

# BucksWomen

The Bucks County Women's Fund, Inc.

www.bcwf.org

Volume 15, Number 2

Investing in women's lives and girls' futures.

## We're Listening.

Across the nation and around the world, women's funds do amazing things. They put philanthropic dollars to work at the service of women and girls, and they get results.

As Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, once said, "When women are fully involved, the benefits can be seen immediately; families are healthier; they are better fed; their income, savings and reinvestment go up. And what is true of families is true of communities, and eventually, of whole countries."

The Bucks County Women's Fund is *your* women's fund. Through it, you can support the change that you want to see in our community. Together, we can make change happen.

We are calling this our Listening Year because we want to hear from you: Our donors, our agency leaders, and our county's women and girls. Please tell us what you need from us, and what you think other women and girls in Bucks County need.

You can do this in one or more ways:

- By e-mailing your ideas to [kbeveridge@bcwf.org](mailto:kbeveridge@bcwf.org);

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Open House Turns the Page

*Building to Boost Our Investment in Women and Girls*

**W**ith the opening of new offices in New Britain, the Bucks County Women's Fund has turned another important page in its 17-year history.

On September 18, more than 100 guests were welcomed to the Fund's new home. Community leaders, local officials, donors, supporters, grant recipients and interested neighbors all joined in celebrating the landmark occasion.

Located at 956 Town Center Office Park in New Britain, it's the Fund's first brick and mortar office which is accessible to the general public.

Staffed by Executive Director Kathleen Welsh Beveridge and assistant Kathleen McCarthy, the office will serve not only as the center of the Fund's organization and activities, but also as a resource center for area women and girls.

Board President Gayle Goodman was enthusiastic about the gathering.

"We were happy so many people came to help us celebrate the new office space and meet Kathy Beveridge. As we begin our



PHOTOGRAPHY BY HARRY SIRCELY

A NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR WOMEN OF BUCKS COUNTY.

Lettering on the new office door appears backwards as Board Members Nancy Morrill and Jeanne Mantell approach.

Listening Year, we hope many more people will come, share ideas and offer input on the critical needs and issues facing Bucks County women and girls," Gayle said.

Acquiring the new office space and hiring a new executive director fulfill two of BCWF's initial goals in growing the Fund for maximum community impact.

And, as the Fund solicits community input during this Listening Year, the organization is working toward a third goal—to

evaluate the needs of the county's women and girls and determine how the funding process can be structured to achieve the most positive and lasting results.

You are welcome to stop by at the office, located in the office park adjacent to the Town Center Shopping Plaza on West Butler Pike (Route 202). For directions, please visit the Contact Us page of the Fund's website, [www.bcwf.org](http://www.bcwf.org), or call 215.345.5440.

SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM THE OPEN HOUSE ON PAGES 4 & 5.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY HARRY SIRCELY

ELLEN COHEN of Interior Possibilities adds her wish to the BCWF wishing tree.

## 'I Wish...'

At our Open House on September 18, guests were invited to write a wish for our wishing tree, kicking off the activity of the Bucks County Women's Fund's Listening Year. Here are a few of the wishes we received; look for more wishes in subsequent issues of *Bucks Women*:

"I wish for each woman to find an area of life where she can shine. This will give her the confidence to give back to society and be her best."

*Susan Fisher, Univest*

"I wish for many, many Bucks County residents and businesses to catch your vision of health, safety, and wellness for all BC women and children!"

*Anonymous*

"I wish for the Women's Fund endowment to grow in parallel to its public profile, and for the donor base to grow exponentially—creating stability and growth—and the lives touched by the Fund and its vision of personal potential to continue to expand and elevate. Best wishes!"

*Diane Van Reed*

*Former BCWF Board Member*

## Our Listening Year

*(Continued from Page 1)*

- By hosting an Endowa (a small gathering of women);
- Or by joining our community meetings (dates to be announced).  
Add your name to our email list on [www.bcwf.org](http://www.bcwf.org) to stay informed, or email [kbeveridge@bcwf.org](mailto:kbeveridge@bcwf.org) directly.

Based upon all we learn from you and others, we'll decide how we can have the greatest positive and lasting impact on those needs, and we'll hope to get all of you involved in making that impact. We can't do it without you.

Philanthropy is our tool and the Bucks County Women's Fund is our vehicle for social change. We will direct our combined philanthropy to what matters most for women and families in the communities of our county.

With your help, we will achieve positive and lasting results.

## Jenni Murphy Joins BCWF Board

At the November 5, 2007 meeting of the Bucks County Women's Fund Board of Directors, members unanimously voted to approve Jennifer Safford Murphy, Esq. for board membership.

Jenni, the wife of Congressman Patrick J. Murphy, is an accomplished woman in her own right. She was an Associate in the Trusts & Estates Practice Group in the Philadelphia office of Cozen O'Connor where she concentrated her legal practice in tax and estate planning for individuals and charitable organizations.

Prior to joining Cozen O'Connor, she was a senior tax consultant at Deloitte & Touche, LLP where she advised individuals and tax exempt organizations with regard to effective tax and estate planning and wealth accumulation and transfer tax strategies.

She is a member of the Finance Committee of HealthLink Medical Center, Southampton.

Jenni Murphy earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Delaware. She earned her law and MBA degrees from Temple University Beasley School of Law and the Fox School of Business and Management in 2001. During law school, Jenni was elected and served as President of the Student Bar Association and law student representative to the American Bar Association.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY HARRY SIRCELY

JENNI MURPHY

Jenni says she is eager to put her skills to work with a non-partisan organization that directly benefits her community.

A native of Lower Makefield and a 1993 graduate of Pennsbury High School, she resides in Bristol with her husband and daughter Maggie.

## Grants in Action

# Aldie Program Supports 'New Moms in Recovery'

*This spring, The Bucks County Women's Fund made a grant of \$4,000 to Aldie Counseling Center for "New Moms in Recovery," a program to help new mothers and pregnant women who have been or are addicted to opiates. Here is an inside look at how this grant is helping vulnerable women and children in our community.*

She is a woman in transition in many senses of the word. Her body is changing by the second with the new life inside her. And she has made the significant mental transition from a woman addicted to opiates to a woman in recovery because she has taken the first step, walking through the door of Aldie Counseling Center in Doylestown.

She is between the ages of 19 and 33, is single and does not have the support of a partner. She and her other children are near-homeless—they are sleeping in someone else's home.

She has a tough road ahead with many choices to make and a lot hangs in the balance. She knows that if she doesn't make a change in her life, she will most likely lose her baby when he is born along with her other children. She has decided to try for a different outcome.

She is vulnerable, and everywhere she feels the stigma of the pregnant addicted woman as she tries to navigate the labyrinth of the healthcare system to get what she and her children need.

### A Lucky Day

It was a lucky day when she was referred to Aldie Counseling Center. At Aldie she can receive pharmacotherapy—the word for methadone maintenance that, studies show, adds an average of 25 years to the life of an opiate addict and is the only available treatment for pregnant women with this kind of addiction. Aldie is one of only two pharmacotherapy programs in Bucks County and is the only one that serves people without insurance.

The treatment stabilizes her pregnancy and enables her to begin recovery. She is assisted in obtaining medical assistance the fast way, through Healthy Beginnings at Doylestown Hospital. She connects to prenatal care. She links to other women's groups that provide information about birth control and how to safely manage her own sexuality.

A peer mentor program matches her with another pregnant woman, one who is not addicted but who knows how to talk with her about her goals and challenges. She attends a parenting program that teaches her about developmentally appropriate discipline for all of her children. And she receives food vouchers to help her eat and feed her family well as well as baby things to help her get ready for her son. She learns how to make good choices for herself and her family.

### A Stable Lifestyle

The counselors at Aldie know the value of these services to pregnant women. "Because we can provide these services up front, the children born to these women may not be removed from their homes. Their mothers will know how to provide for them. They will know what they need and how to get it," said Shareene Berti, MSW, a primary therapist who is spearheading the New Moms in Recovery Program at Aldie. "We are helping women move into a stable lifestyle for themselves and their kids."

According to Aldie Counseling Center's Executive Director, Michael Ratajczak, the Bucks County Women's Fund grant is helping the organization to focus on and enhance its protocol for serving pregnant women with opiate addiction. It bridges Aldie services to other services in the community, giving these women the pride, structure, and resources they need to make good decisions for themselves and their families. It is also supporting the work of

Aldie's counselors to educate health professionals on how to treat women in this situation with dignity while helping them acquire the assistance they need to turn their lives around.

Since its founding in 1977, Aldie Counseling Center has been a leader in the treatment of those struggling with alcoholism or other drug dependencies.

Aldie's programs have touched the lives of thousands in Bucks County, helping clients and their families learn to lead healthy and more meaningful lives. Central to its services is the core belief that chemical dependency is a physical, emotional, spiritual, and behavioral illness from which people can recover. Aldie provides the tools for that recovery.

*Kathleen Welsh Beveridge*



BCWF \$4,000 GRANT invests in Aldie's program to improve the lives of pregnant women and new mothers addicted to opiates.

FALL 2007

# DOING GOOD.

# Welcome to Our New Home

## *Open House Celebrates New Office*



PHOTOGRAPHY BY HARRY SIRCELY





## To Combat Poverty in Bucks, Invest in Women

**O**ctober 17 was World Poverty Day—around the world and in Bucks County.

Although more people have been lifted out of poverty in the last 50 years than in the previous 500, 1.2 billion still subsist on less than \$1 per day. Seven out of 10 of the world's hungry are women and girls, according to the UN World Food Program.

Despite the dramatic advancement of women in recent decades, women are still far more likely than men to be homeless, to live in poverty, to be unemployed or under-employed, to face violence, and to suffer inadequate housing and healthcare. This is true around the world and in Bucks County.

### In Bucks County

Though Bucks is one of the richest counties in Pennsylvania, 4.1 percent of residents live below the poverty line (\$15,260/year for a family of three) and 23 percent of children in female-headed households live in poverty. The average annual income of a family of three living on public assistance in Bucks County is \$5,052, not including food stamps. That's \$2,600 less than the level considered extreme poverty for a family of this size.

The problem isn't limited to women with young children. In the United States, elderly women are 70 percent more likely to be poor than elderly men, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR). And in Bucks County, of the 43,000 women age 65 and older who live here, 9.1 percent live below the poverty level.

From these statistics, it seems obvious that many women are missing out on their equal share of economic opportunity,

around the world and here at home.

More than two-thirds of the world's unpaid work is done by women—the equivalent of \$11 trillion or almost 50 percent of world GDP, according to a global UNDP study from 1995. In spite of this, women receive only 10 percent of the world's income and own a mere 1 percent of the means of production.

Even when engaged in paid work, women do not receive equal pay for their effort. According to the IWPR, women in the US earned only 77 cents for every \$1 earned by a man in 2005. In Bucks County, the ratio is just 68 cents on the dollar.

Furthermore, 35 percent of American women work too few hours to participate in their company's retirement savings plan compared with 20 percent of men. Is it any wonder so many of our older women are poor?

### Solving the Poverty Puzzle

Women are the missing piece in solving the poverty puzzle. The East Asian economic miracle of unprecedented growth from 1965 to 1990 offers an example of how all elements of the poverty puzzle must fit together. Gender gaps in education were closed, access to family planning was expanded and women were able to delay childbearing and marriage while more work opportunities increased their participation in the labor force. Women's economic contribution in the region helped reduce poverty and spur growth.

What are the missing pieces of the puzzle here at home? How can we remove the barriers to women's full and fair participation in the economy?

We can combat local poverty by investing in the nonprofit agencies that enhance economic opportunities for women, such as those that provide affordable daycare, job training, mentoring programs that expose girls to positive female role models in careers they might never have imagined, and financial literacy programs that give women and girls the knowledge they need to make good financial decisions for themselves and their families.

We can also encourage our legislators at all levels to support initiatives to equalize opportunities for women and girls in the areas of education, health, employment, and participation in public life.

### Eradicate Poverty at Home

If fully engaged, women have the potential to eradicate poverty. This work can begin right here at home.

Take a moment to envision what our communities would be like if all women in Bucks County worked together to alleviate poverty on behalf of our sisters who bear the brunt of it. Our families would be healthier and happier, our communities would be stronger, and all of our citizens would benefit.

This ideal is what motivates the board members, volunteers, donors, and grantees of the Bucks County Women's Fund, all agents of social change, to strive toward the elimination of poverty. We invest in women's lives and girls' futures to achieve a society that values, respects and supports all women.

In the spirit of World Poverty Day 2007, we invite you to join us and be part of the solution.

*Kathleen Welsh Beveridge*



STAND UP TO OVERCOME POVERTY...and put women on equal footing.

## Looking at Philanthropy in New Ways Women Demonstrate Unique Methods of Giving

Female philanthropists are becoming heavy hitters in the charitable sector as their command of wealth grows.

In a report by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in 2005, 3.4 million, or 46.3 percent, of the nation's top wealth holders were women in 2001. This represents a 36 percent increase from the prior reporting in 1998. The IRS defines top wealth holders as individuals with gross assets in excess of \$675,000.

And, because women are likely to outlive their husbands and inherit their wealth, in addition to gaining the inheritance from their parents, women are expected to eventually hold much of the \$41 trillion expected to pass from generation to generation over the next 50 years, says Andrea Pactor, who is director of the Women's Philanthropy Institute (WPI) at The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University in Indianapolis.

According to the WPI,

women have unique methods of giving. *The Six C's: Women's Motivations for Giving*, which is published by WPI, says female philanthropists are apt to collaborate in supporting a cause, they wish to form partnerships with the people who are connected to the cause and they want to see creative solutions to problems. They are opposed to simply preserving the status quo, the report adds.

Is it surprising that women's involvement in philanthropy is different than men's? No, says Cynthia Schmae, chief operations officer of the Women's Funding Network. Since women have different ways of communicating with their peers and getting involved in their communities, it is only natural that their methods of philanthropy would be different from the traditional means.

Even the ways that women and men hear about and learn to trust in a cause is different, Schmae explains. For example,

if a woman sees a problem happening with her local school, she will likely get on the phone with her network and mobilize as a group. Women want to be asked directly, by someone they trust, to be a partner in a cause.

"The women's funds that are members of the Women's Funding Network model this approach, with a style of philanthropy that is horizontal and democratic, and where donors and community members have equal seats at the decision-making table," Schmae explains.

Kathleen McCarthy, Ph.D., director of the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, The Graduate Center of the

City University of New York, agrees that women are a force in the world of philanthropy, with more women creating foundations than ever before and many more women in the United States giving gifts of \$50 million or more.

"I think that there has been a sea change in women's giving, and it's only going to be more pronounced with time," McCarthy emphasizes. "The old idea was that women required a lot of cultivation, sometimes years. Now they are in a position to make a decision much more quickly than their mothers did."

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The Tribute Program  
of the Bucks County Women's Fund.

### 'Tis the Season

...of giving thanks and giving gifts. As you struggle to find the right way to thank a special woman or girl in your life, why not consider a tribute gift in her honor to the Bucks County Women's Fund.

She'll receive an acknowledgement of your gift, and the knowledge that our work to increase independence and self-esteem for women and girls throughout the county is being enhanced because of her.

Use the enclosed envelope for your special tribute or make a gift online through our website: [www.bcwf.org](http://www.bcwf.org). When giving online, please send us an email at [info@bcwf.org](mailto:info@bcwf.org) to let us know the name and address of the person(s) you are honoring.

### Remembering Lucille

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the loss of Lucille M. Trench of Richboro, who died November 5. A trail blazer and advocate for the women of Bucks County, she served as County Commissioner and Recorder of Deeds. She leaves a legacy of public and community service.

Among many other accomplishments, Lucille was a member of the BCWF Nominating Committee where her networks, judgments and frankness were always appreciated; she believed the work of the Bucks County Women's Fund to be an important endeavor.

We are all saddened by her loss.

# BucksWomen

The Bucks County Women's Fund, Inc.

215.345.5440 > P.O. Box 1617, Doylestown, PA 18901 > www.bcdf.org

The Bucks County Women's Fund (BCWF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public foundation managed by women, and dedicated to raising money to fund and support programs and policies that impact, empower and improve the lives of women and girls. The Fund also educates the community about the needs of women and girls, and is part of a global network of women's funds that share a common mission.

You can help make a difference for women and girls by sending a contribution and/or by volunteering your expertise to the Bucks County Women's Fund. For more information, call 215.345.5440 or visit [www.bcdf.org](http://www.bcdf.org).

A copy of the BCWF official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll free (if within PA) 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

*The BCWF is a member of the Women's Funding Network.*

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**Give to BCWF  
Through United Way**

**If you are a United Way donor,**

either in your workplace or as an individual, you can designate the Bucks County Women's Fund as the recipient of all or a percentage of your gift. By doing so, you will be contributing to the success of the United Way campaign while helping BCWF improve the lives of women and girls in Bucks County.

For more details, please call Kathy Beveridge at 215.345.5440 or email [kbeveridge@bcwf.org](mailto:kbeveridge@bcwf.org).

**www.bcdf.org**

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