WOMEN for WOMEN
A GIVING CIRCLE

An initiative of The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina
**Mission:** Improve the lives of women and girls through women’s collective giving

Women for Women always welcomes new members. As our membership grows, so does our capacity to help.
**Vision**: Empower women to take action, inspire hope and possibility, and strengthen Western North Carolina

Our 2019 Fall Focus featured a panel discussion with Debra Campbell, Asheville City Manager, Avril Pinder, Buncombe County Manager, and Jaime Laughter, Transylvania County Manager.
How We Got Started

• In October 2003, Eleanor Owen, CFWNC Board Chair, and several staff members attended the Council on Foundations Community Foundation Conference in Baltimore. Eleanor attended a session on women’s giving circles and collaborative funds. She was energized by the idea and thought other women in Western North Carolina would be, too.

• *Women for Women* was launched in February 2005 and had 213 founding members by year end including “founding mothers” Pat Smith, Marla Adams, Sue McClintong, Janice Brumit, and Eleanor Owen.

• WFW awarded its first grants totaling $213,000 in 2006: addressing the unmet needs of women & girls in our region.
How Membership Works

- Members commit to a tax-deductible gift of $1,100 per year for three years.

- Members learn about regional issues affecting women and girls and make high-impact grants that help disadvantaged women.

- Each member has a voice and a vote in how funds are distributed.

- The level of participation in group activities is totally flexible and determined by your interest level and availability.

Photo courtesy of Steven Freedman
How Members Benefit

WFW seeks the expertise and guidance of key leaders and organizations for our grantmaking and educational activities. As a result, each member becomes a more informed philanthropist. A recent Brown Bag Lunch & Learn featured a presentation from Mary Nesbitt of MANNA FoodBank.
Grants are made to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations and public agencies serving the following counties: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania and Yancey and including the Qualla Boundary.
Since 2006, WFW has distributed 67 grants totaling $4,141,477

In 2020, Safelight received $50,000 over two years to create the Safe Works program, a collaboration with the Life Works Program of Community Action Opportunities. Women graduating from Safelight’s Job Training program will receive three additional years of job and life skills training and case management.
In 2018, WFW awarded a three-year $450,000 Collaborative High Impact Grant.

The grant, which was the largest in the giving circle’s history, was awarded to Buncombe Partners in Prevention, a collaboration among Helpmate, Mountain Child Advocacy Center, Our VOICE, and Pisgah Legal Services.

Photo courtesy of Michael Oppenheim
Where We Focus Our Grantmaking

We will invest in programs that...

- Help economically disadvantaged women become more self-sufficient
- Promote access to quality health care and advance healthy lifestyles
- Ensure women and girls live free from intimidation and abuse
- Ensure educational opportunities that help women and girls reach their full potential
- Eliminate discrimination against women and disparate treatment based on gender
- Promote access for women to legal services and equity within the justice system

In 2020, Delta House Life Development of Asheville received $40,000 over two years for its Girls Thrive for Womanhood program, which provides enrichment activities for girls of color in Asheville.
Joining *Women for Women*

- Membership is $1,100 / year
- Initial three year commitment, then renew annually
- Gift is 100% tax-deductible
- $1,000 goes to the pool of grant funds; $100 provides administrative support
- Several ways to pay WFW membership:
  - Check made payable to CFWNC
  - Credit Card - [https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/womenforwomenCFWNC](https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/womenforwomenCFWNC)
  - Stock gift
  - Grant from CFWNC donor advised fund
Who Joins Our Giving Circle

Women who are

- Smart
- Community-minded
- Strategic
- Collaborative
- Compassionate
- Dynamic
- Thoughtful

“I have always believed that women have the power to change the world and that our work begins in our own communities. Through Women for Women, I can combine my resources with those of other women philanthropists to make high-impact grants that truly make a difference in the lives of WNC women and girls.” - Kathy Rauch, member since 2013

Photo courtesy of Steven Freedman
The level of participation in activities or committees is totally flexible and set by each individual member. For members who have the time and interest, they are welcome to join a committee.

- **Advocacy & Education Committee**: Leverages public policy change and public funding to champion solutions to the issues reflected in our membership-approved grants

- **Grants Committee**: Evaluates grant proposals and makes site visits to make informed funding recommendations to the membership

- **Membership & Communications Committee**: Recruits and retains members of the giving circle

- **Steering Committee**: Provides oversight to the three standing committees
Learn More

- [https://cfwnc.org/initiatives/women-for-women](https://cfwnc.org/initiatives/women-for-women)
  Information about the giving circle, how to join, and our grant history

- [www.facebook.com/womenforwomenwnc](http://www.facebook.com/womenforwomenwnc)
  Updates from our grantees, information about WFW events, and relevant news about our focus area

- [https://cfwnc.org/initiatives/women-for-women/endowment](https://cfwnc.org/initiatives/women-for-women/endowment)
  Information about a permanent fund created to ensure the future financial sustainability of the giving circle