



*Empowering women since 1996*

## **Women in Housing & Finance Foundation**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Press Release**

## **WHF Foundation Celebrating 20 Years of Empowering Women**

Alexandria VA -- The Women in Housing & Finance Foundation (WHF Foundation) will begin a year-long celebration of 20 years supporting women and families through financial literacy, transition housing assistance, economic empowerment and academic scholarships. Beginning later this month, the WHF Foundation will hold a series of special events which recognize the nonprofits supported by its Partnership Grants Programs as well as its partner associations—Operation HOPE and Trinity Washington University. Current and former WHF Foundation leaders and volunteers will also be recognized. The celebration of the WHF Foundation’s two decades begins on February 21, 2017 with a “Welcome and Wine” evening with grant recipient Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services.

“We really want to showcase our partners and grant recipients during this year of celebration,” said Mary Martha Fortney, WHF Foundation President. “It is their programs that really make a difference in the lives of low-income or other at-risk women and families. Part of those programs’ successes is due to the many WHF members who conduct financial literacy sessions, assist in service projects, and help raise funds for the Foundation to support those programs.”

The WHF Foundation Partnership Grants Program demonstrates the commitment of WHF members who volunteer their time and talent as well as individuals and organizations who make significant financial contributions to support the WHF Foundation mission. Over the last 20 years the WHF Foundation has contributed more than \$600,000 to local organizations through more than 125 grants, and volunteers have conducted more than 230 financial literacy sessions. Other recent recipients of the WHF Foundation Partnership Grants which will be celebrated at special events are Bridges to Independence (Northern Virginia), Calvary Women’s Services (Washington, DC), Doorways for Women and Families (Arlington, VA), Interfaith Works (Montgomery County, MD), and Open Arms Housing (Washington, DC).

The WHF Foundation also takes immense pride in the scholarship program partnership with Trinity Washington University. “Education is key to everyone’s success, but especially for women who still lag behind men in terms of pay equity,” added Leslie Woolley, WHF Foundation Board Member and past WHF President. “Since 2004, the WHF Foundation has provided \$18,000 in grants for scholarships to women students at Trinity Washington, especially non-traditional women students interested in the fields of housing and finance.”

Other special events will follow through December of 2017, including a reception in September. More information about these special events, as well as information on grant recipients is available [here](#).

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***About the WHF Foundation:*** A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to: (1) Develop personal finance counseling programs to enhance the financial empowerment of low-income women or other at-risk individuals; (2) Provide partnership grants to organizations that provide services to women and their families in the Washington, D.C. area; (3) Coordinate volunteer activities of Women in Housing and Finance members benefiting community groups, especially in the areas of housing and women's concerns; and (4) Create an internship or scholarship program for women students interested in the fields of housing and finance. For more information, please visit the WHF Foundation's Web-site at <http://www.whfdc.org/foundation>.