

Joan's Circle of Friends

Updated January 28, 2021

When the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts was still a dream in the hearts of a small circle of women, there was one woman among them who took the lead. The story has often been told how Joan Hastings wrote the very first check to "get things going." As Dianne Doherty, one of the founders said, "Joan's check was such a tremendous impetus for all of us to get serious, to get moving on our dream."

Unlike many foundations, the Women's Fund has always been known for our deep relationships throughout all the communities of Western Massachusetts, and for this reason, we have named this society *Joan's Circle of Friends*. We want to recognize and honor Joan's belief in the dream as well as her steadfast support of WFWM's mission.

Our overall goals for *Joan's Circle* are simple but critical:

- Build the endowment
- Engage donors at a new level with creative legacy opportunities
- Cultivate new donors

Specific to the 15th anniversary, we have established a fundraising campaign with the goals of announcing 1 million dollars directed to strategic initiatives and grantee development, and 2 million dollars committed to the endowment. *Joan's Circle of Friends* will enable us to market estate planning and endowment gift opportunities in a language true to the personality of this Women's Fund, a personality that Joan helped establish.

In a conversation with Dianne Doherty asking her opinion about naming this legacy society in honor of Joan, Dianne stated, "This would be absolutely wonderful and right. You can put my name down immediately." Other women who stand ready to add their names and legacy commitment include Eleanor Lord founding Board member, Susan Lowenstein community activist, and Carla Oleska Women's Fund former chief executive officer.

Join Joan's Circle of Friends by reaching out to Chief Executive Officer, Donna Haghighat, at donna@mywomensfund.org or (413) 529-0087.



Joan's Circle of Friends

Susan J. Alston

Elizabeth E. Anema

Mary M. Barringer

Marguerite Bedell

Olivia Bernard

Barbara Bilz

Susan Bowman

Carol Campbell

Maryjane Canavan

Kim Cook

Mary Czajkowski

George Ditomassi

Michele Ditomassi

Laurie Estes

Dianne Fuller Doherty

Paul Doherty

Joan Hastings

Wilmot R. Hastings

Amy Jamrog

Cindy Johnson

Elizabeth G. Johnson

Kathleen Keough

Susan B. Lantz

Eleanor Y. Lord

Susan Lowenstein Kitchell

Thomas L. Millette

Sue Monks

Carla Oleska

Anne Paradis

Jill Paul

Margaret Wheeler