

## **Why Give To the LEAP Fund**

By Chris McLeod, Development Chair

I invite you to make a difference for the Women's Impact Fund by contributing to the LEAP Annual Fund. (Thank you to those who have already made a gift!) You may wonder why you should contribute over and above your membership dues. Here's how I think about it:

- As our visibility and reputation continues to rise in our community and across the country (thanks to WCGN), it's important – via the LEAP Fund -- to demonstrate that WIF members understand the resources required to run a nonprofit that now makes nearly \$400,000 a year in grants.
- Through our rigorous grant-making process, we evaluate the overhead and fiscal responsibility of our grant applicants. In order to walk our talk, we can communicate to our grantees, our staff and our community that we understand the importance of having a strong staff and technology platform to leverage the talents of our 400+ members. Without this support, many members would have difficulty serving as committee volunteers and Chairs.
- Our LEAP Annual Fund plays a critical role in keeping WIF membership affordable and accessible, covering the portion (almost 40%) of our operational costs not covered by our membership fees. We need members from across the Charlotte region, so we can learn from one another and work together to make Charlotte a community that is full of opportunities to learn and thrive.
- Giving to the LEAP Annual Fund has grown by in recent years. Last year, 116 members or 31% made a contribution. I know we can do even better.

We are a group of women who are committed to making a difference in our community. Many of us are community leaders and seasoned philanthropists, and others are newcomers to Charlotte and the nonprofit sector. The beauty of WIF is we truly value the experiences and perspectives of one another. Make a gift to the LEAP Annual Fund today and make a difference for WIF!

If you have any questions/concerns about the LEAP Annual Fund or the WIF Budget, please reach out to me at 704-608-8661 or at [Chris@givingmattersinc.com](mailto:Chris@givingmattersinc.com).