

**DONOR PROFILE:  
WOMEN WILL**

# ERIKA HAUPT



## **HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED IN THE WOMEN'S FUND?**

I went to my first Keyholder years ago at the Riffe Center. I didn't know anything about The Women's Fund, but was so inspired by the stories of people touched by The Women's Fund and moved by the "we are one" theme that I had to learn more.

## **THERE ARE MANY GREAT CAUSES THAT NEED SUPPORT. WHY IS THE WOMEN'S FUND IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

It's awesome to be involved with an organization run primarily on "girl power" that supports and raises up women and girls. Rarely do we, as women, capitalize on our collective enthusiasm and drive to succeed, and The Women's Fund gives us a platform to use our unique gifts to effect change.

## **HOW HAS BEING INVOLVED IN THE WOMEN'S FUND CHANGED YOUR VIEW OF PHILANTHROPY?**

I've been involved with a number of very different charitable organizations over the years, each with a special meaning to me. There is a buzz associated with The Women's Fund that is infectious. Its leadership and mission encourage us to join forces as mothers, daughters, sisters, friends, and community activists to make a difference in the lives of others. Unlike other charitable organizations, you don't just donate to The Women's Fund—you contribute, you consider, and you act.

## **HOW HAS YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE WOMEN'S FUND AFFECTED YOUR OUTLOOK ON ISSUES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS?**

I am a single mom of a daughter. The issues The Women's Fund addresses are my issues. I worry about my daughter's future—her self-esteem, body image, opportunities to succeed, courage to overcome obstacles. These aren't the problems of someone else who lives in a different neighborhood under

different circumstances. I know my ability to provide for myself and my daughter is part hard work, part luck. Not every mom is as fortunate. The issues our children face are the same regardless of our lots in life. Bottom line: The mission of The Women's Fund is our mission.

## **YOU ARE A WOMEN WILL DONOR. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO HAVE A LONG-TERM VISION OF YOUR INVESTMENT IN WOMEN AND GIRLS?**

Much of my legal practice is devoted to estate planning, and I also believe that giving back is an obligation. I support causes today and have a plan in place to leave legacies for tomorrow. I became part of Women Will because I want the work that The Women's Fund is doing today to be sustained for my daughter's generation and beyond. I let The Women's Fund know that I included it in my estate plan, not for recognition but to help it spread the word: If The Women's Fund is important to you today, make sure that it's here for many years—and many women and girls—to come.

## **SPEAKING OF YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES, IS THERE SOMEONE IN YOUR LIFE WHO HAS INSPIRED YOU? WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?**

Many people have inspired me, and I hope many more will continue to inspire me. Years ago, a relative saw in me something I didn't see in myself. In her eyes, I saw confidence. She expected me to achieve, and she truly believed that I could. I knew it without ever talking to her about it.

## **HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE IMPACT OF THE WOMEN'S FUND TO SOMEONE ELSE?**

My words can't compare to experience. Go to a Keyholder. Watch, listen, and learn the mission of The Women's Fund. You will feel the power of women joining forces and becoming a single, change-effecting voice.