

January 15th, 2003

**Ann Richards to Emcee Celebrating Women® Breakfast. Playwright and
Activist Eve Ensler Honored**

NEW YORK, NY, Jan. 9th, – The New York Women's Foundation (NYWF) has announced that former Texas Governor Ann Richards will emcee this year's Celebrating Women Breakfast on May 8, 2003. Awards will also be given to the "Vagina Monologues" creator Eve Ensler and philanthropist Stephanie Schwartz Ferdman.

In front of over 2,000 women supporters, 35 women-run organizations will receive financial support at the Foundation's annual "Celebrating Women" breakfast at the Hilton Hotel at 7:30 am on May 8, 2003.

An average of \$20,000 to \$35,000 will be presented to groups such as InMotion, Inc., a citywide organization providing free legal services to low-income Latina survivors of domestic violence; the Bronx's Mercy Center, Inc., which helps women achieve financial independence through job training and placement services; and Brooklyn's Sista Il Sista, which helps promote positive development for the borough's low-income young women of color through their Freedom School and other community-organizing activities.

From its beginnings in 1986 – 10 women soliciting contributions from their friends to use for helping other women -- the non-profit New York Women's Foundation has raised and granted over \$7 million to over 140 start-up, women-run community groups since then. But more than the grants, the Foundation further provides technical, administrative, and leadership training to help these organizations become and remain viable non-profits.

This year's annual breakfast -- the Foundation's major fundraising event -- features Ann Richards as emcee and Eve Ensler, Vagina Monologues creator, and supporter of women's causes, as the main speaker. In addition, philanthropist Stephanie Schwartz Ferdman will receive NYWF's "Vision Award" for her support in improving the lives of low-income domestic violence survivors.

The audience of over 2,000 women includes women executives of major corporations such as AOL/Time Warner and Ernst & Young, women in all types of work and well-known women philanthropists including Abigail E. Disney, Agnes Gund, Fiona Druckenmiller and others. “It is through the compassion of these companies, through the generosity of the women in our audience and our volunteers, and the courage of the women we support – and will hear from at the breakfast – that we continue to help and that the difficult issues women face are heard and addressed,” Buhl said.

For more information about NYWF’s “Celebrating Women” Breakfast at the Hilton Hotel on May 8, 2003 at 7:30 – 9:30 am phone (212) 414-4342, extension 14, or visit our website at www.nywf.org.