

Seeking to increase our impact on "Improving the lives of women and girls in Western North Carolina", the Advocacy Committee developed an advocacy agenda that leverages the work done by the non-profits we support with our grants. We used a process which was developed by Children First/CIS of Buncombe County that builds a foundation for advocacy which is values based; that is, it begins with our mission statement and shared values.

- We believe in the power of women joining together to improve the lives of women and girls in our community.
- We believe in a society where families' basic needs are met.
- We believe women and girls should have access to quality healthcare, educational opportunities and legal services.
- We believe that women should have equitable economic opportunities that lead to self-sufficiency and prosperity.
- We believe that women and girls should live in safe environments.
- We believe that increasing the awareness of women's issues helps find solutions. We believe in promoting philanthropy as an investment in our community.
- We believe in investing our resources (time, money & skills) in sustainable, positive social change

At a membership meeting in 2009, the Advocacy Committee presented the core values, principles, and policy directions which would serve as the basis for WFW's advocacy work. Based on membership consensus, the Committee developed guidelines and narrowed its policy direction to closely align our advocacy agenda with the current, and to a lesser extent, previous WFW grants.

*Women for Women's* approach to advocacy is three-pronged:

- Identify partners
- Convene groups for educational purposes
- Issue calls-to-action to urge members to contact legislators on issues that affect women and girls