



*Take the LEAP  
in Honor of our Tenth Anniversary!*



At our Tenth Anniversary Gala to be held at Foundation For The Carolinas the evening of Saturday, November 9, 2013, we will celebrate the **more than \$3 million** that Women's Impact Fund has contributed to nonprofits in Mecklenburg County, as well as the millions of additional charitable dollars we have influenced. Whether you joined the Women's Impact Fund last week or nearly a decade ago, you know that **we are much more than the dollars we grant** to nonprofits in our community.

We are thrilled to announce the new **"Leadership, Education And Philanthropy Fund"** (LEAP), which will provide much-needed resources to enhance our Women's Impact Fund member support and services. This is our opportunity to celebrate our legacy of maximizing women's leadership in philanthropy by **engaging, educating and inspiring** our members. In honor of our Tenth Anniversary, we ask you to join us and kindly take the LEAP for the Women's Impact Fund by making a gift to secure our future. With your generosity, our "ripple effect" will soon be a tsunami!

The LEAP Fund will **strengthen the essential educational mission** of the Women's Impact Fund by providing resources for:

- Exceptional speakers to engage, educate and inspire
- Essential staff support for our grants, member education and other committees
- Technology enhancements to connect our members, grantees and the community
- So many other exciting initiatives to better equip Women's Impact Fund members to serve our community as donors, volunteers, board members, professional staff and thought leaders

Our goal is to raise **\$100,000 by October 31 to launch the LEAP Fund** in honor of our Tenth Anniversary and we hope that you will make LEAP a part of your annual giving. Your gift will be multiplied through the philanthropic leadership of Women's Impact Fund members today and tomorrow.

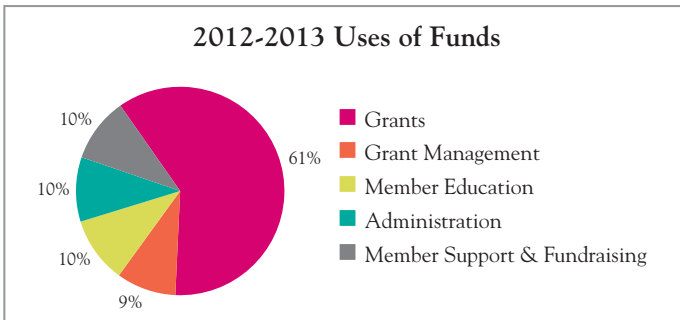
# LEAP Fund Frequently Asked Questions

## How will the Women's Impact Fund use additional member contributions?

The LEAP Fund provides much-needed flexibility to take strategic leaps forward in our collective impact. Today the Women's Impact Fund is fortunate to have a healthy operating reserve fund; however, weakness in any of our future funding sources would prevent us from fulfilling our core educational mission. As the Women's Impact Fund grows to meet the needs of our community and enhance the opportunities for education and engagement available to our members, LEAP funds will play a crucial role in our future success.

## How efficient is the Women's Impact Fund?

Thanks in large part to the countless volunteer hours and exceptionally generous in-kind contributions of our members; the Women's Impact Fund is operated efficiently and with minimal overhead expenses as explained by the chart below:



## Is the Women's Impact Fund really worth the expense and effort?

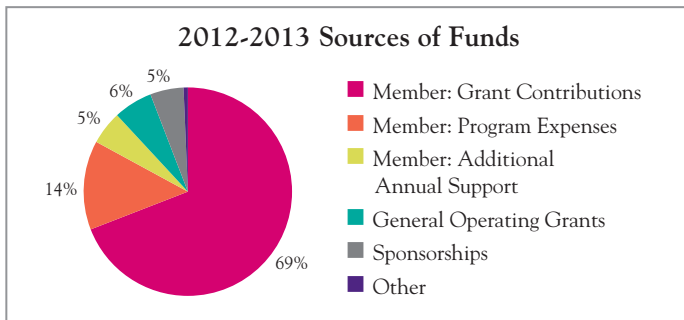
YES! In its first nine years, the Women's Impact Fund granted nearly \$3 million to 39 community nonprofit organizations. What's more, our grantees tell us that they regularly leverage the prestige of our grants to secure additional dollars. Other donors follow Women's Impact Fund's



lead because our grantmaking process is so strong. However, grants are only a small part of our collective impact. Our mission is much broader than grantmaking. The Women’s Impact Fund is a powerful tool for women’s education and civic engagement. Together, we maximize women’s leadership in philanthropy and create a new generation of educated and empowered strategic donors. Our members – informed and inspired by their work with the Women’s Impact Fund – are changing the face of philanthropy in our community as volunteers, board members and nonprofit executives.

### *How important is the LEAP Fund in meeting our operational needs?*

The Women’s Impact Fund relies on additional voluntary member contributions to supplement our annual operating budget – and is grateful for each and every gift. The annual budget carefully balances membership fees, additional gifts from members, in-kind contributions of goods and services, private foundation grants and corporate sponsorships, as illustrated by the chart below:



The LEAP Fund contributions, while voluntary, are necessary to balance our budget each and every year. At this time, only 10% of our members make an additional annual contribution. We expect participation to increase dramatically as our members learn about and experience the benefits of the LEAP Fund. The LEAP Fund replaces the Annual Fund.



*Does the Women's Impact Fund have a safety net or a special opportunities fund?*

The LEAP Fund gives the Women's Impact Fund the opportunity to take strategic leaps forward in our mission to maximize women's leadership in philanthropy through investments in social media, technology and other special initiatives. In addition, the LEAP Fund ensures that unexpected challenges will not prevent the Women's Impact Fund from continuing to cultivate women leaders who will lift up nonprofits in our community.

*How can I make my gift to the LEAP Fund today to celebrate our Tenth Anniversary and ensure our bright tomorrow?*

Gifts to the LEAP Fund may be made by cash, stock or through a planned estate gift. Gifts can be made in your own name or in honor of a treasured Women's Impact Fund friend or other loved one. For more information about how to make your gift, please see the enclosed reply card.

*If you have questions or would like to discuss your gift,  
please contact:*

*Dianne Bailey, 10th Anniversary Co-Chair,  
at 704-936-9047 or [dbailey@rbh.com](mailto:dbailey@rbh.com)*

*Susan Ehrman, Program Director,  
at 704-707-4292 or [sehrman@womensimpactfund.org](mailto:sehrman@womensimpactfund.org)*

*Thank you for your support of the Women's Impact Fund  
and for taking the LEAP!*

