

**February 2009**

**The Maine Women's Fund is celebrating 20 years of investing in the power of women and the dreams of girls with a weekend of events May 1-3, 2009.**

Portland: The Maine Women's Fund and its founding mothers will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Fund with healthy doses of music, memories and merriment over the weekend of May 1 – 3, 2009.

"The weekend will include many fun-filled, joyful events that include women and girls from all over Maine. It's a great opportunity to celebrate and honor those who are making positive change happen in their communities, hear first-hand the stories of grantee, meet the 2007-2008 award recipients, and celebrate the history of the Maine Women's Fund," said Elizabeth Stefanski, Executive Director, the Maine Women's Fund.

The weekend theme is Mother's Day in honor of the Fund's founding mothers and in recognition of the original proclamation by Julia Ward Howe, which was tied to her feminist belief that women had a responsibility to shape their societies. The Fund recently unveiled a video reading of the original Mother's Day Proclamation to commemorate the anniversary.

The weekend's activities kick off with a Sponsors Reception and Art Show: Women Making Change Happen on Friday, May 1, followed by a community art project and Brew Girls Live Benefit Concert on Saturday, May 2, ending with the Signature Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 3.

"For 20 years, we have continued to stay true to our founding mothers' principles: We are a group of women who share a common passion for investing in the power of women and the dreams of girls; a group of women who know that by aggregating our resources, we can be a stronger resource and catalyst for social change," said Elizabeth Stefanski, Executive Director. "It is with this commitment that we look forward to another 20 years of investing in the power of women and the dreams of girls."

In 20 years, the Maine Women's Fund has granted over \$1.5 million to organizations across the State. Last year, the Fund granted \$160,000 to nonprofits which are creating long-lasting change that will build the economic security of thousands of women and girls. Through grantmaking, we are pushing for policy changes, investing in education and girls' independence. We are helping women build and expand businesses, train for better jobs and wages, build assets and make smart financial decisions. We are working with women as leaders and donors to prioritize women as key agents of change for their families, communities and Maine.

To learn more, visit [www.mainewomensfund.org/20th.html](http://www.mainewomensfund.org/20th.html).

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