

Never underestimate the power of women!

In 2001, a group of concerned Middlesex County women banded together to create the ***Fund for Women & Girls***, an endowed fund of the Middlesex County Community Foundation.

Our mission

To support programs that empower Middlesex County women and girls to be self-reliant and reach their potential.

Why is the Fund needed?

- Women working full time earn **72%** of what men earn working full time.
- Women and girls represent **78% of the nation's poor** and women represent **72% of the elderly poor**.
- Women are more likely than men to face the indignity of domestic abuse, inadequate housing and sub-standard health care.
- Despite the critical need, less than **6%** of charitable giving goes to programs specially targeted to women and girls.

How do we confront these challenges?

Committees of women gather to:

- **identify unmet needs** in our area,
- **seek proposals and award grants to** nonprofit organizations to address those needs, and
- **invite women** to build the Fund's endowment.



Can women helping women really make a difference?

Absolutely! Many of us now find ourselves in a position to help others. ***We are an untapped resource.***

We can take the initiative and direct our charitable dollars to an endowed Fund, whose income will help generations of women and girls to live independent and productive lives.

Our philanthropy is at work right here in the 15 Middlesex County towns – where we live and work.

Women Helping Women right here in Middlesex County

Because the endowed ***Fund for Women & Girls*** has not yet generated sufficient income for major grantmaking, the Fund for Women & Girls Committee raises additional funds specifically for grantmaking, in addition to seeking gifts for the endowed Fund. Fund raising activities include special events and letter campaigns.

The Committee is grateful for all donations that have come from individuals, special events and organizations concerned about women's issues.

You can help! Honor the special women in your life.

A donation to the Fund can be the perfect gift for Mother's Day or to celebrate a special occasion or birthday for the valued women in your life. What better gift can you give to honor your mother, mentor or role model than providing for others in her name? Send your donation and the name and address of the person you wish to honor and a gift card will be sent to announce your thoughtfulness.

Studies show that when girls participate in meaningful mentoring programs, there are positive outcomes:

- an increase in self esteem
- more civic engagement
- greater likelihood of graduation from high school
- a belief that they can attain a job they will enjoy

Grants from the ***Fund for Women & Girls*** create opportunities for educational, economic and social growth.

Considering the gender-specific problems facing women, programs are selected that target their critical needs:

- job training
- health care
- conflict resolution
- parenting skills
- domestic violence

In the present economy, most social service agencies are extremely under-funded, even as they are pressed to provide more services. That is why our efforts are so important. This Fund will make a difference!

Say “Yes! Count me in!”

Together we can make a difference. It's up to us to promote and celebrate philanthropic giving – women helping women – send your check of support today!



For more information:
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**THE FUND FOR
Women
& girls**

*An Endowed Restricted Fund of the
Middlesex County Community Foundation*