

2016 Annual Report



**FUND FOR
WOMEN**
of the Southern Tier, Inc.

www.ffwst.org | 607-542-7558

Annual Message



Christine G. Sharkey
President

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Fund for Women of the Southern Tier, Inc., I thank you for your generosity, compassion, and support that has made the work of the Fund so successful.

Our mission to help girls and women achieve economic self-sufficiency and realize life goals simply would not be possible without those of you who give generously of your precious resources – time and money.

Whether it's the grant panel spending hours reviewing and evaluating applications, the hardy volunteers planting daffodils to pay tribute to mothers, the dinner committee crew collecting donated goodies for grab bags, or the selfless gifts from individuals and organizations that help fund our work – all make us who we are.

We celebrated a number of milestones in 2016:

- Awarded a record \$39,200 in grants to support girls & women
- Exceeded \$200,000 in total grants awarded since our founding
- Raised more than \$1 million in total funds since 2009

More meaningful to us than numbers are the stories behind those numbers – the hundreds of lives we've impacted and the support we've been able to give in pursuit of our mission.

We continue as an all-volunteer organization so that financial resources can go directly to creating even more success stories and positive life momentum for girls and women in need.

Best,

Christine G. Sharkey

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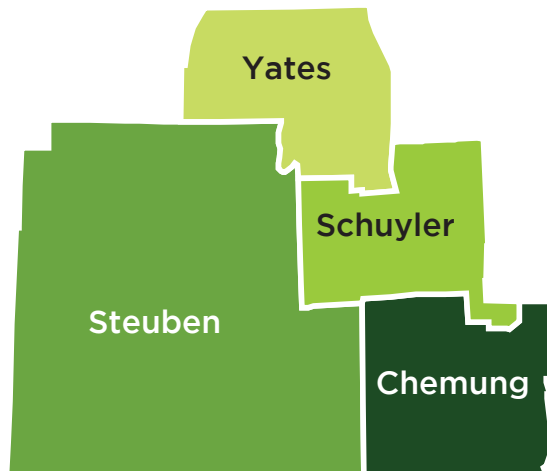
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Our Mission

Our mission is to help girls and women achieve economic self-sufficiency and realize life goals.

Our Service Area



Established in 2009, the Fund is the first funding stream dedicated solely to helping improve the lives of girls and women residing in the Southern Tier counties of Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates in New York State.

All Volunteer, All the Time

FFW is fortunate to have dedicated volunteer committees working hand-in-hand with the Board to fulfill our mission. These committees work tirelessly to safeguard and grow the Fund's finances, run our grant application and disbursement process, manage our events and more.



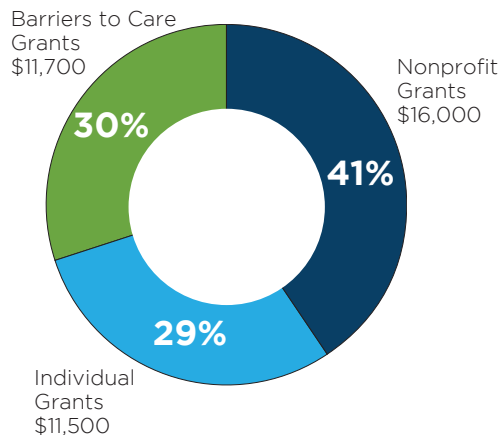
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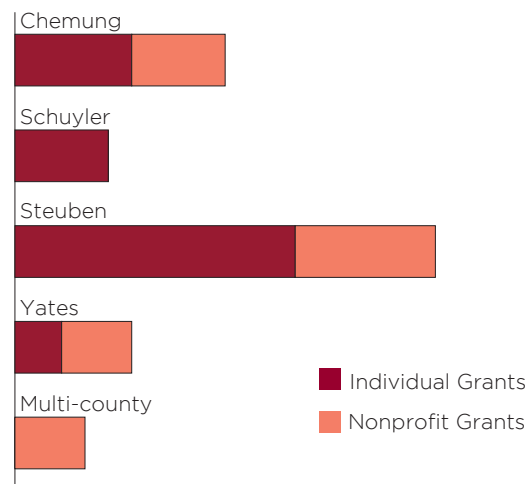
2016 Grants



Grant Distribution



Geographic Distribution

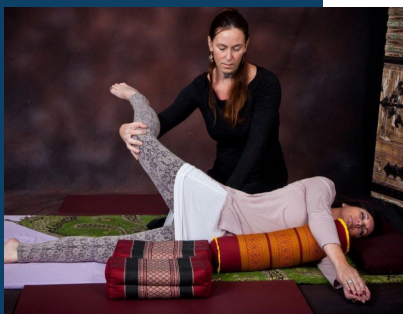


Individual Grants - Total \$11,500

Bridgett Barrett
Dana Barry
Mara Bennett
Angela Button
Jessica Chapman
Leah Dennison
Riley Gonta
Amanda Greatsinger

Jenifer Hopkins
Ashley Kennedy
Tamijah Lawton-Stone
Karen Luong
Clara Miller
Kristin Mitcham
Davida Moss
Ashley Palmer

Alexis Rudesil
Breanna Rudesil
Hannah Scott
Bryana Snyder
Natasha Snyder
Cheyenne Stansfield
Caroleen Vaughn



"In 2015, I received a grant for continued education in Massage Therapy which I would not have been able to afford otherwise. I am honored to be able to "Pay It Forward" now by donating a gift certificate for a massage to the 2017 Annual Fundraising Dinner auction.

For me, this is what a strong, united community is all about. I am grateful to this organization and all the volunteers and donors who keep it thriving so others may benefit and grow."

*Chameil Haney, LMT
Owner, ZaZen Massage
2015 grant recipient*

Nonprofit Grants - Total \$16,000

Arts Center of Yates County \$1,500 - Yates County

The Art of Coping Better

This Yates County program gives women who have experienced domestic violence or sexual abuse therapeutic instruction in art so they can express themselves and build self-esteem and coping skills.

Catholic Charities of Steuben \$1,000 - Steuben County

Bridges Out of Poverty

Using the national Getting Ahead program, women work through an intensive curriculum to educate and empower them to move out of poverty.

Catholic Charities - Steuben \$350 - Steuben County

Girls Group Steuben

Girls Group is an after school program for middle and high school girls who may be struggling with making friends, confidence, or engaging in high risk behavior.

Chemung County Habitat for Humanity \$800 - Chemung County

Women's Carpentry Workshop

The Women's Carpentry Workshop is an educational program designed to empower low-income women in Chemung County with carpentry and construction skills developed and led by an all-woman team from the Hammerstone School of Carpentry for Women.

Community Career Development Council \$1,000 - Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben counties

LIFE: Powered by YOU

Empowerment and self-esteem are key focus areas for at-risk middle school girls in this program. Workshops are designed to build confidence, character, and communication skills as girls work with area professionals. Girls are selected to attend by school staff and/or CDC staff.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County \$500 - Steuben County

Southern Tier Financial Conference: Financial Education for Women by Women

Launched in 2016, the conference provides women with financial training in budgeting, credit, investment, retirement, Social Security and identity theft. Led by professional financial women, the one-day conference helps women build confidence and skills in managing both their own finances and their family's.



Corning Community College \$2,000 - Chemung & Steuben counties

Full STEAHM Ahead!

This two-day workshop for middle school girls enhances STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) with Arts and Health for STEAHM. Designed to build girls' confidence in technical pursuits, the program introduces fun and exciting opportunities to encourage girls to stay in STEAHM fields through critical middle school years.

Corning Community Food Pantry \$500 - Steuben County

Essential Need Bags for Girls & Women

The Corning Community Food Pantry provides personal care and feminine hygiene products for girls and women.

Family Service Society, Inc. \$600 - Steuben County

Developing Healthy, Strong, Confident and Safe Young Women

Young women and girls who regularly drop in to the Laura Richardson Houghton Corning Youth Center were given the chance to enroll in five self-defense/kickboxing classes. In addition to building strength and fitness, the classes strengthened girls' confidence and gave them the skills to keep themselves safe and defend themselves in dangerous situations.

Horseheads Family Resource Center \$1,500 - Chemung County

Parent - Child Mother Goose Program

This community based parenting class is unique to the Southern Tier, but well established and proven in Canada. Offered in six to ten free sessions, mothers are given tools and resources for parenting while also forming a support system among the facilitators and other participants.

Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes \$1,300 - Yates County

Girls Circle/Women's Circle Support Groups

Using research and best practice evidence, Girls Circle and Women's Circle Support Groups focus on empowerment, self-awareness, positive self-image, healthy relationships and respect.

Southside Community Center \$850 - Chemung County

Girls Eye View

Southside Community Center students (grade 3 and up) learned the basics of digital photography. Girls worked on a local focus issue which they photographed, edited, mounted, and presented to the Elmira community at a public reception.

Tanglewood Nature Center & Museum \$1,100 - Chemung County

Meg Lowman Treetops Camp

The Meg Lowman Treetops Camp is a summer science camp held at Tanglewood. Named after Elmira native and world-renowned forest canopy researcher, Meg Lowman, the program targets girls aged 9-12 who have shown an interest in science.

The Institute for Human Services \$500 - Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Yates counties

The Empowerment Project

Girls On The Run of the Southern Tier hosted the powerful documentary, "The Empowerment Project: What would you do if you weren't afraid to fail?" GOTR members, their families and women leaders participated in this special screening at the Palace Theatre.

The Painted Post Food Pantry \$1,500 - Steuben County

Not By Bread Alone

Thousands of area women take advantage of this section of the pantry which provides feminine hygiene and personal care products that cannot be purchased with food stamps, not only helping meet women's needs but making their pantry visits more comfortable and supported.

The Living Well \$1,000 - Yates County

What's Going On? I'm Gonna Be A Mom!

Focused on educating at-risk pregnant women (ages 16-30), the program emphasizes prenatal care, coping with stress, and family and lifestyle changes. New moms are paired with experienced moms during the one hour sessions.

Barriers to Care Grants - Total \$11,700

The Barriers to Care program, originally established with a grant from Komen Twin Tiers, provides up to \$500 per woman per year to address expenses that emerge as barriers to breast cancer treatment.



Many Thanks to the Grants Review Panel

The Fund for Women grant application process yields many requests that need to be reviewed and evaluated. The Grants Committee convenes an all-volunteer Grant Review Panel who work tirelessly to select our FFW grant recipients.

We are grateful for a devoted and compassionate group of individuals who assure the funds so generously entrusted to us will have the greatest impact possible in helping girls and women in our community.

2016 Grants



The Meg Lowman Treetops Camp is a free week-long science and nature camp for 20 girls aged 9-12.

The goals of the camp:

- Provide mentoring and encouragement in science subject matter and career options to at-risk girls.
- Introduce the scientific method and teach girls to use it not only in science but in other areas of their lives.
- Foster an appreciation for our natural world by getting outside.

Strong female teachers and a professional woman guest lecturer each day provide powerful role models to show campers that anything is possible. Hands on activities from nature experiments to crafting culminate with real tree climbing with Cornell Outdoor Education teachers. Elmira native and renowned forest canopy researcher Meg Lowman spends time with campers at the end of the week.

"This camp has not only had a positive effect on the now hundreds of girls that have attended it over the past 11 years, it has reminded me, year after year, that females in science are capable, relevant and absolutely critical."

Elaine Spacher
Tanglewood Executive Director

Student feedback:

"I waited all summer long for this camp."

"I love being outdoors and I'm not afraid to get a little dirty!"



Bridges Out of Poverty Coalition, a collaborative poverty reduction effort led by Turning Point, a service priority of Catholic Charities of Steuben, utilized a curriculum based small group approach using funds provided by the Fund for Women in 2016.

Moving out of poverty takes a collaborative and community effort. In the Southern Tier, that challenge is most often faced by women in single parent households. The *Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World* is a 45-hour, curriculum based, small group learning process that helps participants better understand society and the economy.

Setting goals and learning about resources and developing tools help women build confidence and feel more in control of their future.

"Through education and access to resources those who participate in the program move the needle in their own lives toward stability and a brighter future."

Lynda Lowin
Turning Point Director

Program participant feedback:

"Just because I fall in poverty doesn't mean I will stay here."

"I learned of valuable resources for myself and my son. I have increased confidence and a VOICE!"

"I felt a sense of belonging, being needed, and nurtured."

"The program has given me the tools to live a rich life beyond the poverty scale demographics I am in."

Catholic Charities
of Steuben

Grants Spotlight⁹



2016 Grantee Recognition Ceremony



Recognizing Fund for Women grantees with a celebratory event is our way of emphasizing the confidence and encouragement that Fund supporters express with each grant that helps girls and women advance their goals.

The 2016 Grantee Recognition Ceremony on June 7th at the Big Flats Community Center recognized and congratulated 16 nonprofit groups and 23 individuals. Stephanie Manning, a past grant recipient, was the featured speaker. Stephanie now works as an emergency room nurse at Guthrie Corning Hospital.



2016 Individual Grant Recipients (above)

2016 Nonprofit Grant Recipients (below)



*Since 2010, the Fund for Women has awarded
\$215,500 in grants.*

Giving Opportunities



Mother's Day Appeal

Mother's Day offers an opportunity to honor or memorialize the special women in your life. To symbolize the lasting benefit your gift makes possible, the Fund plants daffodils in a community park for each woman honored. 2016 marked our fourth year, and the hundreds of daffodils in bloom, individually and together, create a magnificent tribute to women.



Annual Fundraising Dinner

2016 marked our Fifth Annual Fundraising Dinner. This premiere event included a silent auction, grab bags and featured Gwen Webber-McLeod of Gwen, Inc. as our speaker. This special event allows the women of our community to gather, network, and share experiences, while supporting and growing the endowment.



Holiday Annual Appeal

As we reflect on our experiences and blessings, our successes and our challenges, the Fund for Women asks you to consider "paying it forward" to help others in our community. Look for the Holiday Appeal letter just as the bustle of the season begins.



More than 350 daffodils blooming in Corning's Denison Park planted in 2016's Mother's Day Appeal.



2016 Donors



Thank You!

The Fund for Women continues to advance our mission with the generous contributions made by community members from all walks of life who want to support women's self-sufficiency and goal achievement. We are truly honored to be stewards of your gifts that will empower girls and women in the Southern Tier. Thank you so very much!

Every attempt is made to confirm the accuracy of this donor list. If your name should appear and does not, we apologize and ask that you let us know.

Benefactor (\$5,000+)

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Gift Opportunity

Please consider additional opportunities to support the Fund for Women this year. If you would like to make a gift now, please use the enclosed envelope. You may also donate online anytime at our website:

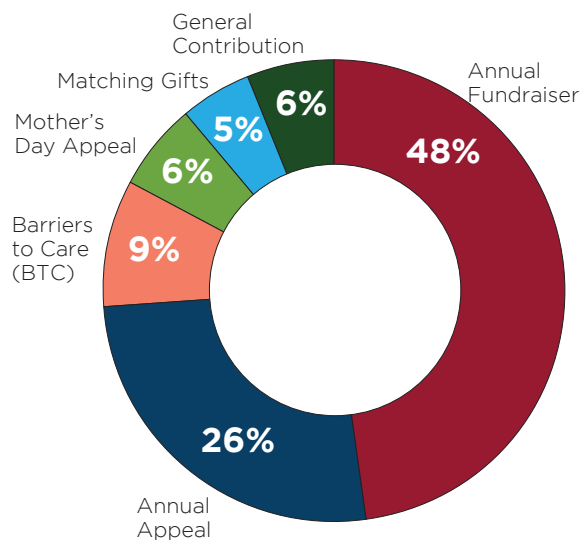
www.ffwst.org

2016 Donors



2016 Inflows and Outflows

Where Funds Came From



Beginning Cash Balance \$ 43,119

INFLOWS

Annual Fundraiser	\$ 83,650
Annual Appeal	\$ 45,697
Barriers to Care (BTC)	\$ 15,000
Mother's Day Appeal	\$ 10,795
Matching Gifts	\$ 8,200
General Contribution	\$ 10,213

Total Inflows \$ 173,555

OUTFLOWS

Endowment	\$(50,000)
Annual Fundraiser	\$ (13,503)
Operations/Administrative	\$ (22,061)*

Total Outflows \$ (85,564)

Change in cash \$ 87,991

Ending Cash Balance \$ 131,110

* Operations expenses include professional fees, insurance, information technology, marketing, printing & mailing and general event cost.



Fund For Women Endowment at The Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc.

Beginning Balance **\$ 683,851**

INFLOWS

Contributions from FFW operating	\$ 50,000
Contributions from FFW fundraising made directly to the Community Foundation	\$ 3,001
Investment income, net of fees	\$ 19,027

Total Inflows **\$ 72,028**

OUTFLOWS

Individual and Nonprofit Grants	\$(27,500)
Barriers to Care Grants	\$ (11,700)
Grants awarded subtotal	\$ (39,200)
Miscellaneous administrative fees	\$ (7,149)

Total Outflows **\$(46,349)**

Investment market change **\$ 25,783**

Ending Balance **\$ 735,313**





Calling all volunteers!

The Fund for Women is an all-volunteer organization, investing our time and talents in making a positive change in the lives of girls and women in our community. We are always looking for like-minded individuals to help further our mission. If you are interested in volunteering, please go online to www.ffwst.org and fill out our volunteer interest form. We look forward to working with you!

Connect with us!

For information about the Fund for Women, our events, and ways you can contribute, you can visit our website at **www.ffwst.org**, call us at (607) 542-7558, or connect with us on Facebook or Twitter.



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