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Wider Opportunities for Women



The New York Times

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011

Many Low-Wage Jobs Seen as Failing to Meet Basic Needs

"We wanted to recognize that there was a cumulative impact that would affect one's lifelong economic security," said Joan A. Kuriansky, executive director of Wider Opportunities, whose report is called "The Basic Economic

Security Tables for the United States." "And we've all seen often we have emergencies we are unprepared for," she especially during the recession. Layoffs or other health cuts "can definitely begin to dra-

The Gazette

July 7, 2011

Colorado Springs

NEW REPORT TELLS COST OF MAKING ENDS MEET FOR SENIORS

The report comes at a time when politicians are talking about cutting Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Those involved with the report hope it will impact lawmakers' decisions, as well as support aging-in-place programs and re-establish lifelong learning and job-skills training.

"Our data indicates that low-income seniors and those falling short cannot stand these cuts," said Stacy

Sanders, director of the Elder Economic Security Initiative at Wider Opportunities for Women, a Washington, D.C.-based

organization that advocates for economic self-sufficiency for women and their families.

The Washington Post

CAPITAL BUSINESS

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2011

Cutting Job-Training Dollars Would Hurt Recovery

Since the economic downturn, D.C.-based Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) and many other local job-training programs have been working with an increasing number of displaced workers with job experience, but who lack specific skills. For instance, the federally funded Build-

ing Futures program, which trains men and women for the construction trades sector, including green jobs, helped 278 workers develop new skills and more than three in four of the workers found jobs paying an average of \$12.30 an hour in the last two years.

THE HILL

Friday, July 22, 2011

Social Security "Chained CPI" Proposal Threatens Economic Security.

"The truth is, moving to a chained CPI is yet another effort to put the burden of fixing the economic crisis on seniors and America's most vulnerable residents, a moral outrage at a time when tax cuts and loopholes are being protected for the richest people in our country."

The Courier-Journal

\$1.00

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Report Says One of Three New Jobs Pays Enough for Single Moms

The average Louisville single parent with two children needs to earn \$23.60 per hour, or more than \$49,000 annually, to make ends meet and still save up to \$200 per month toward retirement, college education and home ownership. Those figures are from the "Basic

Economic Security Tables," compiled on a county-by-county basis throughout Kentucky. Meanwhile, Louisville female heads of household with two children earn a median wage of around \$25,000 annually, according to data from the U.S. Census.

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2010

Price tag for 'basic economic security' rising, report says

"We believe we're offering not just numbers but a road map for what we can do in the District to enable more residents to be able to move toward more economic security and less anxiety," Kuriansky said.

WOW WOW WOW

WOW in the Media

Building an Awareness of What Families Need to Make Ends Meet

Wider Opportunities for Women For nearly half a century, WOW has worked throughout the country and in its home community of Washington DC to prepare women for jobs that will support them and their families. Founded in 1964 to work for economic independence and equality of opportunity for women, WOW is recognized nationally for its skills training models, technical assistance, and advocacy on behalf of women and girls. Today, this work is more important than ever. Nearly 43 million Americans are poor and more than half of them are women. More than a third of the families headed by single mothers live in poverty, and nearly twice as many elderly women as elderly men are poor. Despite advances for some women in higher education, 60% of the low-wage workers in this country are women. ■ In the years ahead, WOW will continue to promote economic security for women from their early years through retirement. Our technical assistance and measures of income adequacy are helping government agencies, advocates, policymakers and service providers across the country develop programs and policies to help women build economic security for themselves and their families. In the process, WOW is redefining social and economic domestic policy from one that uses a measure of poverty to one that focuses on moving all families toward life-long economic security.

Research & Innovation

Developing the Tools that define what Families Really Need to be Economically Secure

Experts in the area of economic security have long known that the federal poverty level calculation fails to include critical daily costs of living such as out-of-pocket medical expenses, rent or childcare. Working with recognized scholars, WOW's research team has developed cutting edge tools to identify goals for building economic opportunities for women and families and to measure success in meeting them. Founded on the most up-to-date data available, these tools reflect a modern economy and a contemporary understanding of how families achieve financial stability. They provide national, state, county and city values that capture the local variance in prices and determine how well incomes allow a variety of family types to make ends meet.

The Family Economic **Self-Sufficiency Standard (FESS)** – created in the mid-1990s in partnership with Dr. Diana Pearce of the Center for Women's Welfare at the University of Washington – is a bare bones measure of how much income America's working families need to make ends meet without public or private assistance, and is calculated for 70 family types.

The **Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index (Elder Index)** – developed in 2007 by WOW and the Gerontology Institute at the University of Massachusetts Boston – provides a realistic measure of the income older adults need to make ends meet and age in place. Specific to household size, geographic area, housing and health status, the Elder Index helps workers and retirees plan for the future. The Elder Index also makes clear the gaps between income and economic security, and can be used to measure the effectiveness of public policy in addressing those gaps. To date a national Elder Index and 17 state Elder Indexes have been released.

The **Basic Economic Security Tables™ (BEST) Index** – developed in 2009 by WOW and the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis – measures the income families need for basic health, safety and economic participation. The first tool to examine together basic goods, services and asset development (emergency, retirement, homeownership and post-secondary education savings), the BEST provides an understanding of what it truly takes to build economic security throughout a lifetime and across generations.

In April 2011, WOW released a U.S. BEST that generated significant national attention. BEST Indices have already been prepared for seven states and the District of Columbia and, in the year ahead, WOW will develop reports for other states along with a national interactive database that will be publically available in early 2012. The Database will allow users to find, compare and download national, state, county and city-level Elder Index and BEST Index data.

“If we're interested in families being able to achieve economic stability and not have their lives disrupted and have a little protection and backup and be able to educate their children, then this is the way we have to think.”

MICHAEL SHERRADEN
Center for Social Development,
Washington University

“The federal poverty measure, formulated 50 years ago on a very basic assumption of what families needed to buy food bears little resemblance to reality.”

SHAWN MCMAHON, Manager of Research and Innovation for Wider Opportunities for Women

Following is a U.S. BEST table enumerating economic security needs for selected family types, and a comparison of economic security wages to common incomes.

BASIC ECONOMIC SECURITY TABLES, 2010 (Workers with Employment-based Benefits)					
U.S., Selected Family Types					
Monthly Expenses	1 Worker	1 Worker, 1 Infant	1 Worker, 1 Preschooler, 1 Schoolchild	2 Workers	2 Workers, 1 Preschooler, 1 Schoolchild
Housing	\$ 688	\$ 821	\$ 821	\$ 688	\$ 821
Utilities	149	178	178	149	178
Food	244	351	529	447	707
Transportation	495	536	536	977	1,019
Child Care	0	610	1,080	0	1,080
Personal & Household Items	291	364	412	346	460
Health Care	136	267	384	307	443
Emergency Savings	75	116	152	106	170
Retirement Savings	73	73	73	56	56
Taxes	384	720	948	533	1,060
Tax Credits	-34	-172	-300	-67	-334
Monthly Total (per Worker)	2,501	3,864	4,813	1,771	2,830
Annual Total	30,012	46,368	57,756	42,504	67,920
Hourly Wage (per Worker)	\$ 14.21	\$ 21.95	\$ 27.35	\$ 10.06	\$ 16.08
Additional Asset Building Savings					
Children's Higher Education	\$ 0	\$ 43	\$ 86	\$ 0	\$ 86
Homeownership	\$ 111	\$ 130	\$ 130	\$ 111	\$ 130

Note: "Benefits" include unemployment insurance and employment-based health insurance and retirement plans.

U.S. BASIC ECONOMIC SECURITY TABLES VS. FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE AND FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL				
By Family Type, 2010				
	1 Worker	1 Worker, 1 Preschooler, 1 Schoolchild	2 Workers	2 Workers, 1 Preschooler, 1 Schoolchild
BEST Index	\$ 30,012	\$ 57,756	\$ 42,504	\$ 67,920
(Full-time) Federal Minimum Wage	15,312	15,312	30,624	30,624
Federal Poverty Level	\$ 10,830	\$ 18,310	\$ 14,570	\$ 22,050

Policy Research: WOW's research has focused on part-time work, the promotion of women in green jobs and our study, *Coming Up Short: Wages, Public Assistance and Economic Security Across America*, which looks at the effectiveness of wages and the combination of wages and work supports in moving families toward economic independence. As part of the White House's National Initiative on Workplace Flexibility, WOW is partnering with Social Dynamics to compile cutting edge research and best practices for a policy and research agenda that addresses workplace flexibility opportunities for low-wage women in various industries. WOW has also developed a number of policy briefs, fact sheets and other materials including: an Agenda for Women and Creating Jobs; an analysis of the Work-

force Investment Act and recommendations for its reauthorization; and an analysis of the President's Fiscal 2011 Budget Request.

Using an economic security lens, WOW's "white papers" address issues such as paid sick and safe days, unemployment insurance and transit/transportation policies. These are made available to state partners, Hill staff, the White House and national allies. WOW regularly comments on federal regulations – such as those on the Supplemental Poverty Measure and Apprenticeship policies – and convenes congressional briefings on issues related to building economic security, strategies for workforce development, budget and policy opportunities, and challenges facing women workers and their families.

State Organizing and Outreach

Working to Ensure Economic Security across Generations

WOW works with its state partners to carry our projects that combine research, advocacy, public education and coalition building. All of this work includes a strong media and communications component, a central piece of which is WOW's campaign to create a consensus-based messaging framework that addresses the need for economic security at every stage of a woman's life.

WOW's Family Economic Security Project is providing resources and technical assistance to 40 states and 2000 local organizations to implement policies and programs that help low-income families build economic security – ranging from challenging tax policies to promoting child care and job training. WOW's technical assistance includes weekly policy and Recovery Act updates, telephone calls, webinars and on-site visits. The FES Program also works with national organizations and coalitions to advocate for policies and legislation at the federal level that support low-income women and their families. Central to this work are the FESS and BEST income measures.

The Elder Economic Security Initiative is now operating in 17 states where it provides a conceptual framework and concrete tools to shape policies and programs to build economic security for elders and their families. Through the Elder Initiative, WOW is working with national, state and community allies to promote the adoption of an economic security framework that provides a solid foundation for policy making and innovative service delivery that will ensure today's elders and future generations have the economic security to age in place. In the process, WOW is raising public awareness of the economic security needs of elders, mobilizing key constituencies, motivating leaders to take action on program and policy reform to promote elder economic security and bringing the voices of elders into the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

WHAT THE STATES ARE SAYING ABOUT THE BEST

"This is vital information for Michigan as the state emerges from a long recession and faces the prospect of devastating budget cuts."

GILDA JACOBS
President and CEO of the Michigan League for Human Services, *Report: Minimum Wage Comes up Short in Providing Security*, The Detroit News, May 31, 2011

"The BEST report is a great guidepost for understanding what it actually costs to support a family in Kentucky. This provides something we've never had before – numbers that lawmakers, the executive branch, the business community, nonprofit groups, and of course girls and their families must keep in mind when planning for the future."

ELEANOR JORDAN
Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Women, *Economic Security Remains Elusive for Many Kentucky Families; Growth of Low-Wage Jobs Further Threatens Economic Stability of Workers*; Lane Report, June 14, 2011

"The report tells us that families have a hard time meeting basic expenses not because they lack responsibility but because they lack enough income."

ED SPIVAK
Director Mississippi Economic Policy Center, *More than 300,000 below Self-Sufficiency Standard*, Mississippi Business Journal, September 7, 2009

"Another key finding – something we definitely want to highlight across the board in all of the states – is that many senior citizens depend on Social Security and it is not enough to meet even their basic expenses."

STACY SANDERS, Director of the Elder Economic Security Initiative, Wider Opportunities for Women, *Study shows things are tough for state's seniors*, Santa Fe New Mexican, August 21, 2010



The Building Bridges to Economic Security

Campaign is uniting community-based advocates and service providers across the country working to promote economic security through the use of a common messaging framework and tools. As part of this work, WOW commissioned Lake Research Partners to conduct a national public opinion research project to explore the nuances of language and its relationship to policies and programs that support economic security across one's lifetime. Their research made clear that regardless of age or political affiliation, all Americans are concerned about retirement security and well paying jobs.

In fall 2010, WOW led regional meetings in Los Angeles, Denver, Chicago, Atlanta and Philadelphia to release the findings of the national opinion research, hold training sessions on effective messaging techniques, and network state partner organizations within regions and across disciplines. Regional and national experts discussed strategies for organizing around key policy areas including Social Security, jobs, job training, workplace flexibility, and strategies for investing in communities and building economic security task forces.

More than 250 participants attended these meetings to discuss how seemingly disparate organizations could work together under the umbrella of economic security.

"Older women and people of color often struggle even harder to make ends meet. Elderly women are nearly twice as likely to be poor as elderly men, and the risk of poverty increases as women age."

SHIRLEY J. WILCHER, Director of the American Association for Affirmative Action and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance at the U.S. Department of Labor

THE ELDER ECONOMIC SECURITY INITIATIVE IN THE STATES

ILLINOIS

AgeOptions, the Illinois suburban Cook County Area Agency on Aging, is using the Elder Index to help seniors gain access to needed support services.

CALIFORNIA

In 2009, an ordinance was passed in San Francisco to pilot use of the Elder Index rather than 300% of the federal poverty level (the benchmark used at that time) as an assessment tool for the Community Living Fund, a local long-term care program. Their goal is to eventually use the Elder Index throughout the state.

WISCONSIN

As a result of a presentation on Elder Index findings, the Price County Board approved a \$100 increase on the annual cap for the county's supplemental emergency energy assistance program.

NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department secured funding through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicaid Infrastructure Grant to carry out the Initiative and use the Elder Index for long-term care service delivery and planning.



“The American dream of working hard to support your family is being rewritten by the growth of low-paying industries, rising expenses and reduced public support.”

JOAN KURIANSKY, Executive Director of Wider Opportunities for Women,
Michigan families struggling to reach American dream, The Michigan Citizen, June 12, 2011

Education & Training

Training Women for Jobs that Lead to Economic Security



WOW'S SOUTHEAST GREEN INSTITUTE

Despite the worst tornados in decades, more than 70 state partners came to Birmingham, Alabama, April 28 to 29, for WOW's Southeast GREEN Institute. The event welcomed new partners involved in green job initiatives in the eight Southeastern states (Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee) as well as representatives of our Pathways Out of Poverty project partners (in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, and Philadelphia). The two-day event provided a forum for partners to network, share ideas and meet national experts who provided models of promising practices on issues such as sector-based initiatives and communication strategies.

WOW is a leader in the development of the green economy. We are preparing hundreds of women for construction jobs and providing assistance to apprenticeship and job-training programs across the U.S. to promote women's employment in this growing sector.

Green Jobs are Women's Jobs: WOW's GREEN (Generating Real Economic Equity Now) Initiative is at the forefront of efforts to ensure women are not left out of the green jobs movement. WOW contributed to the Green Jobs Bill and is now conducting Green Institutes around the country to help job-training programs promote women's employment in the expanding green economy. The first was held in Washington DC in 2009 and the second was held in Alabama in May 2010. WOW also co-authored "Why Green is Your Color: A Woman's Guide to a Sustainable Career" through an award from the U.S. Department of Labor. The Guide – soon to be in hard copy and online – provides information on hiring needs, training programs, and entrepreneurial opportunities in green industries nationwide.

Our website's GREEN Space is a source for research, programs, legislative information, newsletters, upcoming events, and best practices related to women in the green economy. It showcases our work and provides a clearinghouse of information for the field. The reports and analyses housed on this site include: WOW's report for women's foundations – *Creating Opportunity for Women in the Green Economy* – that suggests how foundations can address the issue of women and green jobs in their own work; the development of language to support a *Green Construction Careers Demonstration Program in clean energy*; and WOW's *Green Jobs Training Program Fact Sheets*.

Women and Work: Working with Jobs for the Future under a U.S. Department of Labor Pathways out of Poverty grant, WOW is providing technical assistance to organizations in five cities across the country to develop green job training programs, help recruit women into these programs and ensure all trainees advance along career paths that lead to economic security.

Moving Survivors of Domestic Violence toward Economic Security: With funding from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Violence against Women, WOW's Economic Security for Survivors Project is helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assaults build the economic security they need to create a new future where they are safe and independent. This unique Recovery Act project focuses on equipping transitional housing staff and state STOP Administrators with tools to introduce survivors to jobs that pay good wages and the kinds of education and training they need to compete for them.

“A similar alternative poverty measure, the Elder Economic Security Index, developed by the University of Massachusetts Boston and Wider Opportunities for Women, is being used to measure real poverty or near poverty among seniors in several states.”

PAUL KLEYMAN, *Tough Loving the New York Times – Who’s Poorer, Elders or Youth*, The Huffington Post, January 31, 2011

Policy Change

Advocating for the Resources Women need to be Independent and Economically Secure

WOW works at the national level to advance programs and policies to help all low-income workers build economic security. We educate members of Congress and the White House about strategies to ensure women have access to good jobs, job training and income supports. In doing so, we draw on the experiences of advocates across the country and the needs of women and families in their respective communities.

Before President Obama took the oath of office in 2009, his transition team asked WOW to organize its only administration-wide briefing on women, work and family issues. Since then, WOW has been asked to provide input on the economic security needs of women and families to the White House Task Force on the Middle Class, the White House Council on Women and Girls, and the Office of the First Lady. WOW has also continued to work with the President’s Domestic Policy Council, Congress and the Department of Labor to ensure that women, minorities and low-income workers benefit from programs such as those funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and other legislation.

Over the past years, WOW’s policy work has addressed a wide range of issues including job quality, wages and the training, hiring and promoting of low-wage workers, as well as strategies for building income and work supports for families that cannot survive on their earned income. WOW leads ongoing efforts to retain the Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations Act (WANTO). We have successfully integrated the goal of self-sufficiency into the Green Jobs Act and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act, and continue to advocate for such language in the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act. WOW led efforts to develop

the Workforce Investment in Nontraditional Jobs (WIN) Act that would authorize \$100 million for competitive grants in all states and applies to training for *any occupation* in which women currently are less than 25% of the workforce – which includes many IT, technical, construction, and green jobs.

Today, WOW chairs the National Coalition on Women, Jobs and Job Training and in that role instituted and now chairs the Coalition’s bi-weekly conference calls on job training and education, job quality and job creation.



Donna Addikson, Director of WOW’s Family Economic Security Program, with Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 112th Congress, at a meeting with leaders of women’s organizations to discuss efforts to protect Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security.



“Women want an investment in economic security for themselves and their families. Unless both parties advance budget proposals that protect education, job training and other critical services that help support and expand the middle class, their votes will continue to remain up for grabs.”

CELINDA LAKE,
Lake Research Partners, and
JOAN KURIANSKY,
Executive Director,
Wider Opportunities for Women,
What do Women Really Want,
Politico, April 4, 2011



WOW in its Home Community

Improving Life for Girls, Women and Families in the Washington DC Metro Area

WOW continues to play a significant role in promoting the economic well being of the DC Metro area's low-income families on a one-to-one basis and as an advocate for system-wide change. Today, the citywide unemployment rate for the District of Columbia is 12.1%, according to the Department of Employment Services (DOES), and in some neighborhoods may be as high as 30%. Nearly 20% of the District's population lives in poverty – the 3rd highest of any jurisdiction in the nation. Through projects and tools that emphasize career planning based on concrete data about what it costs to live in the area, and education and training programs that respond to the realities of the local labor market, WOW is helping the District's low income job seekers compete for good jobs that pay self-sufficiency wages.

Working at both the local and national level, WOW brings the experiences of state partners to projects in the DC metro area. We share the "best practices" developed in our home community with our state networks and, at the same time, use the information and experience gained in our "on the ground work" across the country to affect policy change at the national level.

PREPARING WOMEN FOR NON-TRADITIONAL JOBS:

WOW is preparing hundreds of women throughout the DC metro area for construction jobs and apprenticeships – positions that are non-traditional for women but which offer good wages, benefits and career paths – first through the Washington Area Women In the Trades (WAWIT) project and now through *Building Futures*, a partnership with the Community Services Agency/ AFL-CIO (CSA) and Covenant House. *Building Futures* was one of only three national ARRA grants made by

the General Services Administration in 2009. With this award, WOW's *Building Futures* program is preparing 222 low-income DC area women and men for construction jobs and apprenticeships.

THE DC FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY PROJECT (DC FES):

Identifying strategies, advocating for policies and creating pathways to assist low-income women and their families achieve economic self-sufficiency are the common threads in our local program, which encompasses the following core initiatives:

DC Metro Area Self-Sufficiency Calculator

(DCMASSC): Now on its own website: www.dcmassc.org, WOW's Calculator is helping residents throughout the DC area understand what it takes to make ends meet, what public benefit programs are available to low income families and examples of over 30 jobs that offer self-sufficiency wages that do not require a four-year college degree. Calculated for more than 400 family types in the District of Columbia and the five surrounding counties, the DCMASSC is being used by job training programs, case managers, literacy coaches and individuals to assess policies related to welfare, public housing and wage setting.

DC Basic Economic Security Tables (DC BEST):

WOW released the Basic Economic Security Tables for the Washington, DC Metro Area (BEST) in October 2010 along with three policy briefs. According to the Washington Post, the report dramatically illustrates that the poverty line is "just the tip of the iceberg of financial struggle", and that roughly half the District's low-income families – most headed by single women – fall well below standards of economic security.

"We believe we're offering not just numbers but a road map for what we can do in the District to enable more residents to be able to move toward more economic security and less anxiety."

JOAN KURIANSKY, Executive Director, Wider Opportunities for Women,
Price Tag for 'Basic Economic Security' Rising, Washington Post, October 10, 2010

Connections to Careers Workshops: This popular workshop series introduces teens and adults to the costs of living and raising a family in the DC area, the jobs that pay good wages and provide benefits, as well as strategies for asset building. Newly revised, they now include sessions that address Green Jobs, domestic violence, and the importance of planning for economic security in retirement.

Economic Security and Teen Pregnancy: In 2011 WOW launched an innovative demonstration project in the DC metro area with three community-based reproductive health organizations. The project integrates career planning and job readiness services into their programs to encourage low-income teens to complete school and aspire to jobs that pay good wages and lead to economic security – essential components of successful initiatives to reduce teen pregnancy, according to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

The Work Place DC (TWPDC): This is a unique collaboration among job readiness programs, including WOW, to provide a continuum of holistic, high quality workforce development programs and services to DC residents in one location. TWPDC's mission is to engage business, government, community based organizations and individuals in programming that specifically addresses the needs of those job seekers who are least prepared to succeed in the workforce.

Economic Security for Victims of Violence: WOW's Empowerment Project with the District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH) is helping families find permanent housing and live safely and independently through the provision of a rental subsidy and supportive services. Central to the project are WOW's self-sufficiency counseling

tools that are helping domestic violence survivors prepare for jobs that provide economic security.

DC Metro Area Resource and Referral Service:

WOW provides phone referrals and information to local callers who seek education, training, and social services resources in the DC Metro Area. Our database includes a listing of more than 250 programs and services in the areas of adult education, children and youth, disability, domestic violence, education, emergency services, financial services, food and nutrition, health, housing, legal services, seniors, social services, and vocational training.

Coalitions for Change: WOW works with a number of coalitions in the DC Metro Area. Between 2000 and 2010, WOW was an appointed member of the DC Workforce Investment Council which oversees the DC public workforce system. WOW co-founded and chairs the DC Women's Agenda, a coalition that promotes the equality, health and well-being of women and girls in the District, as well as the DC Jobs Council, a coalition that advocates for a workforce system that meets the needs of all DC residents and responds to the local economy. WOW is also an active participant in a number of other coalitions including Defeat Poverty DC, the Ward 8 Workforce Development Council, and the Fair Budget Coalition.



WOW was delighted and honored when its local programs were recognized by the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington, which selected WOW to be in its 2010-11 publication and called WOW "one of the best small charities in the Washington DC Region." Read about WOW on the Catalogue's website at cfp-dc.org.

WOW Administration and Staff

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WOW'S 2011 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Sixty WOW leaders, representing 40 state organizations, converged on Washington DC for our National Partner Summit, March 30 to April 1. The Summit focused on WOW's mission of promoting inter generational economic security and featured several key note speeches by Jared Bernstein (then Chief Economic Adviser to the Vice President), Jane Oates (Assistant Secretary of the Employment and Training Administration), and Tina Tchen (Assistant to the President, Chief of Staff to the First Lady). WOW's state partners also met with more than 50 Senate and Congressional Representatives' offices to urge them to protect key programs during the ongoing budget debate.



"We wanted to recognize that there was a cumulative impact that would affect one's lifelong economic security, and we've all seen how often we have emergencies that we are unprepared for, especially during the recession. Layoffs or other health crises can definitely begin to draw us into poverty."

JOAN KURIANSKY, Executive Director, Wider Opportunities for Women

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“We see continually that women are underserved in this area and continue to have barriers. State and national policies are needed that ensure the health and safety of female workers, eliminate gender discrimination and provide pay equity. Not all jobs are created equal. It’s about women getting opportunities that actually pay the bills.”

TERESA YOUNGER, Executive Director of Connecticut’s Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, *Women urged to tap into green jobs*, The New Haven Register, Thursday, October 22, 2009

WOW Friends and Supporters

Wider Opportunities for Women is grateful to the following organizations and individuals for making our work possible.

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 Crittenton Women’s Union
 Delaware Commission for Women
 The District Alliance for Safe Housing
 DC Collaborative
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 The Hattie M. Strong Foundation
 The Summit Fund
 United Bank
 United Planning Organization
 University of the District of Columbia
 University of Southern Maine
 The U.S. Department of Justice,
 Office of Violence Against Women
 The U.S. Department of Labor,
 Employment and Training Administration
 The Washington Area Women’s Foundation
 Wisconsin Women’s Network
 Zuckerman & Gravely Mgt.

Aaron Anderson
 Anna G. Angelo
 Kathryn Cleary
 Karen Bates
 Catherine J. Bell
 Sharon & Peter Bell
 Dina Beaumont
 Rita Bergman
 Tiffany Bluemle & Liz Shayne
 William Bigge
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 Francine Weiss
 Charles Wendling
 Iona Wertz
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 Claudia Withers
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 Vanita Zano
 Judy Zickler
 Lonnie E. Zins

Anonymous Friends who make WOW’s work possible, through donations to America’s Charities, the Combined Federal Campaign, Just Give purchases, and the United Way.

Statement of Activity and Changes in Net Assets

for the year ended December 31, 2010

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2010 Total
Revenue, support and gains:			
Grants and contributions.....	\$ 8,921	\$ 1,983,881	\$ 1,992,802
Other income and reimbursements.....	18,250	-	18,250
Interest income.....	2,030	-	2,030
Total revenue, support and gains.....	29,201	1,983,881	2,013,082
Net assets released from temporary restrictions.....	\$ 2,429,705	\$ (2,429,705)	\$ -
Expenses and losses:			
Program services.....	\$ 2,424,705	\$ -	\$ 2,424,705
Support and administration			
Administrative.....	\$ 6,346	\$ -	\$ 6,346
Fund-raising and development.....	29,785	-	29,785
	36,131	-	36,131
Total expenses and losses.....	\$ 2,460,836	\$ -	\$ 2,460,836
Change in net assets.....	\$ (1,930)	\$ (445,824)	\$ (447,754)
Net assets, beginning.....	(119,446)	3,056,702	2,937,256
Net assets, ending.....	\$ (121,376)	\$ 2,610,878	\$ 2,489,502

Statement of Financial Position

as of December 31, 2010

	2010
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 448,693
Grants, contracts, and contributions receivable.....	2,150,371
Other assets:	
Prepaid expenses.....	21,195
Security deposits.....	7,655
	28,850
Furniture, fixtures and equipment.....	211,897
Less: accumulated depreciation.....	(199,659)
	12,238
Total assets.....	\$ 2,640,152
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses.....	\$ 150,650
Line of credit.....	-
	150,650
Net assets - unrestricted.....	\$ (121,376)
Net assets - temporarily restricted.....	2,610,878
	2,489,502
Total liabilities and net assets.....	\$ 2,640,152

In Appreciation

Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) recognizes two extraordinary leaders in the field of women and work who were also leaders of WOW. While we mourn their untimely deaths, their mark on WOW is ever present and their vision continues to guide our thinking.

Cindy Marano was the Executive Director of Wider Opportunities for Women between 1985 and 1997. She joined WOW in 1980 as the Director of the National Workforce Network. During her tenure, Cindy advocated for the development of federal policies that related to job training, welfare to work and vocational education – four of which were adopted into federal law. She provided technical assistance to network members, local workforce agencies and states, and launched the Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project, now in 40 states and the District of Columbia, and oversaw the organization's groundbreaking work on women's literacy. She led the organization's first sector work in the construction trades in DC and helped define the concept of non-traditional careers for women, which was later translated into programs and policies around the country. Cindy was a mentor to many of today's women leaders.

Beth Shulman was a member of WOW's Board of Directors between 2007 and 2010. She was a visionary, activist, strategist and chronicler on behalf of workers throughout her career. For 22 years, she served in various positions with the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union including 13 years as a Vice President – one of the highest ranked women in unions at that time. In 2003, Beth wrote a highly respected book *The Betrayal of Work: How Low-Wage Jobs Fail 30 Million Americans*, which exposed how so many workers who played by the rules were struggling to make ends meet. In the years preceding her death in 2010, Beth co-chaired the Low-Wage Work Initiative and was an adjunct professor at the School of Business and Public Management at George Washington University.

Beloved and brilliant colleagues, Cindy and Beth inspire us to think more creatively as we continue to build economic opportunities for women.

“Female voters, like men, are focused on the economy. But women care about kitchen-table issues – investments in public education, affordable health insurance, protecting Social Security, equal pay enforcement, minimum wage increases and job training.”

CELINDA LAKE, Lake Research Partners, and
 JOAN KURIANSKY, Executive Director, Wider Opportunities for Women,
What do Women Really Want, Politico, April 4, 2011



the **Charleston Gazette** June 1, 2010

Three out of every 10 older West Virginians live on Social Security, with no other regular income, according to a report released Wednesday...

“The report provides a realistic picture of what people need to live,” said Laura Boone, director of the West Virginia Long-Term Care Partnership. “It gives us a realistic alternative to the federal poverty level.”

April 1, 2011

THE HUFFINGTON POST
 THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

AS CEO PAY SOARS, MANY NEW JOBS FAIL TO PROVIDE A LIVING WAGE

“Most newly-created jobs don’t pay enough to meet even the most basic of needs, according to a report released by Wider Opportu- nities for Women on Friday. The report came as a *USA Today* study found CEO pay climbing back to pre-recession levels”

The Bemidji **Pioneer**
 Bemidji, Minnesota, Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Commentary: Greatest Generation Now State’s Most Vulnerable

Last week, a report released by the Elder Economic Security Initiative shed new light on the increasing economic insecurity many older Minnesotans face. The report bases its analysis on what it really takes for an older adult to maintain their independence in the community and meet the basic costs of living like housing and health care... The bottom line is that Minnesota is growing older. In the next few decades, the number of Minnesota residents who are 65 years and older will double to about a quarter of the population. We must take swift action now to make sure our parents and older neighbors live independently, with dignity and in their community as long as possible.

ON GUARD FOR 150 YEARS
Detroit Free Press
 May 31, 2011

Why you can’t live on minimum wage

The Basic Economic Security Tables for Michigan, a study that analyzes the cost of essential needs for families across Michigan, found the cost of providing basic necessities – such as shelter, food and transportation -- far exceeds minimum wage and the paychecks of people working full-time in low-paying job categories.

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN
 Locally owned and operated Saturday, August 21, 2010 www.newmexican.com

The public and policy makers are in for a “rude awakening” Tuesday when data will be released from a year-long study of seniors in New Mexico at a public event at Isleta Conference Center on the Isleta Pueblo during Aging and Long-Term Services Department’s New Mexico Conference on Aging...

“Another key finding, and something we definitely want to highlight across the board in all of the states, we are able to illustrate that Social Security is not enough for some to meet their basic expenses,” Sanders said. “One out of five seniors in New Mexico are relying on Social Security f

THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS
 FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2011 www.mlive.com 75¢

Single-income earners struggle in low-wage economy

Of the jobs expected to be created during the next seven years, only 42 percent are expected to provide income necessary for a single parent with two children. Only 19 percent will provide sufficient wages for single parents who do not have a four-year college degree.

“The American dream of working hard to support your family is being rewritten by the growth of low-paying industries, rising expenses and reduced public support,” Joan Kruiansky, executive director of Wider Opportunities for Women, said in a statement.