



2012-13 ANNUAL REPORT

the WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION
of CALIFORNIA

DEAR FRIEND,

It's time to step it up!

It's time to step up our creative thinking, strengthen our collaborations and increase our investments to fight poverty and change California's future. Why? Because we find ourselves at a unique moment in history when there is an increasing recognition of the intergenerational and irreversible harm inflicted by poverty and income inequality.

By seizing this moment of enlightened understanding, we—leaders, advocates and organizations—have the power to fortify, amplify and extend our efforts to create economic opportunity for more women and families in California.

California is the ninth largest economy in the world but one in four of its children is living in poverty. Our job market is recovering but one in three single mothers is barely making ends meet. Our research revealed that women and children are the invisible victims of the Great Recession. As recently as 2012, women's employment gains lagged behind those of men and the jobs most single mothers could find were part-time, minimum- and low-wage.

Furthermore, over the last five years, all public supports that have been proven to help women move out of poverty were dramatically cut. Subsidized child care was cut by \$1 billion (one-third of its budget). CalWORKs cash grants were reduced by 12 percent to an amount that further plunged vulnerable families into deep poverty. The length of time a CalWORKs parent qualifies for critical welfare-to-work services was slashed from five to two years, making it that much harder for that parent to obtain and keep long-term, sustainable employment.

Yet, during the last five years of scarcity, we found that the women the Foundation meets and works with have a surplus of ambition, vision and work ethic. In the face of systemic challenges that have worsened since 2007 these women used their guts, gumption and hard work to survive one of the most difficult eras in our economic history.

But with the right investments, these women could do so much more.

Social science research shows that a small amount of additional income in these families' lives will permanently and fundamentally change their life trajectories, markedly affecting their levels of educational completion, viable employment and health status. We know that robust public programs and innovative private ventures that invest in families make a real, lasting difference with the possibility of changing their lives and success levels in one generation.

Yes, it's time to step up our efforts. Not only because we believe in fairness, equity and economic justice, but because we now know that poverty is toxic. Multiple studies have shown that poverty takes a tremendous toll on children, causing poorer cognitive development, lower educational attainment and higher high school dropout rates. At the same time, poverty hurts parents. A 2013 study from Princeton, Harvard and the University of

Warwick in England found that poverty can reduce a person's brainpower by 13 IQ points regardless of his or her innate intelligence or personality.

But the problem of poverty is not insurmountable. It's dire, but it can and must be solved. This year—thanks to your support and guidance—we've accomplished a series of important victories against poverty.



We supported 74 women's rights organizations with \$2.4 million in grants.



We helped pass four bills into law, including the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, which will enable more than 100,000 low-wage workers—the majority of them women—to earn overtime pay.



We supported the effort that resulted in the increase of the CalWORKs cash grant by five percent, giving on average an extra \$30 per month to families in need. It's not much, but it will help to pay a month's electricity bill.



We operated eight giving circles, which made half a million dollars in grants.



We trained 34 women to be experts and leaders in shaping public policy that takes into account the needs and perspectives of low-income women.



We sponsored a groundbreaking report, which made the case for investments in CalWORKs and child care, and we influenced decision makers in Sacramento and public opinion in California.

We're proud of the work we accomplished together this year and you should be, too. We have a long way to go and we hope that you'll continue standing with us. This is our time.

Together we can build a better, more equitable California.

In solidarity,

Judy Patrick
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Nicole Vazquez
BOARD CHAIR



MEET THREE EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

LOURDES



LOURDES

CHILD CARE ADVOCATE

Lourdes is a slight, energetic woman and though she speaks only when asked a question, she speaks clearly and firmly and is confident in her words.

Lourdes is an organizer with Parent Voices, a statewide organization with the mission to make quality child care accessible and affordable to all families. We have been supporting and funding their work for more than a decade.

When asked what she thinks is the greatest obstacle single mothers like her face today, Lourdes says that it's the painful stereotypes that have been created and perpetuated over the last 30 years.

"People believe that single mothers are at home all day long watching soap operas while the government is supporting them. But all the women I know work hard. Believe me, it's really hard being a single mother."

In 2008 Lourdes lost her job as assistant principal at a local school.

"I loved my job. It's sad that the first cuts and so-called savings are always made in education. Shouldn't we know by now that there are never savings in cutting our children's education—just future costs?"

Lourdes worked hard to find work, but the Great Recession was unforgiving. It did not help that she had a newborn and could no longer afford child care.

"Because I didn't have reliable child care, I couldn't get a reliable job. But because I didn't have a job, I couldn't afford child care. I was caught in an exasperating catch-22 situation and, for a while, I couldn't see a way out."

But Lourdes refused to lie down and she refused to give up. She applied to receive CalWORKs cash benefits, put herself on a wait list for subsidized child care, enrolled in a teaching credential program at San Francisco State University and joined Parent Voices as an advocate.

Lourdes is studying to be a teacher because she believes that education is a key to equal opportunity and social mobility for our children. And she is working with Parent Voices because she wants to help remove what she sees are systemic barriers to women's self-sufficiency and economic security.

For women, working and child care go hand in hand. Without one, the other is difficult—if not impossible. That's why



the rallying cry of Parent Voices is "child care keeps California working" and that's why, this year, Lourdes and Parent Voices advocated for reinvesting in subsidized child care, which had been cut by almost a third since 2008.

Investing in child care as an antipoverty strategy makes perfect sense: not only are parents able to work, earn and contribute to the economy, but research has shown that every dollar invested in child care for low-income families returns \$4 in long-term benefits to the state.

All the organizing, advocating and educating that Parent Voices and inspiring women like Lourdes did this year yielded remarkable results. In the 2013–14 California state budget, the Legislature and the Governor reinvested \$50.8 million in child care.

We know that's just a fraction of the \$1 billion that has been cut over the last five years, but it's a big step in the right direction. After all, this year was the first time in six years that the budget did not include cuts to child care!

MARI

SAFETY NET CHAMPION

Mari is quick to smile and always ready to offer an encouraging word. She has an insatiable thirst for knowledge which, combined with her enthusiasm for social justice, has driven her to become a powerful advocate and community organizer.

For five years, Mari dreamed of getting into our Women's Policy Institute (WPI) fellowship program. Although she already had years of experience as an advocate, she knew that this competitive program would give her access to insider knowledge, behind-the-scenes conversations and important

relationships that she needed to truly exert influence in Sacramento.

"I've been very fortunate because people took chances on me throughout my life. Luckily it always paid off—for me and for them," said Mari.

Indeed, we were fortunate to take a chance on Mari. She became part of our WPI Reproductive Justice Team, which this year worked closely with Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell on a women's economic justice bill, AB 271.

AB 271 aimed to repeal the Maximum Family Grant Rule, a harmful law



that cruelly denies assistance to some newborns as a way of punishing their mothers for getting pregnant while on CalWORKS.

For 20 years this law has denied some infants a small cash grant of \$122 per month—money that most low-income mothers desperately need to pay for basic necessities like diapers and clothes.

Mari and her team worked around the clock to rally support for this important bill and they did better than anybody thought possible.

Their brave bill made it all the way to the Senate Appropriations Committee, just one step away from getting to the governor. Unfortunately, it didn't pass.

Mari was shocked, but resolute:

“There are two types of people: people who question and people who accept. WPI fellows fall into the first category. Faced with the Maximum Family Grant Rule, we asked: What does this rule say about our society? Should we stand by and watch as some women and children endure poverty? Is investing in prisons more important than investing in our children?”

Next year, Mari and her teammates Celina, Nayantara, Sierra and Suely will continue asking questions of our policymakers. That's because, for the first time in the history of the Women's Policy Institute, we're bringing back her entire team to once again work on repealing the Maximum Family Grant rule.

Why? Because this is too important. Because we need to put an end to childhood poverty in California. Because we need to take chances on women like Mari. It always pays off.

MARI



MARIA LUNA

DOMESTIC WORKER RIGHTS VISIONARY

Maria Luna has been an in-home health worker since 1994. For the entirety of that time she has been a member of Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA), an organization that prepares domestic workers to enter the workforce, helps them find work, teaches them about their labor rights and organizes them to advocate for public policies that protect them in the workplace. We supported and funded MUA for eight years.

Today, over 90 percent of domestic workers are women. They have a very important job—they take care of our children, our parents and disabled family members—but their work has been painfully undervalued. For decades, domestic workers have been denied the basic labor protections that most workers in California benefit from. As a result, economic security has been out of their reach.

Maria Luna speaks English well, though she laughs it off and insists she's not as good as she sounds. She is a warm woman who has a lot of pride in her work.

A survivor of domestic violence, she left her husband and raised her five children alone. She's a grandmother now and is quick to say that all her children finished school.

Before she joined MUA, Maria Luna earned a minimum wage working as a cook in a restaurant where she regularly put in 12-hour days without overtime. She worked very hard, but could never earn enough to make ends meet.

But after she trained to be a domestic worker and after she took financial education and wage negotiation classes through MUA's Caring Hands program, she was able to negotiate for higher wages and

benefits and even begin saving for emergencies.

Maria Luna is proud to say that she's now economically secure.

"Today, I have more peace of mind. I feel like I have enough money, not only to pay my rent and my bills, but to save a little and even buy my granddaughter a nice birthday gift."

But this grandmother hides a big secret. She is one of the women who helped start the movement behind the groundbreaking California Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, which Governor Brown signed into law on September 26, 2013.

"We were three women who started the campaign in 2003. The original idea to learn more about domestic workers came from MUA. They created a survey and the three of us went out onto the streets to look for and survey domestic workers.

I remember we had to enter the survey results into a computer. That was the first time I ever used a computer. And I loved it!"

The Domestic Worker Bill of Rights is a major victory for low-income women in California. Because of MUA, more than 100,000 women in California now have the right to overtime pay and the ability to earn more when they work longer hours.

To end the epidemic of poverty in California, it's not enough to just give women jobs. Women like Maria Luna are working, but their full-time, minimum-wage jobs are not allowing them to earn a living.

It's critical that the jobs women get are good jobs—with living wages, benefits and equal protections under the law.



POVERTY IS A WOMEN'S ISSUE

It's 2013 and poverty has become a women's issue. According to the US Census Bureau's supplemental poverty measure, one in four women in California are living in poverty.

How did we get here? It's because our priorities were wrong. We prioritized prison spending over education and the safety net; we prioritized deficit reduction over the growing rate of poverty; we consistently ignored the tough realities of those most hurt by the recession. And, unsurprisingly, California's poverty rate grew seven times faster than the national rate over the last five years, from 6 million to 8.7 million people living in poverty.

California has had a good system of safety-net programs that have been proven to work at reducing poverty. Unfortunately over the last 30 years, particularly since the Great Recession, those policies have been weakened, undercut or underfunded. At the same time, the cost of living has skyrocketed while the wages stagnated for all but the wealthiest Californians.

Take, for example, CalWORKs (California's welfare-to-work program). In 2013, the maximum CalWORKs cash grant for a family of three (a mother and two children) was \$638 per month. That's a pittance considering that the average monthly rent for a family of three in a city like Los Angeles is double that amount.

And that's only half of the story. The real shocker is that this cash amount has remained virtually unchanged for 25 years: in 1988, a family of three received \$633 per month.

How is that possible? It's because the CalWORKs cash grants have not kept pace with inflation. They have been repeatedly cut and the cost-of-living adjustments have been repeatedly suspended. As a result, the cash grants today are worth *half* of their 1988 value. As a matter of fact, today's grant would have to be raised to \$1,399 to have the same purchasing and poverty-fighting power it did 25 years ago.

CALIFORNIA:



THE 9th LARGEST ECONOMY in the WORLD!

IT'S TIME TO **STEP IT UP!**

AND YET...

ONE IN FOUR CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY

EFFECTS OF POVERTY

- HIGHER DROPOUT RATE
- STRESS
- TEEN PREGNANCY
- REDUCED COGNITION
- LIKELIER VICTIMS OF CRIME
- HEALTH ISSUES



ONE IN THREE SINGLE MOTHERS LIVE IN POVERTY



MOTHER OF TWO IN LOS ANGELES

MONTHLY EXPENSES

RENT	...	\$1200
CHILD CARE	...	1712
FOOD	...	524
HEALTH	...	419
TRANSPORTATION	...	600
MISC.	...	438
PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	...	497
TOTAL		\$5392

\$5392/MO

MONTHLY INCOME

FORTY HOURS A WEEK IN A FAST FOOD RESTAURANT

\$1280/MO

HOW CAN SHE POSSIBLY MAKE UP THE SHORTFALL?

IT'S A **STEEP CLIMB** OUT OF POVERTY!



HELP! DOWN HERE!

THE GREAT RECESSION

DOUBLE-DIGIT UNEMPLOYMENT

PART-TIME LOW-WAGE JOBS

PROVEN SUPPORTS THAT HELP — BUT KEEP GETTING CUT!

GOOD JOBS

EDUCATION

CalWORKS (WELFARE-TO-WORK) CASH GRANTS

CHILD CARE

SINGLE MOM UNEMPLOYMENT 40%

TUITION UP 21%

CUT BY \$1 BILLION

CUT BY 12%

CHANGE IS ON ITS WAY



ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR ALL WOMEN

CONDITIONS FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY

- SAFETY
- HEALTH INSURANCE
- CHILD CARE
- PEACE OF MIND
- A LIVING WAGE
- NUTRITION
- SAVINGS

2012-2013 the WOMEN'S FOUNDATION of CALIFORNIA

THANKS TO OUR



SENATOR HOLLY MITCHELL! 26TH DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION!

WE'RE DOING IT TOGETHER.

IT'S BETTER FOR CALIFORNIA!

GRANT MAKING

GIVING CIRCLES

POLICY ADVOCACY

NEW LAWS SIGNED AB 241 612

WOMEN'S POLICY INSTITUTE

34 POLICY EXPERTS TRAINED

STAND WITH WOMEN

A FULL-FLEDGED ANTI-POVERTY CAMPAIGN

74 WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUPS SUPPORTED

PRESS RELEASE

GRANT PARTNERS

DONORS

WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF CA

LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS

WPI FELLOWS

WHERE DID ALL THE GOOD JOBS GO?

Working women and families in California are having a hard time making ends meet. The economic recovery has been uneven and the unemployment rate remains in near double digits. For single mothers, the situation is even worse: their unemployment rate is now at a distressing 40 percent.

At the same time the majority of jobs that have been recuperated following the Great Recession are low-wage jobs in the service and leisure industries.

That's bad news considering that an average full-time, minimum-wage worker in a fast-food restaurant earns \$1,280 per month. If she's a single mother of two, how can she survive on such a low salary in an expensive state like California? She can't.

Ironically, it was the fast-food giant McDonald's that came to that same conclusion, all the while familiarizing Americans with a less-known term: working poor. Basically, working poor describes a person who has a job and works hard, yet because she receives the minimum wage or a little more, earns an income that's below the federal poverty line.

Almost one-third of our state's working families qualify as low income and California has the highest total number of working poor families in the country. What's more, two-thirds of minimum-wage workers in California are women, and so are two-thirds of "tipped" workers, for whom the minimum wage is only \$2.13 per hour.

Early in 2013, McDonald's published a sample monthly budget, which had the good intention of teaching McDonald's employees how to manage their finances. This sample budget, however, mainly served to show how punitive the US minimum wage is and how unrealistic the quaint belief that working hard is all it takes to achieve the American Dream.

The McDonald's budget shows, line by line, how much a person is supposed to earn to pay for rent, food and other basic necessities every month. For the math to neatly add up, they propose that their employees have not one, but two jobs: one full- and the other part-time. Based on their calculations, an average minimum-wage worker would need to work 65 hours a week to make ends meet each month!

If nothing else, the McDonald's sample budget—and the outraged reactions in the media and the blogosphere—served as yet another wake-up call to our policymakers. In September 2013, Governor Brown and the Legislature announced that the minimum wage would be raised to \$10 per hour by 2016.

It's a modest increase that will bring a working family of three to just above the federal poverty line, but it's a sign that our representatives are beginning to implement policies that help working and low-income Californians take steps toward economic security.

Californians who work full time should not have to get another job or apply for government assistance to make ends meet. The harsh truth is that without a legislated living wage—which is much higher than \$10 per hour—poverty in California will become even more entrenched.

ECONOMIC INSECURITY FOR ALL

The shocking truth about economic insecurity is that it will, at one point or another, affect most Americans. According to a 2013 report from the *Associated Press*, “Four out of five US adults struggle with joblessness, near poverty and reliance on welfare for at least parts of their lives.”

Not only that, but economic insecurity is incredibly toxic to both children and adults. Children living in poverty face a myriad of economic, emotional and familial stressors—all of which have been proven to cause poorer academic achievement and higher dropout rates in high school, poverty and unemployment as adults, higher likelihood to become teen parents as well as higher likelihood to suffer from obesity, diabetes, heart disease, substance abuse and mental illness.

Furthermore, according to a report published by the journal *Science* in 2013, poverty is alarmingly harmful to adults. The researchers found that poverty and its effects—worrying about the utility bill that is due, thinking about losing food stamps or cash benefits, stressing out about not being able to find a job—impose a massive cognitive burden akin to losing 13 IQ points. That means that adults living in poverty, due to stress and constant worry, end up having less brain bandwidth left over to do many of the things that might lift them out of poverty—such as concentrate in their night-school class, search for a new job or even remember to pay bills on time.

This research shows what most of us have inherently known: poverty creates a vicious cycle. Without effective intervention, the condition of poverty causes more poverty. A life filled with hardship, disappointment, worry and discrimination can lead to hopelessness and an inability to see oneself as a change agent in one’s own life and in the lives of one’s children.

That’s why it’s so life-affirming to see women like Lourdes and Maria Luna who, with superhuman strength and in spite of poverty, depression and domestic violence, are able to imagine a better tomorrow and lead movements for change. Because of their work and passion, thousands of women are uplifted.

Maria Luna remembers the moment she learned that she mattered and that she had the right—and duty—to change the condition of domestic workers like herself.



“At first I thought: The government? What are they going to do for us? So what if we propose a law to help domestic workers? They won’t listen to us. Who would ever listen to us? But then, through Mujeres Unidas y Activas, I saw firsthand that we—individual women, communities and society—can make a difference and help ourselves to claim our rights.”

WHAT IS ECONOMIC SECURITY?



For some women, economic security means being able to buy a home, for others having enough money to send their kids to college or save for retirement. For Maria Luna it's not having to worry all the time and having the luxury to buy her granddaughter a birthday gift.

At the Women's Foundation of California, we don't think of economic security as the opposite of poverty, especially because the official federal poverty measure is flawed. It does not take into account the high cost of living in California and is based on an outdated calculation that considers only the cost of food when measuring economic wellbeing.

According to the official poverty measure, a mother of two children is poor if she earns less than \$1,627 per month. However, that same mother is not economically secure if she begins earning a few dollars *more* than \$1,627. We wish it were that easy.

Consider a single mother of two toddlers living in Los Angeles. On average, rent in a safe neighborhood would cost her \$1,202 per month; child care for two small children \$1,712; food \$524; health insurance \$419; transportation \$600 and various personal and household items \$497. Added up, her monthly expenses would total more than \$5,000. That's a far cry from the \$1,627 per month threshold for measuring poverty and the lack thereof.

So, what do we mean by economic security? We mean that we want to empower women to both pull themselves out of poverty *and* go beyond that—reach higher. We want to put an end to women living month-to-month and paycheck-to-paycheck.

For the Women's Foundation of California, economic security is women meeting their basic needs—a place to live, enough healthy food for the month, health insurance, transportation and quality child care—*and* saving something extra for emergencies, education and retirement. It's going above and beyond the federal poverty measure, overcoming poverty once and for all and ensuring that our children never fall into it.

OUR DONORS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



BUNMI AND MERLE PHILANTHROACTIVISTS

Women Give San Diego is one of our eight giving circles. Started in 2010 by three visionary women—Linda Katz, Gayle Tauber and Jan Tuttleman—Women Give is now 111 members strong. These members pool their resources and, so far, have awarded \$198,000 to nine organizations that are working on increasing women’s economic security in San Diego County.

While all eight of our giving circles are doing cutting-edge thinking and grantmaking, Women Give is unique in the way they lead their circle. To make philanthropy accessible to all women, the circle actively recruits passionate women of all ages and financial backgrounds. They have a tiered giving structure based on age so that, for example, women in their thirties contribute a minimum of \$500, while women in their forties contribute \$1,000 or more every year.

“I’ve never really envisioned myself as a philanthropist. Whenever I thought of philanthropy, I thought of an older, white male,” said Bunmi Esho, co-president of Women Give.

“So when I got this opportunity to be a part of something big and within a donation category that fit me financially, I was really excited.”

The reality is that the social justice sector is not well funded. Every year, fewer than 14 percent of overall

grant dollars go to groups addressing the root causes of economic, social and environmental injustice.

Women Give members are collectively addressing the root causes of economic insecurity in San Diego and they’re doing it together. They know that as a group they can raise more money, make better informed decisions and have greater impact in the long term.

“The whole is always greater than the sum of its parts. That’s why we get together and pool our resources. But Women Give is so much more than just philanthropy. It’s digging a little deeper and getting involved. It’s working with other women to achieve a higher goal for women. It’s using whatever wisdom and skills I have while benefitting from the wisdom of other women—especially younger women,” said Merle Brodie, co-president of Women Give.

Merle and Bunmi share leadership of Women Give San Diego. That was an intentional decision on the part of the founders. Because the circle is almost equal parts women under 40 and women over 40, the founders decided that the leadership needed to represent those two generations of women: baby boomers and millennials. Plain and simple, Women Give is women of different ages, skills and backgrounds coming

together because they have a shared vision for their community:

“What I like about our giving circle is that we’re not only focused on the money aspect—on giving grants. We’re also focused on how we can empower nonprofits as well as our members to get involved with those nonprofits. Community engagement and volunteering are a huge piece of our work,” said Bunmi.

Women Give is solidly a part of the community. The circle’s grants benefit not just the low-income women and families, but the entire community.

“This year we funded a program at the local community college that trained child care providers. The state cut funding for this program, so we stepped in. That experience really hit close to home because, when my children were young, my child care provider was the most important person in my life. See, by funding this program, we supported our entire community: the child care providers *and* the mothers who, like me, will be able to work and earn a living knowing that their children are well taken care of,” said Merle.

To find out more about our giving circles, visit us online at www.womensfoundca.org/giving-circles.

OUR STRATEGY IN A NUTSHELL

We have a three-pronged approach to making economic security a reality for women and children in our state. To achieve it we'll leverage the power of our giving circle philanthropists, our Women's Policy Institute fellows and our Stand with Women advocates.

One, through our **giving circles**, we'll educate and unleash an entire generation of philanthroactivists, people steeped in the issues of economic security and eager to invest in and take part in this critical movement.

Our giving circles can make a real difference in our communities by infusing strategic, thoughtful grants into the field and by investing in women and women-led solutions to increasing economic security. Imagine, since 1999, which is when we launched our first giving circle, our circles have collectively given \$10.4 million in grants to improve the lives of low-income women and their children!

Two, we'll continue training grassroots women leaders through our **Women's Policy Institute**. These women will work with our state and local elected officials to create public policies that champion low-income women and increase social mobility and economic opportunity in our state.

Public policy is very important and we can't forget that one good bill can right a terrible wrong. Just this year, we contributed to the passage of a groundbreaking law. The Domestic Worker Bill of Rights (AB 241), only the third of its kind in the US, will extend overtime pay to all domestic workers, the majority of whom are low-income women who are heads of household.

Three, we'll engage our vast network of supporters in active advocacy, awareness and media relations campaigns on behalf of causes that actively promote the economic security of women and families in our state. **Stand with Women** will be our laboratory for change where we'll test ideas, collaborate with longtime and new allies and work to build a strong, relentless antipoverty movement.

Throughout it all, we'll leverage our research, conferences, petitions, op-eds, media outreach and the voices of ambassadors like you to make public and visible both the plight and the power of California's low-income women.

Will you help us:

FIGHT for good jobs that provide good wages and benefits.

RAISE the minimum wage.

ENSURE that the safety net is there when women and families need it.

INVEST in organizations that support women and women-led solutions to ending poverty.

TRAIN women to lead policy change efforts in Sacramento and in their local communities.

GROW the number of donors who pool their resources, do collaborative grantmaking and support organizations that advance women's economic security.

THIS IS WHY WE NEED YOU

As a result of the *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision, a few individuals and corporations are now allowed to donate unprecedented amounts of money to political campaigns. But with unlimited amounts of money comes unlimited access to politicians. And with unlimited access comes the capacity to control politics and direct the course of our democracy, economy and collective future.

There's nothing wrong with supporting politicians or lobbying—it's a natural and necessary part of a working democracy. But, what if donating and lobbying become so skewed that the very foundation of our democracy is compromised?

After all, who is lobbying for low-income, working women? Who's looking out for them and making sure they're at the table when decisions that impact them and their communities are made?

We are doing our best to fill that void. We are making grants to grassroots organizations like Parent Voices, California Partnership and LIFETIME, enabling them to lobby in Sacramento. We are building relationships with elected officials and nurturing women's rights champions in our state capital.

We are pressuring, persuading and educating our policymakers and we are raising awareness among voters about issues that affect low-income women and children. We are training grassroots women leaders to write and pass legislation as well as to hold our legislators accountable to the communities they represent.

Our goal is to not only increase our own capacity; our goal is to increase the capacity and the coordination of the entire economic justice movement.

And that kind of work takes money. Social change at this scale needs sustained funding. Social change at this scale needs time and nurturing, its fire lovingly tended and stoked. Social change at this scale needs champions who refuse to back down and who dare to dream regardless of how long it may take and how difficult the road ahead may be.

We are proud to share that thanks to you—your ambition, your vision and your passion—we have raised \$3.3 million this year to advance economic security of women in California. Your generosity has helped fund our:

- Women's Policy Institute, which so far has trained 281 women and resulted in 20 laws that benefit women and their families;
- Stand with Women program, which we have used to advocate loudly for reinvesting in our tattered social safety net;
- Statewide grantmaking, which totaled \$2.4 million in both Foundation- and giving circle-directed grants.

Together, we can have a huge impact. Civic engagement is not out there. It's right here. It's Lourdes, Mari, Maria Luna, Bunmi and Merle. These women, as part of their organizations and in coalition with others, have made real, measurable change this year, from passing the California Domestic Worker Bill of Rights to investing in effective organizations.

But, most important, civic engagement is you. Will you continue contributing your ideas, partnership and resources on behalf of low-income women and families? Will you help us create a state where the voices of women are more powerful than the donations and lobbyists of powerful economic interests?



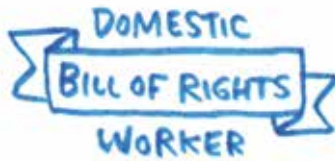
LOOK AT WHAT YOU HELPED US DO!



We supported 74 women's rights organizations.



We helped pass four bills into law.



We helped pass the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights.



We helped increase the CalWORKs cash grant by five percent.



We operated eight giving circles.



We trained 34 women in public policy.



We sponsored a groundbreaking research report.

To see our FY2012–13 grant partners and donors, go to www.womensfoundca.org.

WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF CALIFORNIA

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Our independent audit was not available at the time of printing this annual report. To receive a copy of our audited financial statements, please call us at 415-321-2044.

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