

# Making Philanthropy Count: How Women Are Changing the World

Women's Philanthropy Institute  
at the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University



May 2009

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We are excited to offer this wide-ranging report on recent trends and developments in the contemporary women's philanthropy movement and we are delighted that the Women's Philanthropy Institute (WPI) at the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University has played, and continues to play, a vital role in moving this field forward.

*Making Philanthropy Count: How Women are Changing the World* grows out of the commitment of the WPI to further the understanding of women's philanthropy worldwide. Dedicated to research, training, convening, and knowledge dissemination, WPI's value-neutral perspective informs scholars, practitioners, and donors about the multifaceted dimensions of women's philanthropy. This report is an example of one of the many ways in which we advance our mission and translate research into practice. As you peruse this material, you will find that the information shared at our symposia exemplifies the most recent and "cutting edge" work that is being put into practice. Our symposia are unique in that we expect our research, as well as research from others, to inform practice.

Bracketed by the Center's two major symposia on women's philanthropy, convened in 2005 and 2008, the narrative tracks key research, current progress, ongoing challenges, and likely next steps. The report's three sections, "Gaining momentum," "Driving results," and "Taking action" mirror the remarkable forward trajectory of women's philanthropy in recent years. New research initiatives, innovative approaches to engaging women donors, and inspired leaders all form the fabric of this story about how women today are truly changing the world.

We hope you find this report both useful and inspiring. And we are eager to hear your feedback. Please share your stories and comments at [wpiinfo@iupui.edu](mailto:wpiinfo@iupui.edu).

Cordially,



Dr. Debra Mesch

*Director*

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