



Leading philanthropists plan Fund for Women and Girls luncheon *April 7 fundraiser supports programs throughout Fairfield County*

NORWALK, March 25, 2011—

More than 50 leading women philanthropists have been finalizing plans for the 12th annual luncheon for the Fairfield County Community Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls on Thursday, April 7 at the Hyatt Regency in Greenwich.

Each year, more than 700 supporters attend the luncheon, which benefits nonprofit organizations helping women and girls across Fairfield County.

“When you give a girl the confidence to pursue her dreams or provide a woman with the tools to improve her economic security, the ripple effect is tremendous,” said Mika Frechette of Greenwich and Janet Lebovitz of New Canaan, co-chairs of the Luncheon Committee. “The Fund for Women and Girls is the most efficient way of supporting local women and girls who have the confidence, motivation and desire to help themselves.”

Soledad O'Brien, author, anchor and special correspondent for *CNN: Special Investigations Unit* will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon. She will sign copies of her new book *The Next Big Story: My Journey Through the Land of Possibilities* following the luncheon program.

The luncheon runs from 12 to 2 p.m., with registration starting at 11:30 a.m. Individual tickets start at \$250, tables starting at \$2,500 and can be purchased online at www.fccfoundation.org, or by contacting Suzanne Peters, Director of the Fund for Women and Girls at sbpeters@fccfoundation.org or 203.750.3200.



Janet Lebovitz, co-chair of the 12th Annual Luncheon for the Fund for Women and Girls, and Suzanne B. Peters, Director of the Fund for Women and Girls, review final plans for the April 7 event at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich.

Since 1998, the Foundation's Fund for Women and Girls has awarded over \$1.9 million in grants to help nearly 3,000 women and girls throughout Fairfield County. Grants are awarded to support — and create — local nonprofit programs designed around the unique needs of girls and women.

Currently the Fund for Women and Girls is helping low and moderate-income students supporting families get essential college education through its Family Economic Security Program, a working families initiative at Norwalk Community College.

It also funds programs helping middle school and high school girls learn how to address issues such as bullying, dating violence and sexual assault. They also learn how to get the most from their education and become leaders in their schools and communities.

Volunteers serving on the Luncheon Committee are:

Bridgeport

Mary-Jane Foster

Darien

Ann S. Mandel, Melanie McGlade, Amy Stevens, Sally Stone, Audrey Weil and Kyle Wilcox.

Greenwich

Mike Frechetteo, co-chair, Courtney Arpano, Brooke Ashforth, Sharlene Cameron, Vicki Craver, Bonny Edwards, Jane Hentemann, Elizabeth Hutchins, Mary Lee Kiernan, Lesley King, Sally Lawrence, Sue Mandel, Lindsay Ormsby, Lynne Pasculano, Lindsay Reimers, Carol Shattuck, Lauren Stein, Lisa Stuart, Mary Waldron and Elisa Wilson.

New Canaan

Janet Lebovitz, co-chair, Louise Brooks, Marianne Buchanan, Susan Cotter, Beth Golden, Cordy Kelly, Carolyn O'Brien, Jeanie Shaw and Jane Williams.

Norwalk

Lizanne Megrue and Louise Whitton York.

Stamford

Amy Downer, Marianne Pollak and Valeria Wells.

Westport

Ann Sheffer

Wilton

Betsy Fink, Kaki Johnson, Laurie McTeague, Kathy Murphy, Dana Nickel, Katharine Welling and Linda Whitton.

The Fairfield County Community Foundation promotes the growth of community and regional philanthropy to improve the quality of life throughout Fairfield County. Individuals, families, corporations and organizations can establish their own charitable funds or contribute to existing funds focused on specific areas of need or communities in Fairfield County. The Foundation also provides philanthropic advisory services, and develops and leads initiatives to tackle critical community issues. It

is in compliance with the Council on Foundations' national standards for community foundations. The Foundation has awarded over \$123 million in grants to nonprofits in Fairfield County and beyond. For more information, visit www.fccfoundation.org.

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