

Appalachian Women's Fund Award Luncheon Set

Written by Steve Frank
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The Appalachian Women's Fund will hold their annual Grantee Award luncheon on April 17th at Casa Rustica in Boone. Representatives from the dozen agencies that received grant money for 2012 will share the ways in which the lives of impoverished women and girls have been improved through innovative programs and initiatives funded by the AWF. In addition, participants in the programs will tell their own personal stories of the support they received while in crisis and transition.

Parker Stevens, AWF Executive Director, recalls the first time she attended the Grantee Award presentation. "It was then that I decided to become an AWF member. Hearing directly from the women whose futures were forever changed, drew me in and made me want to do more," said Stevens. "It was proof positive that donors to the AWF could be and should be proud of how donations were being utilized," she added.

AWF President, Jean Brooks said she enjoys this event more than any other held by the non-profit. "This luncheon is not about raising money. It is about meeting the women behind all the hard work being done. But most importantly, it is a celebration of successful solutions and outcomes," said Brooks.

Agency directors and clients enjoy sharing good news and AWF members appreciate the transparency. "When I attend the Grantee Award event, the donation I make to the AWF becomes tangible to me because I get to see the money in action" said one member.

Now in its 5th year, the Appalachian Women's Fund remains the only independent women's fund operating in Watauga County and serving the surrounding mountain communities. Providing grants in areas of education, homelessness, health, hunger and abuse, the AWF has allocated more than \$280,000. Make plans to hear more about the fund on April 17th from 11:30-1:30 at Casa Rustica. Tickets are \$15 for lunch. Seating is limited so make your reservation and choose your entrée by going on-line to www.appalachianwomensfund.org or calling the AWF office at 828-264-4002 and mailing a check to P.O. Box 1838 Boone, NC 28607. Deadline for reservations is April 12th.