

May 4th, 2007

Philanthropist Abigail E. Disney Challenges New Yorkers to "Give Until it Hurts"

New York, NY, May 4 — At The New York Women's Foundation's (NYWF) Celebrating Women Breakfast May 3, philanthropist Abigail E. Disney dared New Yorkers to help her change the face of philanthropy by giving on an entirely new level.

According to the 2006 report of The New York City Commission for Economic Opportunity convened by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, 19% of New York City residents, roughly 1.5 million people, live below the federal poverty line. Of this number, 185,000 are children aged 5 years or younger. Another 19% of the city's population hovers around the threshold.

Disney stated that poverty will be eradicated only when everyone realizes that all human beings are connected, or 'interdependent', and then act as such. In other words, we all have a responsibility to help each other.

Conditions of the "I Declare My Interdependence Challenge" grant:

1. Make a contribution to The New York Women's Foundation AND
2. Make a second contribution to the organization of your choice within the next 90 days and it should:
 - Be a "stretch" for you, in other words, it must be more than you would usually give, and be instead of something else you wanted
 - Be for an organization that reflects your deepest passion about justice and social change.
3. In order for the challenge to be met, send an email to info@oldnywf.gbtesting.us with "I Declare My Interdependence" in the subject line within 90 days describing how your gifts fulfill these criteria. Disney is "walking her talk." She will match qualifying gifts up to a million dollars in the form of a grant to the New York Women's Foundation.

"I am challenging you to make two gifts. Why? Because I don't believe in either/or. What I believe in, and what will kick start change is both/and. If you do make the two gifts and they fulfill the requirements I am about to list I will match both of your gifts, dollar for dollar, in the form of a grant to The New York Women's Foundation up to a million dollars."

For more information about the Abby Challenge, or to make a donation, visit our website www.nywf.org or contact Sophie Danner at sdanner@oldnywf.gbtesting.us or 212-261-4398.

The New York Women's Foundation (NYWF) was established in 1987 as a public philanthropy to be a voice for women and a force for change. We are a cross-cultural alliance of women helping low-income women and girls in the five boroughs to achieve sustained economic security through expanded opportunities. We work together to transform the conditions of poverty and to create an equal and just future for low-income women and girls.