

Our History

1986



Gloria



Helen



Joan

Gloria W. Milliken recruits Helen LaKelly Hunt, Joan Melber Warburg, and others to found a philanthropic organization to be run by, for, and about women.

1987

The New York Women's Foundation® is registered as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, "a broad-based alliance of New York City women dedicated to breaking the poverty cycle of women in all five boroughs through substantive and systemic changes in the fields of housing, employment, education, child care and health."

**THE MISSION OF
WOMEN HELPING WOMEN
IS BORN**

1988

The New York Women's Foundation® holds its **first Celebrating Women® Breakfast** for 150 guests to award four grants totaling \$50,000.



Joan Melber Warburg arranges use of a studio apartment for office space.

1989

A benefit auction nets over \$300,000, and the Foundation's endowment grows to \$1 million.

A symposium on women in the criminal justice system hosted by NYWF®.



1990

The Foundation's Advocacy Committee, led by Adria Hillman, focuses on raising awareness and public monies to stem domestic violence in New York City, and the **Allocations Committee develops its unique site-visit process.**



1991

The Foundation's Child Care Advocacy Task Force interviews 100 mothers on public assistance with pre-school age children and publishes *Mothers' Voices, A Report From the Field*, assessing child care in New York City.

1992

The new address of the Foundation is 120 Wooster Street in SoHo, its former office space uptown is retained for special projects.

Breakfast attendance breaks 1,000 as seven grantee partners receive over \$300,000.

1993

Board President Polly W. Guth presents the Foundation's **first Vision Award to Joan Melber Warburg.**

•

The Foundation **inaugurates the annual Neighborhood Dinner** in Chinatown.

1994

Harvard pediatrician and leading child care advocate Dr. T. Berry Brazelton helps to launch the NYWF's Child Care Initiative.

1997

The **tenth annual Celebrating Women® Breakfast** is attended by 1,600 guests honoring 23 grantee partners receiving over \$500,000.

•

The Foundation releases *Growing Girls! A Report on Programming for The Girls of New York City*, underwritten by Marcy Syms. It is the first report to focus community attention on the status of girls in New York City.

1999

Celebrating Women® Breakfast emcee Faye Wattleton raises an extra \$70,000 in donations at the event, including a check from a hotel waitress inspired by the grantee partners' stories.

•

The **Committee for the Future** is launched to introduce younger women, who may be new to philanthropy, to the work of the Foundation.

2000

The Foundation **honors Elinor Guggenheimer with its first Century Tribute** at the Breakfast.

•

Board alumna **Sara Lee Schupf underwrites the new Management & Leadership Institute** for grantee partners, and the Foundation **inaugurates its technical assistance grants.**

•

The **first Public Forum** makes plain the Foundation grantee partners' concerns about welfare reform.

2001

The Foundation's Disaster Relief Fund raises and distributes nearly \$700,000 to support nonprofits working with women affected by the 9/11 attacks.



2003

Governor Ann Richards emcees the Celebrating Women® Breakfast.

2004

\$10 million in grants have been awarded since the inception of the Foundation.

•

The Foundation attends the March on Women's Lives in Washington, DC.



Be Courageous

2005

The Foundation launches the **Ruth Ray Hunt Memorial Fund Initiative** in support of faith-based or faith-related organizations that will directly benefit low-income women and girls in New York City.



Nobel Laureate **Dr. Wangari Maathai** is honored with our Century Award at the Celebrating Women® Breakfast.



**BE COURAGEOUS
BE THE CHANGE**

2006

The Foundation launches the **Circle of Sisters for Social Change** to enable working women to come together to learn about the Foundation, to network with each other, and to build community within the Foundation.



Over 50 grantee partners are funded in one year.

2007

434 West 33rd Street is the new home of the Foundation.



The Foundation launches the **Girls Leadership Initiative** to build the leadership of young women.



The Foundation awards over \$2 million in grants.



Abigail E. Disney makes a \$1 million challenge, "I Declare My Interdependence" at the Celebrating Women® Breakfast.

The Foundation raises an additional \$1.6 million, and secures another \$1 million gift.



The Foundation launches the **President's Council** and joins the **Women Moving Millions** campaign.

20TH ANNIVERSARY

The Foundation hosts three public education and advocacy forums:

**WEAVING THE THREADS:
WOMEN'S ACTIVISM
AND LEADERSHIP
IN NEW YORK CITY AND AFRICA**

**KEEPING FAMILIES
TOGETHER
WOMEN, CHILDREN & INCARCERATION**

**MORE THAN INCOME:
DEFINING AND MEASURING
POVERTY
IN NEW YORK CITY**



The Foundation is selected as a grantee partner of **The Catalyst Fund of Tides Foundation**, a national philanthropic collaborative to increase investments in, support the work of and raise the visibility of women of color organizations in building a reproductive justice movement that protects and advances the rights of all women.

2008

Over \$2.75 million in grants are awarded in two granting cycles annually.



The Foundation **“Expanded the Circle”** with the second **\$1 Million Celebrating Women® Breakfast Challenge Grant**.

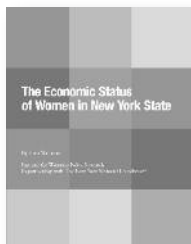
The Challenge raised more than \$1.2 million and over 1,000 new donors.



The Ugandan Women of Meeting Point International received The Vision Award for their activist philanthropy that crossed cultural and geographic boundaries.



The Foundation partners with **The Institute for Women’s Policy Research** to publish *The Economic Status of Women in New York State* report.



A first-ever **Gala** honors women and men for their commitment to New York City.



The Foundation is selected by the **W. K. Kellogg Foundation** to participate in its two-year national **Women’s Philanthropy and Poverty Cluster**, focusing on economic security for single women-led families.



The Catalyst Fund of Tides Foundation triples its investment in the Foundation’s women of color-led reproductive justice grant-making program.



The Foundation partners with the **New York University Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service** to host a community forum on “The Impact of the Foreclosure Crisis on Women and Families in New York City.”

2009

The Foundation partners with **Community Service Society** to host a community forum on **“Raising the Voice of Low-Income Women: Findings from Community Service Society’s UNHEARD THIRD.”** The Unheard Third survey highlights the struggles low-income New Yorkers have to make ends meet in one of the most expensive cities in America.



Committee for the Future celebrates its 10th Anniversary.

