the Purse" - to award grants annually to improve the lives of women and children in our community.

#### Power of the Purse Event Committee

Karen Kahan, Chair  
Meagan Anderson  
Becky Beaver  
Cindy Busby  
Patty Huffines  
Retta Kelley  
Karen Landa  
Laura Mauro  
M.P. Mueller  
Janis Pinnelli  
Pam Reed  
MariBen Ramsey  
Jane Scott  
Sharon Schweitzer  
Venus Strawn

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## "Power of the Purse" 2006 Luncheon Inspires All



MariBen Ramsey, Chair of WFCT, Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker, keynote speaker, & Karen Kahan, Event Chair

The second annual "Power of the Purse" luncheon on February 16, 2006 was a tremendous success. The fruit of the fund's efforts over 2005 resulted in the presentation of grants to 7 organizations totaling \$74,225!

Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker shared her enthusiasm and insight into the possibility of making every woman a philanthropist during the keynote address. By appealing to the three H's: the heart, the head, and the hands, Ms. Dedecker indicated the need to repackage philanthropy from an activity of the "privileged soloist" to an accessible "opportunity to join a choir for change."

By using real people and their real stories, the heart can be engaged and can rise above the clutter of daily life.

The head can learn the needs of the community and discover possible solutions leading to "informed, strategic philanthropy." Finally, volunteerism is a path to engage the hands.

Noting that women have reached new levels of earnings and financial independence, Ms. Dedecker highlighted that women are well-positioned to use their earned financial power for the greater good. "Women are thirsty to be part of this learning process, to be part of creating the solutions, making the tough choices that need to be made when investing in the future."

The power of the purse is immense, and she encouraged the audience to invite others to join the choir of change. She pointed out that the number one reason people give is because they are asked!

Attendees enjoyed the fantastic lunch, the speakers, the grant presentations, and even took home goodie bags! APSI Skin Care Clinic contributed skin care products and Cindy Busby generously underwrote the other items, including a purse mirror in the shape of - what else but a purse!

Many thanks to our Hermes & Chanel sponsors.

Hermes: Becky Beaver, Cindy Busby, JoLynn Free, Karen Kahan/MariBen Ramsey, Chris Mattsson, Bettye Nowlin, and Jane Scott. Chanel: Robbie Ausley, Scarlett Lewis/M.P. Mueller/Nina Seely, Paper Place, Janis Pinnelli, & Pam Reed.

**"Never has there been a better time to be a woman. Never has the world been more welcoming of women taking their rightful place. Women's leadership in all endeavors is an idea whose time has come."**

- Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker

Attendance at the luncheon was up over 30% from last year's inaugural Purse luncheon. To date, the membership of WFCT has increased by 20% from people who attended the luncheon. The fund, and the community, is already richer for it.



Esther Teller and Alice Wilson, Breast Cancer Resource Center with Grants Chair, Cindy Kozmetsky and minority breast cancer patients seen at Brackenridge

### Breast Cancer Resource Center \$10,325

Hospital through the Shivers Cancer Program. These women are characterized as low-literacy, low-income or indigent, and uninsured or underinsured. Because of low literacy, language barriers and cultural biases, they need more help and time to understand their diagnosis and treatment options; continuous encouragement to keep appoint-

ments and follow through with treatment; and an intermediary to help their families understand the vast implications that a diagnosis of breast cancer has for the patient and for the family.

#### Grants Committee

- Cindy Kozmetsky, Chair
- Becky Beaver
- Linda Bengé
- Amy Dunham
- Mary Nell Frucella
- Susan Hackney
- Connie Hudson
- Melissa Jones
- Ruth Kohlhaas
- Nona Niland
- Chris Mattsson
- Jeanne Parker
- Margaret Parrish
- MariBen Ramsey
- Carol Robertson

### LifeWorks \$15,000

The Teen Parent Services Program is an ongoing program which has been in existence since 1988. The program provides parent education to help young parents learn about bonding and early childhood development; case management to access educational, social, and/or health services;

support groups to facilitate group-based counseling and peer support; and teen father services to help young men focus on their relationships with their children and others.



Susan McDowell, LifeWorks with Cindy Kozmetsky



Dan Pruett, Meals on Wheels & More, with Cindy Kozmetsky

### Meals on Wheels & More \$7,500

The goal of the Meals for Kids program is to provide nutritious meals to at-risk children, many of whom are totally dependent on the school system to provide them with the only meal they re-

ceive each day. The initial findings of the first evaluation of the program indicated that 60 percent of the children who responded to the survey receive two or fewer meals each day including the meal they receive from Meals on Wheels. Food insecurity in children manifests itself in

malnutrition and obesity, poor school performance, behavioral problems, lack of energy and an increased propensity to childhood illnesses and depression.

### Hospice Austin \$5,000

Camp Brave Heart is a bereavement camp experience for children grieving the loss of a loved one. The campers, ages 6 – 17, have experienced the loss of a loved

one due to death. The therapeutic leaders are a critical service and integral to the Hospice Austin mission; however, it is not reimbursable through insurance providers.

Each of the two sessions of camp is offered for 75 children, includes transportation, and is provided free of charge.



Amy Matta, Hospice Austin, with Cindy Kozmetsky

### Any Baby Can \$15,000

The *No Estás Solo/You Are Not Alone* Mental Health Counseling Program offers low- or no-cost, home-based, bilingual counseling to clients of Any Baby Can. The target population is women and children who reside in Travis,

Williamson, Bastrop, or Hays Counties. The majority of clients receive a DSM-IV diagnosis, such as depression (including post partum in adult women), adjustment disorder, anxiety, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

About 90 percent will be extremely low-income (below 150 percent of the poverty level) and reside in areas with the city's highest rates of violence, crime, and child abuse and neglect, as well as the lowest levels of literacy.

### Ashera Project \$6,400



Courtney Hans and Sarah Evascu of the Ashera Project with Cindy Kozmetsky

This pregnancy prevention and youth development program serves students at Reagan High School. In its two years of operation, none of the girls actively participating in the program have become pregnant or dropped out of school—a

significant achievement given the high incidence of teen pregnancy in our community. Groups of 8-10 at-risk students meet once a week during the school day with a group facilitator/health educator.

**It's the number one reason why people volunteer and give financial support—because they are asked!**  
 - Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker

### Austin Children's Shelter \$15,000

The Infant & Toddler Hygiene and Nutrition Program provides care to approximately 110 children ranging in age from infant to 4 years to improve their health and wellness as they reside temporarily at the Shelter. The children have

been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services due to prolonged abuse and/or neglect, and to prevent additional injury. Approximately one-third of the Shelter's clients are under the age of four. Children receive supervised care

24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Direct care staff members supervise children in daily activities, meals and preparation for bedtime. Children are provided with appropriate diaper changes,



Steve Anderson, Austin Children's Shelter, with Cindy Kozmetsky

*Of nearly \$35 billion given through foundations and corporate funding to charities in 2001, less than 6 percent went to programs that specifically serve the needs of women and girls.*

## Women & Children In Our Community Benefit

The Women's Fund of Central Texas is a philanthropic fund established to benefit women and children. Members of the Women's Fund combine their resources—the **"Power of the Purse"**—to annually award grants in a predetermined focus area, but always with an emphasis on improving the lives of women and children in our community, whether through arts and culture, education, health or human service programs.

Grants **will only** be awarded to organizations that have programs that directly benefit women and children.

The Women's Fund is membership-based. Each member contributes \$1,200 annually. Contributions will be used as follows: \$1,000 for grantmaking, \$100 to The Women's Fund Endowment, and \$100 for operating expenses. (Half dues of \$500 for women under 30.)

## Membership Drives Philanthropic Activity

Each year, members will have the opportunity to vote on the next year's area of focus for grantmaking, *giving each member the power to shape each year.*

In 2005, the membership selected "Women's and Children's Health and Nutrition (Including Mental Health)" as the area for the year's focus.

***An invitation to become a philanthropist is an invitation to become informed and to be a part of a dynamic process of community development.***

*-Clotilde Perez-Bode  
Dedecker*

Additionally, a slate of grant applicants, recommended by the grants committee, is presented annually to the members for a vote. *Each member votes on the grant requests to determine which applications are funded.*

*Opportunities exist for members to participate on the Grants Committee and in other committees as well.*

## CONTINUING BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP!

Please complete the enclosed member interest form and fax to 472-4486 or mail to Meagan Anderson, Austin Community Foundation, P.O. Box 5159 Austin, TX 78763.

Opportunities to learn more about and discuss current issues and strategies in philanthropy and community issues will be presented during the year.

Also, an informal membership party is in the works for this Spring! Our informal, get-acquainted membership event will be Thursday, April 27, 2006 at the home of Pam Reed, 1503 Harbor View (78746) from 5:30-7 p.m. Invitations will be mailed in April. We'll unveil our Women's Fund logo and sip cool drinks by the pool. Don't miss it!

If you have a friend who might be interested in the Women's Fund of Central Texas,  
Please feel free to share this Enrollment Form with her!

**YES!!**

**I will join The Women's Fund of Central Texas.**

- ◇ I want to be a member for 2006 (\$1,200 or monthly payments of \$100).
- ◇ I am under 30 years of age and am ready to make charitable giving a priority (\$600 or monthly payments of \$50).

PLEASE PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, & Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:**

- ◇ Enclosed is my check, made payable to The Women's Fund, in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.
- ◇ I would like to set up an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Enclosed is my initial check for \$100/\$50. Please charge my account \$100/\$50 a month to pay for the balance of my membership. Payments will be deducted on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. (Please note: some banks will not participate in an EFT program.)
- ◇ Please charge my AmEx, VISA, Mastercard or Discover in the amount of:  
◇ \$1,200.00 (annual)      ◇ \$600 (annual)      ◇ \$100.00 each month      ◇ \$50 each month

\_\_\_\_\_ CARD      \_\_\_\_\_ CARD NUMBER      \_\_\_\_\_ EXP.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

**By completing this form and by signing below, you are authorizing the Austin Community Foundation for the benefit of The Women's Fund of Central Texas to initiate monthly deductions from your bank account identified on the enclosed check to pay for your membership in the Women's Fund. When your signed enrollment is received, we will mail you a notice showing a schedule of your future deduction amounts and dates. Be assured that your bank controls the payment transaction. The Austin Community Foundation does not access your account directly.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, please call Meagan Anderson at 472-4483 or email her at [manderson@austincommunityfoudation.org](mailto:manderson@austincommunityfoudation.org).

The Women's Fund of Central Texas is administered by the Austin Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All donations to The Women's Fund of Central Texas are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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**Women's Fund Steering Committee**

Ann Cox Bomer	Bettye Nowlin
Deborah Green	Jeanne Parker
Patty Huffines	Janis Pinnelli
Cindy Kozmetsky	MariBen Ramsey
Libby Malone	Donna Stockton-Hicks
Chris Mattsson	Venus Strawn
Nona Niland	

Special thanks to new member  
**Rina Hartline**  
 who wrote and designed our inaugural Women's Fund e-letter,  
**Pursestrings!**

**Women's Fund of Central Texas Membership**

Welcome to our new members who  
 joined at the Fall membership  
 event (hosted by Jeanne Parker &  
 Venus Strawn) & at the 2006 Power  
 of the Purse Luncheon!

- |                         |                     |                       |                      |                      |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Carol Almy              | Jenny Flemming*     | Ronya Kozmetsky       | Chris Mattsson       | Fern Santini*        |
| Kelly Ausley-Flores*    | Katrine Formby*     | Karen Landa           | Laura Mauro          | Nancy Scanlan        |
| Robbie Ausley           | JoLynn Free         | Joan Lava*            | Patsy Minter*        | Laura Scanlan Cho*   |
| Donna Baldwin           | Mary Nell Frucella  | Scarlett Lewis        | M.P. Mueller         | Mary Schmidt         |
| Kathy Bailey*           | Tobie Funte*        | Carol Lindsey         | Lynn Meredith        | Sharon Schweitzer    |
| Laura Lee Ballew*       | Deborah Green       | Jeanne Little         | Michele Moore        | Jane Schweppe Scott  |
| Christine Bauer         | Susan Hackney       | Mary Lockwood Crouch* | Samantha McClure*    | Nina Seely           |
| Becky Beaver            | Janet Harman        |                       | Janet McCullar*      | Martha E. Smiley     |
| Linda Benge             | Rina Hartline*      |                       | JoAnne McKenzie*     | Donna Stockton Hicks |
| Ann Bomer               | Peggy Hubble        |                       | Nona Niland          | Jare Smith           |
| Marla Bommarito-Crouch* | Connie Hudson       |                       | Bettye Nowlin        | Venus Strawn         |
| Kathleen Burnside*      | Patty Huffines      |                       | Peggy O' Shaughnessy | Gail Susholtz        |
| Cindy Busby             | Martha Jenkins*     |                       | Stephanie Panozzo*   | Carmen Tawil         |
| Jenny Buschorn*         | Luci Baines Johnson |                       | Jeanne Parker        | Anne Twomey          |
| Sandy Carothers         | Melissa Jones       |                       | Linda Parker*        | Deidre Vedder        |
| Donna Carter            | Karen L. Kahan      |                       | Margaret Parrish     | Carol Wagner*        |
| Heather Cooke*          | Retta B. Kelley     | Maggie Mann Longley*  |                      | Alexa Wesner*        |
| Charlane Cox            | Lisa Kennedy*       | Jane Dryden Louis*    | Janis Pinnelli       | Kelly White          |
| Mandy Dealey            | Betty King          | Clayton Maebius       | MariBen Ramsey       | Sally Wittliff       |
| Amy Dunham              | Ruth Kohlhas        | Fran Magee            | Suzy Ranney          | Anne Elizabeth Wynn  |
| Susan Epstein           | Mary Kozlowski      | Libby Malone          | Pam Reed             | Mary Yancy           |
| Kathy Escobedo*         | Cindy Kozmetsky     | Pamela Malone         | Pam Reznick*         |                      |
| Patricia Fleming        |                     | Mari Marchbanks       | Vickie Roan          |                      |
|                         |                     |                       | Carol Robertson      |                      |



2006 members Kathy Escobedo & Fern Santini with Grants Committee member, Carol Robertson (center)

\*Members who joined at the Fall 2005 Party or the Spring 2006 Purse Luncheon

