



A Letter from Board Chair Mary Gallivan

Dear WIF members:

I am thrilled to be serving as the chair of the Women's Impact Fund. When I joined WIF five short years ago, it was beyond my wildest dreams that I would be asked to lead this phenomenal organization. I'm honored to be included among the leaders of this amazing group of women dedicated to maximizing women's leadership in philanthropy and to strengthening our community.

Several people have asked me how I will measure success this year. As you know, over the past 18 months, we have introduced many new ideas to the Women's Impact Fund. These include an ambitious strategic plan, a detailed analysis of our financial sustainability, a change in our membership fee, the departure of two fantastic staff members and the addition of two equally amazing ones, a new incoming committee chair structure, and most recently, the combination of the Membership and Member Education committees to become Member Engagement. To me, this will be a year of implementing these exciting ideas. I believe we need to give the organization time to "settle in" to the new structure and to see how everything works once fully implemented.

What excites me? The geeky part of me loves to organize, and I look forward to helping to put these new pieces in place. I get excited about finding efficiencies, streamlining policies and procedures, and determining the highest and best use for staff, members, Committee Chairs and the Board. I guess you could say I am a project manager at heart.

In addition, I hope to make it easier for our members to get to know each other, whether at a Women's Impact Fund event or not. As someone who has spent her entire career working for nonprofits, my motivation in joining the Women's Impact Fund was less about being able to be philanthropic (in many ways, I get to do that every day in my work at Foundation For The Carolinas). It was more about connecting with a group of diverse, yet like-minded women who are also passionate about our community.

While 400 sounds like a large number of people to get to know, I hope to meet each and everyone one of you. I would love to find ways for the Women's Impact Fund to be a broader connection point for each of us within the community. Perhaps you can help me figure out the best way to do so. I would welcome your ideas.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or ideas to share during my year of service, please don't hesitate to reach out. Have a fantastic summer, and I hope to see each of you at the Women's Collective Giving Grantmakers Network Conference (WCGN) this fall.

Best wishes,
Mary