

New Activities

Our 25th Anniversary year was busy and exciting, as we hosted a number of new activities.

On Saturday, October 9th long time supporters and a few new friends gathered for a Hidden Treasure Tour. The Tour offered holiday shopping for house wares, clothing, accessories and gift ideas at some of our favorite consignment shops. The fun filled day of shopping and lunch benefited the Sojourner Foundation, as well as the guests who found many unique items and great deals.

A Bowl-O-Ween party was held on October 31st at Plum Hollow Lanes. Guests enjoyed an afternoon of pizza and bowling. There were many ways to win prizes, everything from high score, to mystery game raffles were held. No one left empty handed, as goodie bags were given to all ages.

The year ended with our first ever Benevon Dinner, held at Angelina's Italian Bistro, Detroit on Tuesday, December 7th. Guest speaker Laurie Moore, Executive Director of Looking for My Sister, shared her story of how Sojourner Foundation gave her organization their first grant, which was instrumental in their start up. Her touching story and the delectable meal warmed us on the cold December evening.

Thank you to everyone who supported us at one or more of our events in 2010!



Benevon Dinner: Guests with Helen Hicks, president (3rd from left) and guest speaker, Laurie Moore (Rt)



Benevon Dinner: Kate Davis, Brenda Scoggins and Miriam Hudson



Benevon Dinner: Susan Titus - Board member (standing)
Esther Shapiro - Advisory Board member (Lt)
Jennifer Roberts - Board member (Rt)



Benevon Dinner: Board members Lanaita Thomas and Dori Freelain-Hawkins

Sojourner Foundation
25940 Grand River Ave., Detroit, MI. 48240-1485

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A Foundation for Women and Girls

Winter 2011 Newsletter



Helen Hicks, president (Lt) and Onnie Jacque, Grants Committee Chair (Rt) with grantees



Laura Franklin & Daughter (Lt) with friends

SOJOURNER FOUNDATION CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Sojourner Foundation celebrated its 25th Anniversary with its annual "Conversations With..." event featuring 25 Remarkable Women: Past and Present, on Wed., March 24 at the Roostertail Catering Club, Detroit. After welcoming remarks from Helen Hicks, President, guests enjoyed a delectable dinner buffet and placed bids on the wonderful silent auction items. Amyre Makupson, who spent 30 years in the news industry as a news anchor, talk show host and producer, narrated the event which featured portrayal of Remarkable Women, Past & Present, as well as grant awards to six deserving local non-profit agencies committed to improving conditions for women and girls.

GRANTS

H.A.V.E.N. - Emergency Basic Needs for Women and Girls Fleeing Domestic Violence - \$1,000 - To provide emergency basic needs for at least sixty-two women and girls leaving domestic violence situations. The recipient will receive translation services, especially in Arabic and Spanish.

Corner Health Center - The Corner Health Center Theatre Troupe/Peer Education Program - \$3,000 - The existing theatre troupe/peer education, which aims to reduce the incidence of dating violence will be expanded from Washtenaw County into Wayne County.

Michigan AIDS Coalition - Just for Women - \$1,000 - Women in the metro Detroit area will receive HIV/AIDS testing, counseling, preventive service, and AIDS prevention training to help them and their unborn children stay healthy.

Mercy Education Project - Open Doors - \$2,500 - Women in southwest Detroit will receive job training, job placement, social interaction, support network, job preparedness, and positive role modeling for children.

Noah Project - A Safe Journey - \$1,500 - This program will offer specialized services (counseling, groups, basic life skills, resources, etc.) for homeless women who are victims of domestic violence.

Alternatives for Girls - Community Awareness and Engagement to Prevent Youth Violence - \$1,000 - Through the use of peer educators, community panels, and youth summits, Latin American and African American girls ages 13-21 in southwest Detroit will become better educated about dating abuse and domestic violence issues.

(Continued on page 2)



Gilda & Roy Ford



Deborah Williams (Rt) and her guests

Sojourner Foundation's Annual Celebration
"Conversations With..." Save the Date!
Wednesday, March 30, 2011
Ticket request form on insert

Annual Meeting
7:15 pm - February 16, 2011
RSVP by February 14th to (313) 534-4263
to confirm and get location information

Save March 30th, 2011
24th Annual Celebration
Featuring "Conversations With..."
Ticket request form on insert

(25th Anniversary continued from page 1)

In honor of Women's History Month volunteer actors portrayed historic women who impacted society:

Dr. Rosa L. Gragg (1907 – 1989) An educator, school founder and 16th president of the National Association of Colored Women. In 1941 she led the Detroit Association of Women's Clubs in the purchase of the historic Lennane House on Ferry Street as a meeting site by mortgaging her own home and business. Dr. Rosa L. Gragg was portrayed by Chickita Young, President, Detroit Association of Women's Clubs.

Belva Lockwood (1830 – 1917) U.S. Attorney, politician, author and noted feminist was portrayed by Harriet Saperstein.

Sojourner Truth (1797 – 1883) Abolitionist and feminist was portrayed by Madelyn Porter, actress, instructor, and performer.



Actresses: 2nd from left - Chichita Young, Madelyn Porter, Harriet Saperstein - Amyre Makupson in background

Women's Funding Network

Sojourner Foundation Board Members Kate Davis and Jennifer Roberts joined over 350 women and a few men from across the United States and around the world at the Annual Women's Funding Network Conference in Denver April 22 – 24.

The opening luncheon featured Colorado Lt. Governor, Barbara Obrien who said that we need a new way of mentoring young women. Also welcoming participants was Eve Powell, Interim Executive Director, The Women's Foundation of Colorado. An inspiring kick off speech was given by Kanyre Eaton, Executive Director of the Sister Fund, New York.

There were many helpful and informative workshops attended, such as Cultivating Donors: From Motivation to Movement, Social Media for Change, Inclusion and Beyond: Shifting and Sharing Power among others.

An enjoyable evening reception took place at the Chambers Center with remarks by philanthropist, Merle Chambers, founder: The Colorado Women's Foundation is housed in this beautiful modern building.

Kathy Le May, who spoke on seizing the moment for the women's funding movement cautioned the audience to keep it honest about what the movement is about. "Its about Justice." We have to be braver, fierce- there is no one else who is going to do what we have to do. The movement must be rooted in justice.

The three day conference concluded with a sense of optimism for the future of women's funds and awareness of the need to work together to make change happen.

Mid-West Regional Convening – Kansas City – October 25-27
Sojourner Foundation Board Member Jennifer Roberts joined other Mid-West Women's Funds at the Women's Funding Network Mid-West Regional Convening in Kansas City, October 25-27. Approximately 25 women from 15 different funds gathered at The Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City. The convening was an excellent opportunity to learn from other funds in the area. The focus was on Fundraising for Social Change and Strategies for Adopting Inclusive Leadership Practices. There were also discussions on house party "asks," how to expand your board, include men, and reach out to the younger generation.

Kansas City was an excellent host site, as the group enjoyed a reception hosted at the home of Bunni Copaken, founding mom of the Women's Foundation for Greater Kansas City.



Rosilind Hall, Board member with Cynthia Taueg (Rt), St. John Health sponsor



Bernice Williams, Board Member (2nd from right) with her guests



"Conversations with..." 25 Remarkable Women: Past and Present

In honor of the Sojourner Foundation's 25th Anniversary, 25 women who have helped the foundation reach this milestone were honored for their long time support. Among them were: Gerry Barrons, Sha Buikema, Kate Davis, Marian Harper, Jackie Washington, Sandra Abraham, Onnie Jacque, Sandra McClennen, Joy E. Reliford, Jennifer Roberts, Harriet Saperstein, Brenda Scoggins, Bernice Williams, Deborah Williams, Nadine Cook, Nancy DeGroot, Olivian DeSouza, Fran Dorn, Princella Graham, Cheryl Hill, Miriam Hudson, Karen Grey Sheffield, Elise Pitts Spencer, Paula Spencer, Cynthia Taueg, and Ona Harris. Thank you to all of the remarkable women and men who have contributed to the foundation through the years.

"As we look back and celebrate the achievements made by the current generation, we also look forward to better lives for future generations," commented Kate Davis, Executive Director, Sojourner Foundation.

2010 Sojourner Foundation Donors

We thank everyone listed below who made contributions to Sojourner Foundation through December 31, 2010

BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Alternatives for Girls
Avis Ford
Caring Maternal IHP Inc
Charity Enterprises LLC
Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.
Comerica
Community Shares of Michigan
Global Vision Management Group LLC
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Sweet Dreamzzz Inc
The Bon-Ton Stores Inc
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If your name has been misspelled or omitted, please contact the Sojourner Foundation office, so that we can correct or include your name in the next newsletter.

313-534-4263

SPECIAL THANKS

Ed Seggerson - for tax preparation
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Sojourner Foundation Board of Trustees

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