



Ms. FOUNDATION
FOR WOMEN

2014 Summer News

Ms.
is Me



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Our Mission:

The Ms. Foundation for Women builds women's collective power to realize a nation of justice for all.

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Ms. Foundation Welcomes Teresa Younger as New CEO and President



The Ms. Foundation for Women proudly welcomes Teresa Younger as our new President and CEO. Teresa has been on the frontlines of some of the most important battles for women's health, safety and economic empowerment. She is a tireless advocate and feminist leader with a proven track record.

Before joining the Ms. Foundation, Teresa served as the Executive Director of the Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, where she was instrumental in campaigns that resulted in state legislation to raise the minimum wage and provide paid sick leave in Connecticut. Teresa also successfully safeguarded women's access to reproductive health care and helped strengthen legislation to hold college campuses accountable for the prevention and reporting of sexual assaults.

Teresa has a deep history of national leadership that empowers women. She is a board member of the Women's Campaign School at Yale University, whose mission is to increase the number and influence of women in elected and appointed office in the United States and around the globe. She serves on the National Advisory Board on Religious Restrictions on Care, which works to protect hospital-based health care services, such as birth control, that are threatened by mergers between secular community hospitals and religious-based health systems. She was the first woman and the first African American to serve as Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut. She subsequently served as Director of Affiliate Organizational Development at the American Civil Liberties Union National Office, where she spearheaded growth nationwide.

"At this time of both feminist success and backlash against it, Teresa Younger is the perfect person to continue the grassroots strength of the Ms. Foundation, and build it into policy and protection against backlash," said Gloria Steinem. "She knows how to make the needs of the majority of women into guiding principles of action."

New Board Chair and Vice Chair



Heather Arnet has been named chair of the board of directors for the Ms. Foundation for Women. In addition to serving on the Ms. Foundation board, Heather is the CEO of the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania (WGF).

She is an op-ed contributor and on-air commentator to local and national media regarding women, girls and the economy. She led the WGF's successful "Girlcott" of Abercrombie and Fitch, appearing on NBC's Today Show, CNN, Fox News, BBC, and MSNBC. Heather's efforts on behalf of women's and girls' rights locally, nationally and internationally has earned her numerous awards, most recently being named one of the "21 Leaders for a New Century" by Women's eNews. Heather also writes and directs feminist theatre and film.

Her new film, *Madame President: Why Not U.S.?* will be touring around the country this year.



Susan Dickler is the new vice chair of the Ms. Foundation's board of directors. In 1979 she joined the staff of the Ms. Foundation as Director of the reproductive rights and health program, and later served in both grants director and consultant roles.

Thirty-five years later she remains crucial to our mission. Susan has spent her career in the non-profit sector, primarily in the field of women's and girls' reproductive health and rights, including at the Planned Parenthood national office, the New York City Planned Parenthood affiliate and a pro-choice PAC. As Executive Director of a foundation in her parents' names, she created and managed an annual grants program and provided leadership on the board of directors.



Reproductive Justice: Women 4 Health Care Campaign

The ever-rising costs of health care in the United States often makes visiting a doctor an impossible dream for most low-income and immigrant women. With the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), however, the door to better health care coverage opened for more women and families, affording them the chance to access medical services on a regular basis.

The law provides an unprecedented opportunity to reduce health inequality, and the Ms. Foundation for Women made it our goal to make sure women who would be most often denied health care would now understand the impact of the ACA, and how they would be able to participate in services available. We launched the **Women 4 Health Care** campaign last October, promoting public education and individual support for women. As part of our campaign, we created easy-to-read graphics and fact sheets, in both English and Spanish, demystifying the requirements and sign-up process, which our grantees could use as they assisted women using their services.

Our fact sheets are tailored to provide vital information for immigrants, mixed-status families, and health care navigators working with these populations to better assist them.

To date, at least seven million people have signed up for coverage through the healthcare exchange, with an estimated two million signed up for Medicaid and other health care coverage. Most important, this law provides women with needed care.

Visit our ACA factsheet webpage at
forwomen.org/factsheets
 to learn more.

Our work on the ACA campaign and reproductive justice has been diverse, innovative, and far reaching. Some examples of the work our grantees have done to achieve reproductive and health justice for women:

- **West Virginia:** West Virginia Free was able to change the mind of an anti-choice delegate in the WV House to convert to a pro-choice stance.
- **Minnesota:** Pro Choice Resources had a booth at their annual state fair where they gave out 300 “condoms on a stick” in addition to information about ACA enrollment.
- **New Mexico:** Young Women United ran a campaign entitled, “Respect Albuquerque Women,” which assisted in the defeat of the first ever anti-abortion measure introduced in a municipality.
- **New York:** Raising Women’s Voices mobilized 30 volunteers in Harlem to get local residents covered. At the end of one day, over 200 Harlem residents received coverage.
- **California:** ACT for Women and Girls mobilized young leaders to conduct its Pharmacy Access Report Card survey of over 40 local pharmacies on access to emergency contraception and teen friendly sexual health education.
- **South Dakota:** The Native American Women’s Health Education Resource Center distributed pocket cards discussing Plan B and outreach materials they are using to fight for Plan B as an over the counter medicine on reservations.



Women of Vision Gala Celebrates Ms. Foundation's 40th Anniversary and Gloria Steinem's 80th Birthday

On May 1 the Ms. Foundation for Women celebrated our 40th anniversary and the 80th birthday of founding mother Gloria Steinem at our annual gala!

The sold-out crowd included performers, elected officials, authors and leaders of feminist and progressive organizations, including Olivia Wilde, Jason Sudeikis, Billie Jean King, and U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL). Guests enjoyed music by BETTY, Sophie B. Hawkins and Sam and Dom. Actress Kathy Najimy directed special performances featuring three of the country's top female entertainers.

Legendary leaders Charon Asetoyer, Ellen Bravo, Denicia Cadena, Connie Evans and Miriam C. Yeung each received a Legacy Award for leading the charge for women's rights throughout our history. Marissa Nuncio and former Ms. Foundation board chair Cathy Raphael were bestowed with our highest honor, the Women of Vision Award, in recognition of their courage and action to move us toward the realization of our shared vision for a just, inclusive democracy.

The celebration of courageous women ended with a cake and singing "Happy Birthday" in honor of Gloria Steinem. Thanks to our supporters, we also raised \$1.25 million, which will provide much-needed funding to our grantees who promote women's reproductive and economic rights, as well as safety.



Chelsea Handler recalled advocating for herself to become the host of her own late-night comedy show in a field dominated by men, convincing network executives that people would watch a woman host. Encouraging the audience to stand up for themselves, she said, "Sometimes it's easier to fight for others than to fight for yourself... Sometimes you can scream loud for someone else, and you can't even defend yourself."



Amy Schumer spoke of losing her confidence when she felt judged only by her looks, and regaining her self-worth after an unpleasant romantic experience. Still, she acknowledged it can be difficult. "I want to quit. Not performing, but being a woman altogether. I want to throw my hands in the air...and say, 'All right! You got it. You figured me out. I'm not pretty. I'm not thin. I do not deserve to use my voice.'... But then I think, Fuck that. I am a woman with thoughts and questions and shit to say. I say if I'm beautiful. I say if I'm strong. You will not determine my story—I will."



Gabourey Sidibe shared similar struggles of being defined by her appearance. "I live my life, because I dare. I dare to show up when everyone else might hide their faces and hide their bodies in shame... I'm grateful to [my parents] and to my fifth grade class, because if they hadn't made me cry, I wouldn't be able to cry on cue now. If I hadn't been told I was garbage, I wouldn't have learned how to show people I'm talented. And if everyone had always laughed at my jokes, I wouldn't have figured out how to be so funny. If they hadn't told me I was ugly, I never would have searched for my beauty. And if they hadn't tried to break me down, I wouldn't know that I'm unbreakable."

 **See video at:**
www.forwomen.org/feminists



Actors Jason Sudeikis and Olivia Wilde



Founding Mothers Letty Cottin Pogrebin with Gloria Steinem



Gloria Steinem (l) with tennis legend Billie Jean King (r)



Gloria Steinem (l), Josephine Stuart (c) and Women of Vision honoree Cathy Raphael (r)



Gala Chairs Lauren Embrey, Bonnie Schaefer and Cathy Raphael



Women of Vision honoree Marissa Nuncio



New Ms. Foundation President Teresa Younger (l), Christine Lahti (2nd from l), Kathy Najimy (2nd from r) and actress Marisa Tomei (r)



From left to right: Honorary Founding Mother and President Emerita Marie C. Wilson, Former Executive Director Rochelle Korman, Legacy Honoree Ellen Bravo, Legacy Honoree Charon Asetoyer, Former Executive Director Joyce Yu, Former CEO Anika Rahman, Legacy Honoree Miriam Yeung, Former CEO Sara K. Gould, Legacy Honoree Connie Evans, Legacy Honoree Denicia Cadena



Immigrants Are Us

by Gloria Steinem

Fear of immigration has caused Washington to spend millions on an almost useless fence between the U.S. and Mexico, and incited some state legislatures to pass anti-immigrant laws that require official papers for everything from healthcare and kindergarten to a driver's license. Yet undocumented immigrants in this country already number somewhere between seven and twenty million, and are needed by this economy in ways too many to count and too crucial to do without.

Though the media image of an undocumented immigrant is almost always male, a migrant worker at best or an illegal drug dealer or terrorist at worst, about three-fourths of all immigrants are women and children. That reality alone should alter U.S. policy. Many are workers responding to needs such as caregiving for an aging population. As explained by Ai-Jen Poo, co-founder of the National Domestic Workers Alliance, a Ms. Foundation past grantee, health care and home care workers are far more needed than are technocrats in the mostly white and male workforce of Silicon Valley. Caregivers are overwhelmingly female, disproportionately women of color and immigrants, so this country needs them just as much as they need this country. They deserve good pay, health care, schools for their kids, and a path to citizenship.

That's just one example of how different our policy would be if immigration were understood as the women's issue it truly is. Yet the main way we see the realities of this immigrant female workforce now is in news stories about families being torn apart by deportation.

Under the Obama Administration, a record two million people have been banished from this country. Deportations continue at the rate of at least a thousand a day. Though the White House has fought hard for a more enlightened immigration policy, and passed such stopgap legislation as the Dream Act that allows young people who grew up in this country to gain legal status by going to college or serving in the U.S. military, such raids on homes and workplaces continue.

Historically in this country, the part of the government dealing with immigration has been the least efficient and least accountable. After all, the people they were dealing with had no rights as citizens. Now, thousands and perhaps millions of children go to school every day worried that their parents will be taken away before they come home, or that they themselves will be put on a plane to a country they've never seen with a language they don't know. Most international airports in this country are next to a jail-like building where immigrants without the proper papers are held for months with no legal representation; sometimes for years in the case of unescorted children who are not yet old enough to deport.

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Before the midpoint of this century, the U.S. will no longer be a majority European American country. Indeed, 2011 was the first year in which fewer white babies were born than babies of color. Those who consciously or unconsciously fear this change have become obsessed with limiting immigration, opposing family planning and closing abortion clinics, anything they see as diminishing the old majority and contributing to a new one. Though most Americans see this new diversity as enriching our country and bringing us closer to the world, the power of fear has created a backlash.

It's important to support new immigrants as part of a grand American tradition that stretches from Irish Americans, who now outnumber the citizens of Ireland, to the Scandinavians who gave Minnesota its communal politics; from the mountains of Appalachia where Old English is still spoken to West Indian immigrants who were an important part of the civil rights movement.

Meanwhile, both male and female new immigrants are underpaid, but female immigrants suffer even more wage discrimination. Both may need classes in English as a second language, but childcare makes it much harder for women to attend them. Women are also more vulnerable to violence: The threat of deportation often makes women fearful of reporting sexual assault, sex trafficking, domestic violence and other punishments.

All of this is why the Ms. Foundation supports female-led immigrant rights groups. We know that women's issues and immigrant issues are almost always one and the same. By definition, feminism includes all women.

That's also why we have created comprehensive fact sheets on health care for immigrant women and mixed-immigration status families. They explain eligibility rules established by the Affordable Care Act and address complex situations. We also inform immigrant women about their rights and resources against discrimination and violence.

Because immigrants are concentrated in certain sectors of the economy, the Ms. Foundation is funding groundbreaking participatory action research on the child care needs of garment workers, retail employees, farm workers, restaurant workers and child care providers. This research will be used to create solutions, so parents and especially mothers, regardless of immigration status, can go to work with peace of mind.

In the way that a time of change is both a danger and an opportunity, we could be closer to immigration reform than ever before. Yes, there is fear of this new majority, but there is also recognition of its growing voting power. For instance, the U.S. Senate just passed a bill that addresses the needs of immigrant women for the first time, and that recognizes their economic contributions, yet it is stalled in the House of Representatives. We need to focus reform efforts on state legislatures that redistrict in order to divide and suppress immigrant voting power, thus blocking democratic representation in Congress, too, but we also must support and strategize with groups meeting the immediate needs of people hurt by this broken system.

Perhaps the best antidote to fear is to remember that most of human history was lived without national borders. Even now, no country on earth has succeeded in sealing itself off. Nations that have done the best job of creating an airtight border, say, North Korea—have only isolated and punished themselves. Just as there are no straight lines in the natural world, there is no river or current of air or survival need that respects a border. As Paula Gunn Allen, the Laguna Pueblo scholar and poet, wrote, “the root of oppression is the loss of memory.”

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Safety Program: Report on Sexual Abuse of Disabled Children Released



Last April, the Ms. Foundation for Women joined the Vera Institute of Justice to produce a report on the sexual abuse of children with disabilities. Titled “Sexual Abuse of Children with Disabilities: A National Snapshot,” the report is part of our commitment to ensure that efforts to end child sexual abuse include all children and to promote effective prevention strategies.

The report found that:

- Children with disabilities are three times more likely than children without them to be victims of sexual abuse, and the likelihood is even higher for children with certain types of disabilities, such as intellectual or mental health disabilities.
- The risk of sexual abuse is higher because of the unique circumstances related to disability. For example, children with disabilities are more likely to be in isolated, one-on-one settings with adults because they have a greater dependence on others for intimate personal care.

By screening potential care attendants and having policies in place to respond to sexual abuse, personal care employers can play a critical role in stopping the sexual abuse of children with disabilities.

Read more by going to
forwomen.org/disabilitiesandcsa

Ms. Foundation Fellowship

The Ms. Foundation for Women fellowship encourages emerging female leaders in policy creation, developing innovative real-world solutions for the challenges women and girls face today. This year, we were proud to award the fellowship to Lindsay Rosenthal, whose fellowship project focuses on ways to eliminate barriers to quality healthcare for young women in the foster care and juvenile justice systems.

Girls in the foster care and juvenile justice systems often come from the poorest, most marginalized communities in the U.S. They are also disproportionately of color, identify as LGBTQ, or are immigrants. In studying the needs of young women within foster care and the juvenile justice system, Lindsay partnered with the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy (GLCPIPP) and with the nonprofit Rights 4 Girls, led by former Ms. grantee Malika Saada Saar.

The partnership will produce a report with the following goals:

- To highlight the unique issues young women in foster care and the juvenile justice system face
- To develop a coordinated advocacy strategy about young women’s health care among women’s rights leaders and federal and state child welfare and juvenile justice advocates
- To provide a gender-informed, policy-oriented framework addressing the needs of young women in state custody.

The report, scheduled to be released in fall 2014, will also offer expert analysis of the issue as a women’s rights concern. The Ms. Foundation will host an event in the fall for advocates and funders interested in this issue.

For more information on our fellowship program go to

www.forwomen.org/fellow

Fighting for a Safe Workplace: Camila's Story



Camila worked for a “wage thief,” earning just four cents for each garment she sewed at a Los Angeles factory. Even working at top speed, she made only \$3 an hour while her boss pocketed the other \$5 an hour she should’ve earned under California’s minimum wage laws. Camila also worked in a poorly-ventilated space where hazardous materials were stored right next to workstations. When she burned her hand, her employer had no first aid kit and no worker health insurance, so instead of seeing a doctor, Camila used machine oil to treat her wound.

This is what makes the Ms. Foundation for Women’s efforts so critical. We work with local organizations to make sure immigrant workers understand that no one should take advantage of them, and that they deserve to fight for their rights. We partnered with the Garment Worker Center, whose members visited the factory where Camila worked. They invited her and her coworkers to learn about their rights as immigrants and workers.

With both solid knowledge and support from the Garment Worker Center, Camila and her coworkers confronted their employer about conditions at the factory, demanding to be paid what they’d earned, or the workers would make the abuses public by protesting outside the stores where their clothing was sold. Facing the threat of publicity, Camila’s employer paid \$150,000 in back wages. Yet the fight wasn’t over. With support from the Ms. Foundation and the Garment Worker Center, Camila and her coworkers staged protests and threatened to file legal claims demanding minimum wage, overtime pay, and a safer workplace. Thanks to our supporters, Camila and her coworkers are now empowered to fight back.

Carrie Little from Washington state had the bare minimum of insurance before the Affordable Care Act. She was made aware about the importance of enrolling in the ACA by Ms. Foundation grantee Northwest Health Law Advocates. Carrie then enrolled just one day before she most needed it. When one of the rams on her farm attacked her this spring, she didn’t hesitate to go to a hospital emergency room. She received treatment, and all of her bills were covered. She has since become a staunch advocate for enrollment and awareness for women. Addressing lawmakers who want to repeal the law that allows her and other agricultural workers to access health care, she said simply, “Don’t bite the hand that feeds you.”



Northwest Health Law Advocates

Join Ms. Foundation by June 30 and Double Your Support

Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, make your donation by June 30, 2014 and your gift will be matched. Your gift of \$50 can become \$100. \$500 can become \$1,000. Your donation and the match will go toward supporting innovative, groundbreaking efforts to achieve reproductive justice for women.

To give your gift by June 30th go to
forwomen.org/match
to double your impact today.

Donor Spotlight: Bonnie Schaefer



Since 2007 Bonnie Schaefer has been one of the Ms. Foundation for Women's most dedicated supporters. Bonnie is the former co-CEO and co-Chairman of the Board of Claire's Stores, Inc., the

leading international costume jewelry and accessories retailer for teens and young adults. Today she owns the world-class Westglow Resort & Spa in Blowing Rock, NC and the 5-star restaurant Rowland's, named in honor of her father.

Why do you support the Ms. Foundation for Women?

Because of Gloria Steinem. She has always been such a role model for me. I feel very connected to Gloria and admire anything she does. Today, I continue to support the Ms. Foundation for Women because of their excellent work on behalf of women and girls and effecting real change for them in this world.

What would you like to say about Gloria Steinem?

How can I express the amazing good fortune I have had... to actually be able to consider Gloria my friend. There are not enough superlatives in the English language to laud Ms. Steinem. Gloria is the most visionary, the most extraordinary human being that has ever graced our planet. All of us have benefited from the unending, fearless work she has done, (and continues to do!) to help secure the rightful place of women in this world. Thanks to Gloria, the global recognition of feminism, will truly change the paradigm of equality and justice for all.

What do you think is the most important issue facing women today?

Equal Pay, support for single moms, financial literacy and reproductive rights are all important. There is still a lot of misogyny going on out there and still so much inequality. Financial literacy is important because women may feel that they are worth less because of the inequality in pay, but they need the means to empower themselves. Globally, women are being targeted more, and it is a dangerous trend. Look at Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the face just because she wanted to go to school. Or more recently Farzana Parveen, who while pregnant at 25 was stoned to death by her family because she wanted to marry the person she really loved. If conservative forces in this country had their way, they would throw us back into the Dark Ages. We need to continue to fight for our rights.

Why are you a feminist?

I was born in the Fifties, and typical female role models were homemakers on TV like Donna Reed. My mother wanted me to marry and have kids, but I knew that was not exactly what I wanted to do. Then one day, I saw Gloria on TV with her fist raised, with hordes of women behind her. It changed my life. When I saw strong women like Gloria speaking out, I knew I wanted more, and that I wanted to do what men were doing. Women were just starting to go to medical school back then, but not a lot of women. That's what I wanted to do, but I grew up in an environment where that just wasn't what women did.

I knew I wanted to be able to do whatever I wanted. It wasn't until I met Gloria that I really felt I could change things. Gloria called me to help with an event in Florida in 2004 and that's how I met her. I have stuck to her like glue ever since.

What would you like to see happen for women in the next five years?

I would like to see the issues women face today to no longer be issues. There are far more important things to fight for in the world, and we should all just be equal. We need to cultivate the feminist ideal for both men and women, and boys should be raised the same way as girls.

Why do you think others should give to the Ms. Foundation?

People should give to the Ms. Foundation because of the important work they do. As a female, daughter, sister, wife, or friend, you need to support this organization. It is important to make sure the Ms. Foundation thrives so that women's issues are no longer issues.

From the time I was a kid in elementary school, girls were treated as second-class citizens. As a young girl, I didn't feel like I deserved success. I was taught that I had to defer to males. If I had been a male, I would have been treated differently – and that made me rebellious. My mom thought I should be a dental assistant or secretary, and it felt wrong. Instead I became a Co-CEO of a major retailer along with my sister Marla, and we grew that organization from a \$1 billion market cap organization and sold it for \$3 billion in 2007. I can tell you from experience that there must be more female CEOs leading corporations and female leaders for us to thrive as a nation.

Don't let anyone stand in your way – including yourself. If you set your sights on a goal, go for it. Persistence, fire and dogged determination will get you where you need to go.

Bonnie is a member of Gloria's Future Fund, a group of donors that will support the future of the Ms. Foundation for Women by leaving a legacy through their will.

Planned Gifts: Benefit Women Now & Your Heirs in the Future

Establish a Charitable Lead Trust to support the work of the Ms. Foundation for Women now, while still leaving assets for your heirs.

Step 1: You contribute cash, securities or other property to a trust.

Step 2: The trust makes fixed annual payments to the Ms. Foundation for Women for a specified term of years.

Step 3: When the trust ends, the remaining principal goes to your heirs.

- You qualify for a gift tax deduction for the present value of the annuity payments to the Ms. Foundation for Women.
- The annuity payments and the trust term may be written in such a way so as to reduce or even eliminate the transfer taxes due when the principal reverts to your heirs.
- All appreciation that takes place in the trust goes tax-free to your heirs.
- You can use your available estate tax credit to further reduce taxes on transfers to your heirs.
- You can have the satisfaction of making a significant gift to the Ms. Foundation for Women now and reduce the taxes due on transfers to your heirs later.

For more information, contact us at
pg@ms.foundation.org or call 212.709.4447

2014 SUMMER NEWS



Malika Dutt (l), guest, Cecile Richards, Pat Jerido (r)



Caroline's Comedy Club founder Caroline Hirsch with Gloria Steinem



Gloria (l) with Dorothy Pitman Hughes (r)



Ms. Foundation Board Members with Gloria Steinem



(From left) Judge Ellen Venzer (Miami 11th circuit court), Kathy Travis, Suze Orman, Gloria Steinem, Bonnie Schaefer, Jamie Schaefer



United Farm Workers Co-Founder Dolores Huerta



Talk show legend Phil Donahue



Gloria Steinem, new Ms. Foundation President Teresa Younger, new Board Chair Heather Arnet



Comedian Judy Gold and Board Member Rene Redwood