

WUP Women United in Philanthropy

in partnership with the United Way - Thomas Jefferson Area

Vol. 5 No. 1

April 2011

Co-Chair Writes of Fellowship at WUP Events

Women United in Philanthropy continues to grow membership and the funds needed to award grant recipients. Since 2006 we have built our membership on women who have an interest in the local humanities, women with a passion for issues pertaining to women and children in our community, and women who want to educate themselves on and participate in philanthropic giving. Our members gain invaluable knowledge through other's experiences in the world of philanthropy while enjoying the fellowship of each other and guests at our WUP events.

Five years ago, *Women United in Philanthropy* donor members contributed \$15,000 to the collective fund. The recipient, the Jefferson Area Child Health Investment Partnership (CHIP) was able to purchase a van used to transport families across the community to a variety of medical appointments. This past year, our largest grant yet of \$40,000 was awarded to the Women's Initiative. This year, through the continued support and generous donations of our members, two grants will be awarded.

Our Founding Members can be proud of the growth in membership and contributions we have enjoyed over a relatively short amount of time. One of their original goals was to award a local non profit organization a grant that would make a significant difference for the recipient's impact on their clients and this community. By awarding



WUP Co-Chair Robin Amato with Founding Members Jennifer Feist and Liza Borches

two grants this year, we are doubling that impact. I am excited that *Women United in Philanthropy* continues on the spirit of these Founding Members.

Upcoming events will be held in April, October and November and more information will be forthcoming. Be a part of these events and enjoy the fellowship of an organization we continue to build. I look forward to seeing you there.

Best Regards,

Robin Amato
Co-Chair
Women United in Philanthropy

Spring Grant Event

Hear From Our
Grant Semi-Finalists!

April 28, 2011
6:30-7:45pm

Roy Wheeler Realty

Learn more about the grant process
and hear how a WUP grant can make a
difference in our community.

More Information on Page 3.

WUP February Panelists: “Philanthropy is Personal”

Women United in Philanthropy hosted the panel discussion “Philanthropy is Personal: Local Women Share Their Stories” on February 15, 2011 at the Omni Charlottesville Hotel. The panelists were Founding WUP Member Margery Daniel, Ph.D., LCSW; Peggy Echols, Vice President – Operations, State Farm Insurance; and Kate Zirkle, Independent Non-Profit Organization Management Professional.

We Join. We Learn. We Give. The posters behind the speakers’ table were a constant reminder of the mission of WUP. Steering Committee Co-Chair, Robin Amato, introduced the panel.

Marjorie led the discussion. “Modern day giving includes giving of time, expertise, and gifts.” She suggested finding your passion and doing your homework; researching the need and the program trying to fill that need. She related the story of the “butterfly effect.” The theory is that the movement of butterfly wings can have significant impact on wind current. “WUP works that way. Through WUP and our collaborative giving we make a significant difference.”

Peggy gets personal enjoyment out of giving. She looks forward to getting her United Way pledge card every year. It is a point of pride working at State Farm to be involved in the community through volunteering and giving. She encourages giving in any way you can whether it’s time or money. “Whatever you can do as an individual can make a difference.”

Kate’s passion is the Boys and Girls Club. She likes to spend time at the Club getting to know the boys and girls. You can’t always write a big check, but you “can give with time and help with fundraising”. Kate also stressed you should expect measured results for your donations.

A follow up question and answer period rounded out the morning. It was another wonderful gathering of WUP members and friends. Thank you to our panelists for sharing their personal stories. - *Wanda Birkhead*



Kate Zirkle, Margery Daniel and Peggy Echols led the panel and shared their stories at our February 2011 event.

Jennifer Ackerman to Speak at Fall Luncheon

Join us October 4, 2011, for *Women United in Philanthropy’s* annual Human Services Grant Award Luncheon at Farmington Country Club. Jennifer Ackerman will be our guest speaker.

An award-winning writer whose work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Scientific American*, *National Geographic*, and *Nature Conservancy*, Jennifer Ackerman has been writing about science, nature, and health for the past two decades. Her work aims to explain and interpret science and health for a lay audience and to explore the riddle of humanity’s place in the natural world, blending scientific knowledge with imaginative vision.

Ms. Ackerman’s most recent books are *The Social Network Diet: Change Yourself, Change the World* (FastPencil, 2011), written with Dr. Miriam Nelson, and *Ah-Choo! The Uncommon Life of Your Common Cold* (Twelve, 2010).

From 1998-2002, Ackerman served on the Editorial Board of the University of Virginia Press. She has lectured at Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Virginia and its Medical Center, the American Association of University Women, and for numerous other groups and organizations. We are very pleased to welcome her as our keynote speaker.



Photo by Cary Wolinsky

Do You Know... Jennifer Feist?

Jennifer is one of the founding members of *Women United in Philanthropy*.

She has always had a passion for causes making positive impacts on women and children so when she was contacted "by some really neat women" she was definitely on board. "Women have a hard time and can be at a disadvantage without some of the opportunities made available through local organizations like our WUP recipients. And children need all the support we can give them."

"Our (WUP) membership has a neat demo. I look to our members to tell me how I should give and how I should teach my children to be caring people." Jennifer said she did not see a ton of support for causes focusing on women and children when she returned to Charlottesville ten years ago. "So it was the really neat women who got my attention but it is the organization and their recipients who keep me involved."

WUP is a perfect direction for Jennifer and for others who do not have a lot of time. She is a busy working mother with a 7 yr old son and a 3 yr old daughter. While her days are spent as the Chief Operating Officer at Murray Enterprises, LLC, her free time is spent first playing with her children. She and her husband are focused on keeping a good family balance in their lives.

What would our members be surprised to know about Jennifer? She is becoming obsessed with gardening! Last year she planted her first real vegetable garden and enjoyed beautiful lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes. Lots of tomatoes. After planting nine plants for her small family of four she was able to "supply tomatoes for the whole neighborhood". Maybe canning could become a new hobby!

Thanks for letting us get to know you, Jennifer. And thank you for your continued involvement with WUP. - *Wanda Birckhead*



Jennifer Feist, her husband Corey and their children, William and Charlotte.

WUP

Spring Event

Join the Grant Committee of
Women United in Philanthropy

Thursday, April 28, 2011
6:30pm

Roy Wheeler Realty

1100 Dryden Lane
Charlottesville, Virginia

RSVP by Monday, April 25

Caroline Emerson

cemerson@unitedwaytja.org
434-972-1707

Meet Our 7 Grant Semi-Finalists!

Since 2005, *Women United in Philanthropy* has awarded grants to organizations in our community with a focus on women and children. These grants are made possible by contributions from our Donor Members.

We are very proud to announce that Women United in Philanthropy will be awarding two grants this year!

Our Grant Committee has sent Requests for Proposals to a variety of local non-profits with human service projects or programs. While some of these groups have a larger geographic reach, they were asked to submit their proposals based on the needs within the Charlottesville area that WUP serves.

Each of these organizations has a project or program that directly benefits women and children in our community.

On Thursday, April 28, a representative from each of the Grant Semi-Finalists will present a brief overview of what their organization does and how WUP grant money would be used to improve the lives of our neighbors.

This is an opportunity for all members of *Women United in Philanthropy* to see exactly how the grant process works and the kind of impact our donations can make!

Join Us Thursday, April 28!

Directions to Roy Wheeler Realty offices: 250 West to traffic light at Farmington & Worthington Drives. Turn onto Worthington Drive. Continue Left on Worthington; Right onto Dryden. Follow the Parking Signs.

United Way - Thomas Jefferson Area
Women United in Philanthropy
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Save the Date!

WUP Annual Luncheon October 4, 2011

Please join us for what will be an historic moment for *Women United in Philanthropy*. Through the efforts and generosity of you, our members, we will be awarding grants to TWO deserving local non-profits at our Annual Luncheon.

Our keynote speaker will be Jennifer Ackerman, an award-winning science writer who will discuss her new book, *The Social Network Diet: Change Yourself, Change the World*. The book has been described as “a guide, rooted in exciting new research, on how to make lasting, positive change in your life by creating a supportive social network and a favorable food and activity environment.”

Our Annual Human Services Grant Award Luncheon is October 4, 2011 at Farmington Country Club. Tickets to the Luncheon may be purchased individually or you may reserve a table for your group or business.

Become a Sponsor

It is our hope that you or any business with which you are affiliated will consider being a sponsor for this rewarding luncheon. Each sponsor level will include tickets to the luncheon and promotional mention in print and other media advertising. As a sponsor you will also have the opportunity to meet Ms. Ackerman in a private gathering before the luncheon begins.

Sponsor levels range from \$1000 to \$4000, with the number of attendee tickets and promotional opportunities corresponding to your contribution.

Please contact one of us for more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Deborah Adair Hayes
Co-Chair
434-987-4949

Robin Amato
Co-Chair
434-981-0767

2011 Members

DONOR MEMBERS

Robin Amato	Jennifer Feist	Judy Nunley
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(with Collective Fund contributions)

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GENERAL MEMBERS

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