

FORWARD

News & Updates from the New Hampshire Women's Foundation



WBC 2017. Photo by Barbara MacLeod



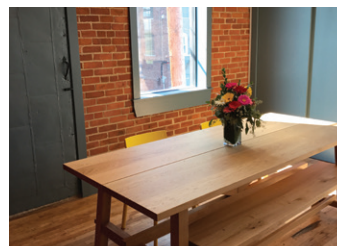
Visit Our New Site!

With bold visuals and language, our new site is more content-driven and user friendly.
nhwomensfoundation.org



New Staff

With a new Director of Policy and Director of Development, our team is complete!



We've Moved!

We recently moved to downtown Concord. Stop in and see our new space!



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*Photos courtesy of
Cheryl Senter*



MOVING FORWARD

This year has been one of bold thinking and strong growth at the New Hampshire Women's Foundation. As the only foundation in the Granite State investing in equality and opportunity for women and girls, we are dramatically increasing our grant making, education, advocacy and research to make our impact felt in every part of the state. A few highlights from 2017 include:

- We co-sponsored the Women's March in Concord.
- We increased our grant making by 150 percent.
- We launched our "Women Run!" program.
- We hosted Amy Poehler's Smart Girls at our Women Building Community Luncheon on International Day of the Girl.
- Our Policy Director, Sarah Mattson Dustin, appeared on New Hampshire Public Radio's "The Exchange."
- We committed to publishing an annual report on the status of women and girls in New Hampshire.

There is no organization better suited to improve the lives of New Hampshire women and girls than the Women's Foundation. There is no organization better prepared to move New Hampshire closer to political parity by increasing the number of women in elected office than the Women's Foundation. And there is no organization more dedicated to producing research focused on women and girls than the Women's Foundation.

Thank you for your support for the Women's Foundation. Together, we will continue to grow and strengthen the programs that will profoundly better the lives of women and girls in New Hampshire.

With you in action and in spirit,

Tanna

THANK YOU TO MARY JOHANNA BROWN

Mary Jo wraps up her tenure as Board Chair at the end of 2017 and we are immensely grateful for her twelve years of dedicated volunteer service, as both a champion of the two mergers that led to the formation of the New Hampshire Women's Foundation and as the Founding Board Chair of the Foundation. We are excited to announce that Susan Martore-Baker will be our next Board Chair and Mary Jo will continue in an advisory capacity as a Founding Chair Emeritus.



WELCOME NEW STAFF



SARAH MATTSON DUSTIN
DIRECTOR OF POLICY

Sarah joined in June after over a decade as a legal aid lawyer and lobbyist with New Hampshire Legal Assistance. Sarah spent several years managing NHLA's legislative and rulemaking advocacy on a variety of poverty law issues and spearheaded several successful legislative campaigns.



JESSIE PAPATOLICAS
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Jessie joined in September, bringing extensive experience in nonprofit management, having worked for large universities such as Northeastern, Tufts and Georgetown, as well as cultural institutions including the New York Botanical Garden and the Currier Museum of Art.

NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

Women and Politics in New Hampshire

This Op Ed, written by CEO Tanna Clews, appeared in the Union Leader on September 14, 2017

It's been nearly a century since the 19th Amendment was ratified, granting women the right to vote. Since then American women have fallen far short of achieving equal representation in Congress or in state legislatures around the country. Women hold just 19.6 percent of the 535 seats in the U.S. Congress, and around the country, only 25.0 percent of state legislative seats are held by women.

When it comes to electing women, New Hampshire has had some notable successes. In 1999, we were the first state to have a female governor, Senate president, and Speaker of the House at the same time. In 2008, we elected a majority-women state Senate. Four years later, we were the first state in the country to send an all-female delegation to Congress.

Despite this impressive list of 'firsts,' New Hampshire still has a long way to go. There are only 117 women in New Hampshire's 400-member House of Representatives. Seven of 24 New Hampshire Senators are women. That amounts to a Legislature in which women occupy less than a third of the seats. When women run for office, they are just as likely to win as men. The problem is that women are significantly less likely to run in the first place, creating a massive gender gap in political ambition. Experts cite many reasons for this gap, but two stand out: women feel less qualified to run than men despite having similar education and experience, and women are less likely than men to receive positive encouragement to run for office.

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation

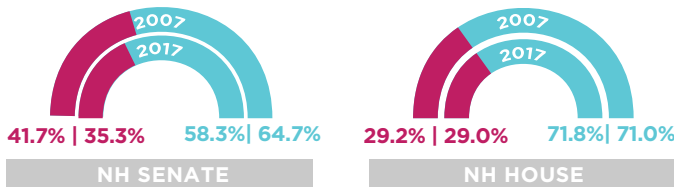
wants to knock down these barriers, and this fall we launched our Women Run! program to increase New Hampshire women's political participation. We partnered with VoteRunLead and She Should Run, two national nonpartisan organizations committed to increasing the number of women running for office, to provide training, education, community, and mentorship to New Hampshire women thinking about or planning to run for elected office. We kicked off our Women Run! program on September 23, at Manchester Community College, with a day-long VoteRunLead training for women planning to run for office in 2017 or 2018.

We'll also host a series of community conversations around New Hampshire, in partnership with She Should Run, talking with

local women about the value they can bring to local government. We want New Hampshire women to know that they have the background and skills to run for city council or school board or to seek an appointment to a local commission.

Women make up half the Granite State's population, and they out-register and out-vote men. It's common sense that 50 percent of our elected officials – regardless of party – should be women. It's past time to ensure that women feel ready to run. We are committed to helping build pathways to elected office for Granite State women, including transgender women and women of color. If you're a woman who is ready to step up and serve your community, we want to help get your name on the ballot.

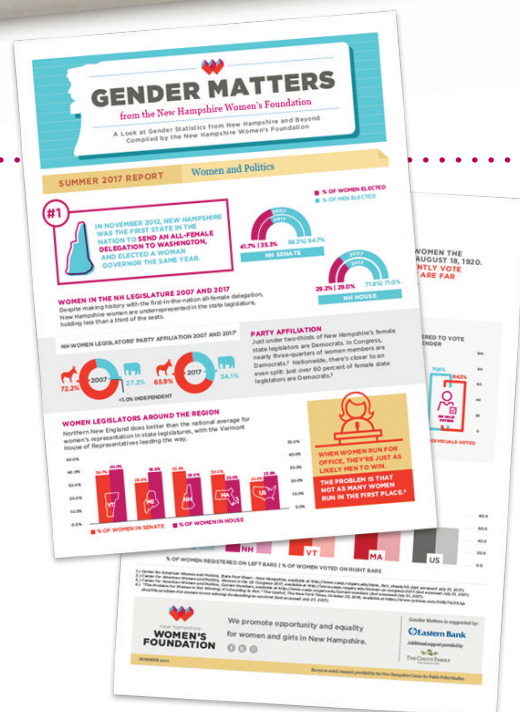
WOMEN IN THE NH LEGISLATURE 2007 AND 2017



■ % OF WOMEN ELECTED ■ % OF MEN ELECTED

Gender Matters

Our quarterly Gender Matters publication is a quick look at current issues impacting New Hampshire women and girls.



Around the State



NHWF Launches Women Run! Programs

On September 23, the New Hampshire Women's Foundation and VoteRunLead hosted a one-day boot camp designed to get NH women ready to run for office – and to win! Over 50 Republican, Democrat, and independent women attended this event where they learned from top-notch national trainers and heard directly from NH women in politics.

This fall NHWF and She Should Run will begin hosting local conversations about the importance of women running for local elected office and/or holding municipal positions.

Learn more or sign up for our Women Run! programs at nhwomensfoundation.org.



Grantee Showcase

On April 6, our twelve 2016 grant award recipients gathered at the Kimball Jenkins Estate with a room filled with NHWF supporters. These organizations each had a chance to talk about the great work they do and show supporters how their generous donations are being used.





It's Criminal

Funded in part by the Women's Foundation and directed by award-winning filmmaker, Signe Taylor, *It's Criminal* was recently shown at the NH Film Festival.

Women Building Community Luncheon

Our 13th annual luncheon drew a record crowd of nearly 650 friends and supporters for engaging conversation and networking in a room buzzing with excitement.



Meet & Greets across New Hampshire

During the first part of 2017 our CEO, Tanna Clews, visited 14 communities across New Hampshire. She traveled from Hanover to Portsmouth, Manchester to Gorham and met with nearly 500 people – among them many new faces to the Women's Foundation.



Donor Spotlight

ROBIN POLLARD

When something clicks for you, you just know it. That's what Robin Pollard found with the New Hampshire Women's Foundation.

Robin got involved with the Women's Fund back in the early 2000's, first getting involved with grantmaking. "I loved seeing the wide variety of programs and needs that the Women's Fund grantmaking supported – and learning about all the great work going on around the state. And I loved the actual process of being in a room with all of the engaged, smart and caring women, trying to make the best decisions possible about which programs to fund. These are people and causes I care a lot about, and still do. My work with the New Hampshire Women's Foundation has been a real highlight of my life."

From there, Robin joined the board of the Women's Fund, and was board chair during the merger to the New Hampshire Women's Foundation. She was a consistent supporter of the merger, working hard through the many details it required. Today, she's so pleased at where the organization is going as the New Hampshire Women's Foundation, blending all the important activities of grantmaking, advocacy, research and education.

Several years ago, Robin and her husband, Everett, made the decision to name the New Hampshire Women's Foundation in their wills. "It was one of our top philanthropic priorities, something we both believe in very strongly. When the time came to make a lasting gift, the choice was simple."

Does the work of the Women's Foundation click for you? If so, contact Jessie Papatolicas jessie@nhwomensfoundation.org to understand more about ways to leave a legacy in your estate planning.



Inaugural Pathways to Prosperity Grant Winner is Announced!

On Equal Pay Day, April 4, 2017, we encouraged supporters to donate to a new grant program “Pathways to Prosperity”, which supports programs to boost the economic success of women and girls in New Hampshire. We raised almost \$7500! As a result, 13 organizations were invited to apply for the new Pathways to Prosperity grant.

Individuals from the business community, technology sector, and higher education were invited to be judges. The decisions were tough, with so many strong applications, but they finally decided to award \$7500 to New Hampshire Legal Assistance to support their Domestic Violence Advocacy Program.

When a domestic violence victim files for a protective order in New Hampshire, in addition to asking the court to order that her abuser stay away from her, she may request “other relief.” This may include child support, alimony, restitution for lost wages, and car and mortgage payment. This is often a lifeline for the victim, as many stay in abusive relationships for financial reasons. How-

ever, this other relief is not consistently granted across New Hampshire.

This program allows NHLA’s Domestic Violence Advocacy staff, across 13 organizations in the state that are member agencies of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, to be trained on the process to obtain other relief for those they accompany to court. This financial support can make a huge difference to women working to rebuild their lives for themselves and their children after domestic violence.

This helps people like “Julie” and her daughter “Caroline.” They live in the North Country. Julie needed legal aid to escape an abuser who had not allowed her to see friends or family, or work outside the home for several years. That limited her economic horizons, and made leaving the abusive home difficult. Thanks to programs like this, they now live on their own and Julie is working regularly.

Congratulations to NH Legal Assistance, our first Pathways to Prosperity grantee!



Inaugural SHE Change Award Presented to the NH Community Loan Fund

Great examples of strong work in our communities that benefit women and girls are everywhere, with inspiring stories to tell. The NH Women’s Foundation decided to showcase these stories with its inaugural SHE Change award given at the 2017 Women Building Community Luncheon. The award highlights a great example of a creative solution to a complex problem and comes with a \$10,000 grant. The 2017 award was given to the “Business of Child Care”, a project of the NH Community Loan Fund.

“Small businesses on a mission” is how Julie McConnell from the NH Community Loan Fund describes child care providers in New Hampshire. “Owners of child care centers have to be amazingly creative to provide affordable, quality, early-childhood experiences, given how fragile, fragmented and poorly funded the child care system is,” she said.

That’s why the NH Community Loan Fund established the “Business of Child Care” project – to help child care directors better understand and

manage their centers’ finances. The project was launched in 2014 with 10 child care centers in Coos County and saw strong results. Funding from the NH Women’s Foundation will allow them expand their offering into other areas.

“One financial crisis can force a center to close. If that happens, some working parents have no alternative but to stay home with their child,” McConnell said. “That affects the child, the family, and the parent’s employer, not to mention the child care center staff who are now out of work.”

“The Community Loan Fund’s program is a great example of how we can help to strengthen a bedrock program in our community so that all families, businesses and communities can thrive. We are pleased to be a partner in this work,” said Ellen Koenig, Director of Grantmaking for the NH Women’s Foundation.

For more information on other programs that NHWF has helped to support, go to nhwomensfoundation.org/our-impact/grantmaking



Grantee Spotlight

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PARENTAL SUPPORT FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN

Going to prison is a disruptive and traumatic experience for anyone. While the impact on the individual is enormous, imagine the impact on their young children.

Incarceration of women in New Hampshire is growing faster than men, driven by a cycle of drugs, alcohol abuse and underlying factors like poverty, unemployment, childhood trauma, domestic violence and mental health issues. Currently there are approximately 180 women at the Women’s Prison in Goffstown or at Shea Farm in Concord awaiting release, 65% of them mothers of minor children.

One mother worked very hard to get video visits with her twins. They were 3 years old when she came in and are now 7. She was just released on AHC (Administrative Home Confinement, aka the ankle bracelet), and has maintained a strong connection with her kids with visits from Goffstown, as well as Shea Farm. NH Women’s Foundation recently supported the program that keeps these women connected to their children. Working through the Family Connections Center, Child and Family Services support workers provide parenting classes, support group work, supervised Skype visits with their children, and one-to-one case management to help the women prepare for release and reentry into their families and communities.

Studies show that incarcerated women who have strong relationships with their children are less likely to return to prison, and that their children do better in school and in life. A small investment can have long-lasting rewards for the women and their children involved in this program.

Still Waiting: New Hampshire’s Incarcerated Women

Sarah Mattson Dustin, Director of Policy

New Hampshire has been incarcerating women since 1813, when Abigail Sweatt was sentenced to one year in prison for stealing. Until 1941, women were housed at New Hampshire State Prison for Men in Concord. For nearly 50 years after that, they were primarily sent to county jails and out-of-state prisons as far away as Colorado. A new women’s prison in Concord is nearly complete, but underfunding could mean the facility will sit empty for months.

When they were sent out of state, New Hampshire’s incarcerated women faced enormous obstacles to rehabilitation and reentry. Long distances sometimes made visiting with children and other family members impossible. Education, training, and recreational opportunities were extremely limited. Lack of services complicated women’s ability to plan for rejoining the community. Meanwhile men continued to be incarcerated primarily at the State Prison for Men, where they were provided a considerably more robust array of educational and vocational services and easier access to their local families.

In 1983, incarcerated women represented by NH Legal Assistance sued the state, arguing that transferring women out of state and failing to provide them with services comparable to those available to men was unconstitutional. After four long years of litigation, they won. A federal judge ordered the State to provide women with a permanent facility comparable to the State Prison for Men by 1989.

**MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS
AFTER THEY SUED, THE WOMEN
ARE STILL WAITING.**

Since 1989, women have been incarcerated primarily at a Goffstown facility leased from Hillsborough County. Goffstown was meant to be temporary, as it couldn’t accommodate services comparable to those available to men – preventing so-called “parity.” (For example, men were able to learn auto mechanics and building trades, which can lead to high-paying employment; women could prepare for lower-paying

office and textile jobs.) In 2011, the NH State Advisory Committee to the US Commission on Civil Rights issued a scathing indictment of women’s incarceration in NH, noting that “[t]he exceptionally high recidivism rate for female offenders in New Hampshire – among the only states in the country with a recidivism rate for women that exceeds the comparable rate for men – is a powerful testament to the high cost that the state pays for its failure to address unequal conditions of confinement faced by female offenders.” Women’s Foundation merging partners, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Women’s Policy Institute, also released reports highlighting problems with women’s corrections.

In 2012, the state once again found itself defending a lawsuit alleging that it was failing to achieve parity. The case was put on hold in 2013, when the Legislature finally appropriated funds for the construction of a new women’s prison.

Construction of the new prison – to the tune of around \$50 million – will wrap up this fall. Yet due to hiring difficulties and the Legislature’s failure to fund enough staffing, it will sit empty into 2018. And the women will keep waiting.

**THIS FALL, THE WOMEN’S
FOUNDATION WILL RELEASE
NEW RESEARCH ABOUT NEW
HAMPSHIRE’S INCARCERATED
WOMEN, INCLUDING A
DEMOGRAPHICAL SNAPSHOT
AND A FIRST-OF-ITS KIND ONLINE
TIMELINE AND DOCUMENT BANK.**

The Women’s Foundation will do whatever it can to make sure the new women’s prison opens as soon as possible and fulfills the state’s long-neglected responsibility to provide parity to women. We hope you’ll raise your voice, too, and call on your elected officials to make this right. After three-quarters of a century, the women have been waiting long enough.



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
WOMEN'S FOUNDATION**

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