



WOMEN'S FUNDING NETWORK
CHANGING THE FACE OF PHILANTHROPY

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Abigail Disney, Ford Foundation, Washington Area Women's Foundation and Fannie Mae Executive to be honored for Changing the Face of Philanthropy

Washington, D.C. (May 2, 2008) – The Women's Funding Network, a global alliance of more than 125 women's foundations worldwide, will honor four outstanding individuals and institutions for Changing the Face of Philanthropy at its annual gala dinner Friday, May 2, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, just outside Washington, D.C., as a highlight of its annual conference, May 1—3.

The Changing the Face of Philanthropy Awards are given annually to individuals or institutions who have made major contributions in advancing women's philanthropy.

Abigail Disney, a grand-niece of Walt Disney, is being honored for her longtime leadership in the world of women's funds—and in particular the challenge grant she issued last May at the annual breakfast of the New York Women's Foundation, on whose board she served for 14 years. Disney issued a \$1 million challenge that ultimately raised \$2.6 million for the foundation in just a few months. Disney is Founder and President of the Daphne Foundation, is a board member of the Global Fund for Women and is most recently a filmmaker: *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, making its debut at the TriBeCa Film Festival, is the story of the women of Liberia and their valiant efforts to restore peace after decades of civil war.

The Ford Foundation is being honored for its persistent and constant support of women and girls – specifically women-led solutions – both domestically and abroad. The Foundation is one of the world's most prominent institutional forces in women's philanthropy, having granted more than \$85 million in 2007 to advance social economic justice for and through women and girls. The Foundation has led the way in grant-making in the areas of antidiscrimination efforts, reproductive rights, efforts to halt sex trafficking, prevention of violence against women, and efforts to reduce poverty and injustice for women and girls.

Stacy Stewart, Chief Diversity Office and Senior Vice President, Office of Community and Charitable Giving, Fannie Mae, is honored for imbuing her philanthropy with the spirit of activism, and for serving as an active partner in advancing economic justice for women and girls in the Washington, D.C., area. Specifically, she is cited for supporting Fannie Mae's \$1 million



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gift to the Washington Area Women's Foundation for its Stepping Stones economic justice program, with her personal involvement that leveraged that gift into \$5 million from a broad array of funders.

The Washington Area Women's Foundation is honored as one of the most innovative, dynamic members of the 125-plus-member Women's Funding Network. In less than a decade, The Women's Foundation's grantmaking has jumped from \$30,000 to \$1 million a year. And in just 2 ½ years, its Stepping Stones initiative has helped nearly 4,000 women in the Washington metropolitan area collectively increase their assets by \$17 million, by shedding debt, getting better jobs and building assets.

The Women's Funding Network is a global movement of more than 125 women's foundations, raising money and giving grants to create lasting social change through the advancement and leadership of women and girls.

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