



*Empowering  
Women  
Since 1997*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Press Release**

**WHF FOUNDATION TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIPS WITH  
NONPROFITS PROVIDING LOW-INCOME WOMEN AND FAMILIES WITH  
HOUSING TRANSITION SERVICES AND FINANCIAL LITERACY**

**Alexandria, VA**— The WHF Foundation marks two decades of partnering with local nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping low-income women and children with basic financial literacy skills, housing assistance, transition services and economic empowerment. A reception celebrating the Foundation’s 20 years and recognizing the work of those nonprofits and the contributions of many WHF member volunteers who work with those organizations will be held on September 28, 2017, from 5:30pm to 8:00 pm at The McDermott Building, 500 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

“When this effort began in 1997, Women in Housing & Finance (WHF) leadership sought to connect the enormous wealth of financial services industry knowledge among the WHF membership with the greater Washington, DC community,” noted WHF Foundation President Mary Martha Fortney. “Thus, the WHF Foundation was created to help disadvantaged women and their families by providing charitable services, educational activities, and partnership grants to promote financial empowerment.”

Over the past 20 years, the WHF Foundation has delivered personal finance counseling programs to enhance the financial empowerment of low-income women and other at-risk individuals, provided nearly \$600,000 in partnership grants to organizations that provide services to women and their families, and created a scholarship program for nontraditional women college students at Trinity Washington University totaling \$21,000.

Fifteen current and former Congressional members are serving as honorary co-chairs for the WHF Foundation’s 20th Anniversary event. The WHF Foundation is also pleased that Jonathan Fiechter, well-known banking and finance supervision analyst, will offer remarks at the Foundation’s 20th anniversary special event. Mr. Fiechter presently serves as an advisor to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, two European-based consulting firms, and is on two not-for-profit boards. Most of his professional career has been devoted to finance, crisis management in Asia, Europe, Latin America and the US, and assisting countries strengthen their banking supervision.

“The WHF Foundation is delighted that Mr. Fiechter will be helping us celebrate 20 years,” said Rebecca Laird, Vice-President of the WHF Foundation. “Mr. Fiechter’s appearance will be especially notable, since he helped plant the idea of a charitable foundation to Women in Housing & Finance (WHF) back in 1996. He suggested to WHF members that having existed for 16 years, WHF might want to consider a more structured

way of ‘giving back’ to the community.” WHF members took his advice, and the WHF Foundation was officially incorporated in September of 1997.

Details and registration information about the event are available [here](#), or visit our website at [www.whfdc.org/foundation](http://www.whfdc.org/foundation).

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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>.