

***Women for Women* Welcomes Anna Quindlen and Announces \$264,000 in Grants for WNC Women and Girls**

(June 12 - Asheville, NC) – Nearly 800 people gathered yesterday in Asheville to listen to Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, novelist, social critic and columnist Anna Quindlen and to celebrate the power of women’s philanthropy at The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina’s fifth annual **Power of the Purse Luncheon**. The event took place at The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa and included the announcement of \$264,000 in grants.

The grants were made by the *Women for Women* giving circle, a special initiative of CFWNC, that raises funds for Western North Carolina women and girls in need. The grant recipients are as follows:

- **YWCA of Asheville** - \$64,000 for two years to continue the Drop-In Child Care service for low-income women participating in the YWCA’s New Choices Program as well as nine local organizations whose clients need childcare to participate in programs or take classes. Criteria for use, including education, job search, medical and court appointments and social services, are strictly monitored, tracked and evaluated. More than 80% use the service for educational purposes.
- **MANNA FoodBank** - \$50,000 for one year to expand the Teach One, Reach One (TORO) food stamp outreach program. The program currently serves five counties and the grant will expand services to Graham, Haywood and Mitchell counties. MANNA will be working with agencies to increase food stamp participation, remove barriers for those eligible for food stamps and decrease the stigma associated with food stamps.
- **Mountain BizWorks** - \$50,000 for one year to continue the Women’s Business Center that provides business planning programs, coaching and support services to assist economically disadvantaged women in starting businesses. In addition to providing services, the program makes loans to women who are unable to receive them from traditional financial institutions.
- **Pisgah Legal Services** - \$50,000 for one year to sustain core, critical legal services in Madison, Buncombe, Henderson, Rutherford, Polk and Transylvania counties to more than 200 disadvantaged women. The program will also promote economic self-sufficiency, expand the use of volunteers, develop community education programs and increase collaborations amongst organizations that fight poverty and work for financial independence.
- **The Center for Participatory Change (CPC)** - \$35,000 for one year to provide intensive services to four emerging Latina worker-owned small businesses in WNC. CPC provides technical assistance, education and leadership development, management services, empowerment support and networking to small business. The emerging businesses that will be helped by this grant are Opportunity Threads (organic cotton sewing) in Burke County, Home Cleaning Professionals in Buncombe County, Salsaria Dona So (salsa and chili sauce production) in Transylvania County and Tortilla el Progreso in Yancey County.
- **Blue Ridge Literacy Council** - \$15,000 for one year of operating support to continue providing low-income women in Henderson County the English communication and literacy skills they need to gain employment and reach a higher level of independence.

Pat Smith, president of The Community Foundation, said, “We are really proud that *Women for Women* can make these big grants that have a profound impact on women’s lives in an economic environment like this one. *Women for Women* members are committed to improving their communities and they share generously of their resources to help those less fortunate.”

Women for Women is a giving circle created by The Community Foundation. Members of the group study issues affecting local women, pool their funds and, as a group, support charitable projects. The initiative was started in 2005 and has given away more than \$1 million in grants.

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