

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **The Women's Fund of Central Ohio Raises \$2 Million as part of Global Campaign that Exceeds \$150 Million Goal**

In face of bleak economy, campaign nets massive support –including \$2 Million to The Women's Fund of Central Ohio – from women giving \$1 Million+ to Support Women and Girls

Columbus, Ohio (May 13, 2009)

The Women's Fund of Central Ohio announced today that it has raised \$2 Million as part of an historic global fundraising campaign to raise the bar on giving to women and girls by high-net worth women. The money raised is part of a total of \$177 million, or latest number raised in the US and around the world by Women Moving Millions, vastly more than the campaign goal of \$150 million.

Over a three-year period more than 90 women have each committed \$1 million or more to one or more of the more than 140 members of the Women's Funding Network. These gifts will support women-led solutions to issues from poverty and human security to advancing access to health care and education.

"We are delighted, but not surprised, by the fact that—against the bleak backdrop of the global recession—women have stepped forward to raise the bar on giving to women and girls. They recognize that giving more, not less, is what is needed when we are in the midst of economic crisis," said Helen LaKelly Hunt, co-founder of the Women Moving Millions campaign. "Never before have women of wealth written large checks to fund women's causes," she continued. "This is an historic moment in the world of women's philanthropy."

“Now more than ever, at this time of crisis, investing in women and girls is critical,” said Nichole E. Dunn, President and CEO of The Women’s Fund of Central Ohio. “An estimated 80 percent of the grants made by women’s foundations flow to women and girls with low or no income. So supporting women is a stimulus for families, communities and ultimately whole nations. Our work is showing that women-led solutions are the savviest way for donors to propel lasting community and social change.”

The Women’s Funding Network is a global network of 140 women’s foundations that raise money and make grants to create lasting social change through the advancement and leadership of women and girls.

As The Women’s Fund of Central Ohio completes research on women and girls, The Fund also celebrates the power of finding your voice and the social impact of being heard. This year, The Women’s Fund of Central Ohio is hosting the annual Keyholder9/tributes event to honor female mentors in central Ohio. This year’s event highlights seven local female vocalists and musicians, whose big, nationally-recognized voices will remind attendees to find their own. “The women in our community are incredibly talented and inspirational – we want this evening to be a tribute to their accomplishments and all the women and girls they have encouraged through their mentorship,” says Nichole Dunn, President & CEO of The Women’s Fund. To honor the women in your life, purchase tickets for the event and make a tribute online before May 22nd at [womensfundcentralohio.org](http://womensfundcentralohio.org).

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### **About the Women’s Fund of Central Ohio**

The Women’s Fund of Central Ohio is a public foundation that promotes social change by growing women’s philanthropy and making grants to programs that expand opportunities for women and girls. Our vision is to transform lives by mobilizing the collective power and passion of women working together. The Fund serves Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway and Union counties, giving voice and visibility to the more than 800,000 women and girls in Central Ohio.

