

FORWARD

News & Updates from the New Hampshire Women's Foundation



A GALA TO REMEMBER! — We gathered with a sold-out crowd of friends and supporters for our 6th Annual Gala on April 29 to honor our 2023 AmplifiHER: Congresswoman Annie Kuster — a lifelong champion for women and a founder of the Women's Fund. (More on Page 3)

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A look at how our legislative priorities fared this session at the state house. (p4)



WOMEN RUN!

As city elections approach, we're helping more women see themselves on the ballot! (p5)



MEET LAUREN

An interview with our new Director of Grantmaking, Lauren Wool. (p7)



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Charting a Course in a Post-Roe World

It's hard to believe that it's been more than a year since the Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade* in its *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Center* decision. As a pro-choice statewide community foundation, we are committed to ensuring that every person who can get pregnant in New Hampshire has access to quality reproductive health care—including abortion. In addition to supporting our clinics and statewide abortion fund

through our Reproductive and Sexual Health Access Fund, we are also working with our coalition partners to fight back against restrictive anti-choice legislation and chart a path to ensuring access to abortion care in New Hampshire. Additionally, we are investing in our research program to ensure we are providing accurate and valuable data to policy makers, funders and the general public — because, as we say in our *Gender Matters* reports: “when you know that facts — you can act!”

Women's voices and lived experiences continue to be underrepresented at every level of decision and policy making in the Granite State. Now more than ever, we need women on the ballot. That's why, in the run-up to this fall's City elections, we've hosted *Women Run!* trainings for women interested in running for elected office. If you live in one of these cities, you can help by recruiting women to run for office, volunteering to help women who've already signed up to run or spreading the word about the *Women Run!* program.

We have just concluded our annual community grant review process — this year under the leadership of our new Director of Grantmaking, Lauren Wool. As always, we receive far more applications than we can fund, but we are, once again, deeply humbled and encouraged by the extraordinary work being done by organizations across the state serving women and girls. It is an honor to learn about these innovative programs and the ways these organizations are responding to their community's unique needs. We remain committed to dramatically increasing our grantmaking budget by 2030, so that we can transform the funding landscape for organizations serving women and girls in New Hampshire.

The strength of our grantmaking, *Women Run!* program, research, and advocacy programs is directly related to the support we receive from donors, like you, from across the state. This fall, we are launching an updated Leadership Donor program and I encourage you to review your current support for the Foundation. Does your annual contribution to the Women's Foundation reflect your commitment to the work we are doing on behalf of women, girls and marginalized genders? Can you increase your investment in the Foundation so we can increase our investment in Granite state women and girls?

We are excited to see you and 600 of our close friends at our 19th annual Women Building Community Luncheon on October 19th in Manchester. Get your tickets today before they sell out!

As always, we are grateful for your support, without which we would not be able to do all of this important work.

With you in action and in spirit,

Tanna

Welcome Lauren & Caitlin!

We are happy to introduce you to two new team members! Lauren Wool joined us as our new Director of Grantmaking in June. Lauren joins us from United Way and comes to us with an established network of relationships with many New Hampshire nonprofits. In July, we welcomed Caitlin McMonagle to the team as our new Research Fellow. Caitlin is currently a candidate for a Masters of Public Health and a Graduate Certificate in Health Data Science from UNH with an anticipated graduation date in May 2024. Caitlin has been diving into our research projects, including helping us with our next Status of Girls in New Hampshire publication.



2023 GALA — Honoring Congresswoman Annie Kuster

Our 6th annual GALA on April 29 was our largest-ever GALA and was totally sold out — and it was no surprise, considering our 2023 AmplifiHER: Congresswoman Annie Kuster. We were thrilled to honor Congresswoman Kuster, as not only a lifelong champion for women, but also as a founder of our predecessor organization, the Women's Fund. Congresswoman Kuster shared a call to action to us all to “Rock the boat” — to stand up for what we believe in, even if it's not the expected or typical thing to do.

From rousing speeches to dinner and dancing, it was a wonderful celebration and a reminder of the important work that the New Hampshire Women's Foundation does throughout the year. We also shared a touching video tribute to NHWF supporter and friend, Dr. Geoffrey Clark, who passed away earlier this year.

Many thanks to everyone who joined us for our largest-ever annual GALA — including the many sponsors who made it possible: ReVision Energy, Saltwater, Dartmouth Health, McLane Middleton, Merrimack County Savings Bank, Northeast Delta Dental, New Hampshire Business Review and Duprey Hospitality. We also were thrilled to kick off a year-long partnership with local business Wild Valentine, who did all of the stunning floral arrangements for the GALA and will do so again for the WBC this fall!



Our 2023 Trailblazers

In addition to celebrating Rep. Kuster, we heard from three truly inspiring Trailblazers: Ronelle Tshiela, JerriAnne Boggis, and Liz Hager.

Ronelle Tshiela is a co-founder of Black Lives Matter Manchester, and shared her experience as a young organizer in New Hampshire, rallying for racial justice. JerriAnne Boggis is the Executive Director of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, and shared about how the discovery of a local Black author from her own hometown sparked her to connect community around our shared history. Liz Hager has a long history of elected leadership, and shared her story of fighting for an Equal Rights Amendment for New Hampshire.

All three trailblazers were inspiring and motivating, and we are grateful to them all for joining us to share their stories with us!



2023 Legislative Wrap-Up

As the 2023 legislative session comes to a close, we reflect on the progress we made, progress we defended, and the work that is to come for women and girls in New Hampshire:

A BUDGET THAT INVESTS IN MATERNAL HEALTH AND CHILD CARE

We are thrilled that the legislature passed and Governor Sununu signed into law a budget that makes significant investments in maternal health and child care. The Women's Foundation was proud to support inclusion of the 'MOMnibus Act' in the budget which expanded Medicaid pregnancy eligibility from two months postpartum to 12 months postpartum; provided Medicaid coverage for lactation support, doula services and donor milk bank and much more. And we were proud to support 'The Child Care for Working Families Act' which makes child care more affordable for low-income families, improves the funding formula for child care centers, and creates a child care worker sign-on and retention bonus program.

Women make the economy work. But pregnant women and women with kids need access to maternal health care through the postpartum period to remain healthy and they need reliable access to affordable child care to return to the work that makes our communities thrive.

DEFENDING ABORTION ACCESS (HB 88, SB 181, HB 271 & HB 224)

In June 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated the federal right to abortion, leaving abortion rights up to the states. Abortion is legal in New Hampshire, but in June 2021, Governor Sununu signed the first abortion ban in modern history, banning abortion after 24 weeks. The Granite State is the only state in New England that has NOT protected the right to abortion in state law. The Women's Foundation supported several bills to codify the right to abortion and limit the harm done by the current 24 week abortion ban:

- The Women's Foundation supported the 'Access to Abortion Act' which would have codified the right to abortion in New Hampshire up to 24 weeks.
- We again supported the full repeal of the 24 week abortion ban.
- We advocated to reduce the harm done by the abortion ban through a bill that would have eliminated the criminal and civil penalties that target providers and creates a chilling effect in the medical field.

Many legislators were clearly impacted by Granite Staters' widely popular support for abortion rights, and we are encouraged by very narrow votes in the House that got us close to these goals, but were all ultimately unsuccessful. The New Hampshire Women's Foundation will continue to advocate for policies that protect abortion rights.

ENSURING ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS (SB 209, HB 421 & HB 129)

Women in our state, county, and juvenile correctional facilities deserve free, timely, and reliable access to menstrual products that provide basic human dignity without concern for safety or stigma. Currently, some county jails provide insufficient access to menstrual hygiene products. The Women's Foundation was proud to champion

the bill, signed into law by the Governor, that brings county jails and youth detention facilities up to a reasonable standard.

In 2019, the Women's Foundation supported a bill to ensure that public Middle and High Schools offered menstrual hygiene products in girls and gender-neutral bathrooms. This law reduced stigma, lost class and school time, and contributed to greater access for menstrual equity. This session, an effort to water down the existing law was thwarted by the Women's Foundation and many returning advocates from 2019 to make sure girls have free and equitable access to menstrual hygiene products.



STATE/LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO THE CHILD CARE CRISIS (SB 221)

We know the women who serve their communities at the local level are looking for ways to make child care more accessible and affordable in their communities. The Women's Foundation was proud to support SB 221 that would enable municipalities to opt-in to a program to refund child care providers certain local property taxes. Unfortunately this bill did not pass.

INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS (SB 151)

Girls have higher rates of anxiety and depression than boys and also have higher rates of considering suicide and making a plan to commit suicide. The Women's Foundation supported a bill championed by the Governor's Youth Advisory Council that would require schools to provide mental health education while allowing schools the flexibility to determine the specifics of the instruction and curriculum. This bill passed the Senate but unfortunately did not make it past the House.

DEFENDING TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX PEOPLE IN SCHOOLS AND CORRECTIONS (HB 396)

An extreme bill was introduced this session that would identify a "state interest" in binary sex compromising the inclusion and safety for trans, nonbinary and intersex communities in academics, bathrooms and locker rooms, and corrections and lead to potential violations of Title IX. We strongly opposed this bill and were pleased that this bill failed.

We were pleased to work collaboratively with newly elected and incumbent legislators on policies that improve the lives of women and girls in New Hampshire this session, and look forward to making more progress next year.

Women Run!

We held a training for New Hampshire women thinking about running for office and covered the importance of diverse perspectives in office, ways to overcome gender barriers in politics, what offices to run for, and the basics of campaigns. A few fantastic elected women joined the training to provide their expert advice and encouragement. After the training, participants said they were more likely to run for office after being encouraged by other elected women and running for office felt more approachable and doable.

HERE ARE SOME GREAT QUOTES FROM THE TRAINING:

"Calling someone you think can or should run for office is something we all can do."

Lebanon City Councilor Karen Liot Hill

"I still am in touch with fellow Women Run! alums and we are able to bounce ideas off each other."

Manchester Alderman At-Large June Trisciani

"Accept the help, especially from your friends and colleagues within Women Run!"

Portsmouth Assistant Mayor Jo Kelley

"If you love it, you'll make it happen."

State Senator Sue Prentiss

"None of us do this alone!"

Franklin Mayor Jo Brown

City elections are happening this fall, and we look forward to seeing these Women Run! alums on the ballot!

**Get Women Run!
Updates**



Sign up for Women Run! Program alerts to be the first to hear about upcoming trainings and events:

www.nhwomensfoundation.org/womenrun/



Update from 2023 Women Run! Alums

"Getting ready to fight the good fight for realistic and fair budgeting and support of our school!"
Charlotte Fyfe, elected to Nottingham Budget Committee



"The Women Run! program was instrumental in shortening the learning curve of running for local office. There were tactical elements that I received support with (e.g., How to obtain a digital copy of the registered voter database); however, the most valuable aspect of the Women Run! program was the comfort I had knowing there was a network of savvy and successful women I could tap into at a moment's notice in the event I needed anything... a simple word of encouragement or a safe space to air frustration."
Erin Zagalaidov, candidate for Grantham Select Board

How to get involved in Women Run!

Host a party!

We'd love to bring the Women Run! Program to your community! Email Devan at devan@nhwomensfoundation.org and let her know when and why you want to bring us to your city!

Donate to the Women Run!

Program or sign up for email alerts

Go to: NHWomensFoundation.org/WomenRun to learn more about the program, sign up for Women Run! updates or donate to the program!



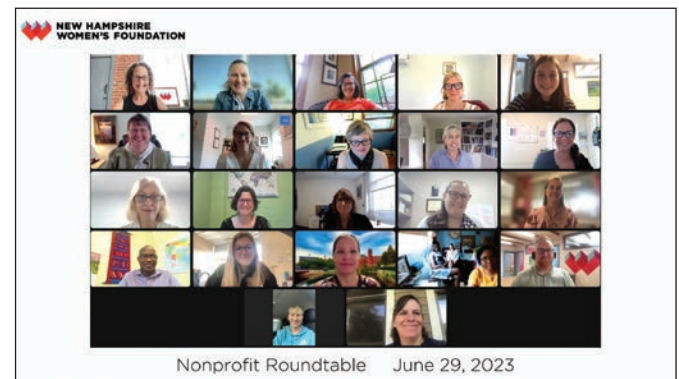
Around the State



NHWF was part of a diverse coalition advocating for a budget that included investments in affordable child care for families and sustainable solutions for child care workers.



NHWF CEO Tanna Clews on a panel for NH Center for Nonprofits' 2023 NH Grants Institute at Canterbury Shaker Village on July 20th.



Our July nonprofit roundtable centered on “Creative Solutions in Challenging Times.”



A diverse group of stakeholders (including NHWF grantees who serve girls, policy experts, data analysts and service providers) discuss our next *Status of Girls in New Hampshire* report.



Elected women leaders shared their experiences and wisdom with women who are thinking of running for office, now or in the future.

Go digital — sign up for our Weekly emails!

Did you know we send out Weekly email newsletters with program updates, action alerts and regional feminist news articles? Sign up at: nhwomensfoundation.org/engage



Meet our new Director of Grantmaking, Lauren Wool!



Lauren Wool joined in June as our new Director of Grantmaking — but while she is new to us in this role, Lauren is no stranger to the NHWF community and the NH nonprofit world. She spent decades at United Way — both Seacoast United Way and Granite State United Way, and has been in the grantmaking field for many years. When Ellen Koenig, our previous Grantmaking Director, retired at the end of last year, we knew we had big shoes to fill, and Lauren comes to us ready to make this program her own.

To help you get to know Lauren better, we asked her about her grantmaking philosophy, what she's excited about and how she sees the future of grantmaking and gender justice funding in the Granite State.

From your perspective as a seasoned grantmaker, what potential does grantmaking have the opportunity to accomplish?

LW: Grantmaking is an opportunity not only to invest resources where they are most needed, but to build partnerships with valued nonprofits serving our communities throughout NH. When done well, the collaboration goes “beyond the check” and has many mutual benefits — as funders, we also amplify their work, help build connections with them, learn together, respond to their ideas and challenges, listen/reflect/improve when hearing their feedback. Our hope is that this results in stronger, healthy communities, and nonprofit leaders who are supported and continually inspired.

What is something important about our grantmaking program that you wish more people knew?

LW: As funders in the gender justice space, our goal is equitable partnership with our grantees, and that must include capacity building for these critical direct service providers in our community. One of the key principles in trust-based philanthropy is a focus on un-restricted operating funding. I'm proud that NHWF allows organizations to apply for unrestricted funding in addition to programmatic funding. We know that nonprofit leaders know best how to spend funds to ensure a sustainable future.

Is there something so far that has surprised you about this role at NHWF?

LW: Some days NH seems very small — and other days, when I am learning about another region or an inspiring program, NH seems much bigger! I didn't realize until now that NHWF is the only grant maker in NH that focuses solely on women, girls and marginalized communities. Nationally, foundation support that is focused on women and girls is STILL less than 2% of all foundation giving... that needs to change! And I'm so honored to be at the New Hampshire Women's Foundation, a part of the movement that is necessary to bring about that change!

What are you most looking forward to in this role?

LW: Continuing to build on the great work of NHWF in grantmaking, building partnerships, and amplifying not only the needs of women and girls in NH but also innovative and successful strategies that are making an impact every single day. Learning about women and girl-serving nonprofits — learning about the intersectionality between gender justice and so many other important issues our NH communities are facing — and collaborating to drive toward shared goals.

Donor Spotlight



BLAIR DEMERS

Blair Demers is no stranger to women's philanthropy. As one of the founding members of the Seacoast Women's Giving Circle, Blair believes women's voices and collective impact are critical to affecting change in our communities. She first got involved with the Women's Foundation through the Giving Circle, and has been a Leadership Donor for nearly a decade.

Blair is very intentional about focusing her resources to support work being done across the state to reinforce women's rights. As a mom of three daughters, she never forgets the many women before her who worked to ensure freedom and opportunity for her and her girls. And especially after witnessing all of the recent setbacks to women's rights, she wants to teach her daughters that they can channel disappointment into action.

“Channeling our resources and energy into the Women's Foundation is one way I can take action and feel empowered in the face of so many setbacks,” Blair says. “We teach our daughters that philanthropy is a way to thank and acknowledge the people and organizations who are spending their time and energy fighting these challenges and solving these problems. It's one way I can stay optimistic and supportive, and it's a way to learn about the work of all of these organizations tackling important issues around gender equity in New Hampshire.”

We are grateful for our Leadership Donors like Blair, for their generous annual support of \$1,000 or more to the Women's Foundation! Join Blair and other Leadership Donors for special events and educational opportunities throughout the year.

Contact Tanna at:
tanna@nhwomensfoundation.org
to learn more.



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
WOMEN'S FOUNDATION**

18 Low Avenue, Suite 205, Concord, NH 03301

19TH ANNUAL WOMEN BUILDING COMMUNITY LUNCHEON OCT|19|2023

12-2 PM | DoubleTree Hotel | 700 Elm St, Manchester, NH



FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST ELIZABETH NYAMAYARO

Elizabeth Nyamayaro is an award-winning humanitarian, author, and former United Nations Senior Advisor on gender equality and founder of HeForShe Global Solidarity Movement for Gender Equality.

"Girls in the #603" is back with new data on girls' mental health, followed by a panel discussion (9:30-11:00 AM) . Then during registration, visit our **Grantee Showcase** (11:00-11:45 AM)!

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE AT THIS YEAR'S LUNCHEON

HELP US CELEBRATE **THE HONORABLE MARTHA FULLER CLARK** AND HER LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION AND OUR PREDECESSOR ORGANIZATIONS.



INFORMATION AND TICKETS:

WWW.NHWOMENSFOUNDATION.ORG | 603.226.3355