

## **WOMEN'S LEGACY FUND THE NEEDS OF WOMEN & GIRLS**

### **Did you know?**

- Less than 10% of all philanthropic dollars nationwide fund programs for women & girls, with this number declining in recent years. 1
- The Women's Legacy Fund was the first women's fund in Ventura County and continues to be the only endowed fund focused exclusively on women & girls in our community.

Below are some statistic relevant to this year's Issues Ballot focus areas:

### **Economic Opportunities for Women**

- 31.4% of Ventura County workers earn less than \$10 per hour, this is far below the income required to pay rent on the median cost apartment in Ventura County. 14
- Women continue to earn less than men. In 2005, women made 77 cents for every dollar that men earned. In addition, the median earnings of both men and women have been declining. 9
- Women are about 40% more likely to be poor than their male counterparts, with 1 in 8 women living in poverty nationwide. 11
- Women are typically primary caregivers for children and often for aging parents. Low-income women are particularly hurt by the lack of available and affordable childcare and many report their jobs have been lost or threatened by taking time of work to care for sick family members. 10

### **Education and Training for School-Aged Girls**

- High school drop out rates in Ventura County increased dramatically between 2003 and 2005. 6
- The rate of Ventura County high school students who graduate academically prepared to attend a CSU or UC four-year college has been declining in recent years. In 2004, less than 35% of graduates were prepared to go on to a four-year college. 6
- Women and girls still tend to be underrepresented in the sciences. In 2004 women accounted for only 22% of graduate students in engineering and 27 % in the computer sciences, both of which are high paying fields growing in demand. 8

### **Education and Training for Women**

- Many women site childcare, transportation issues, and lost wages from time off work, as the biggest barriers to returning to school.
- Jobs that require a college education are forecasted to grow in Ventura County. Women with low levels of educational attainment will need additional training and/or education to compete in the increasingly high-tech job market. 14
- In Ventura County, females with only a high school education earn on average \$15,000 less than those with a bachelor's degree and \$30,000 less than those with a graduate degree. 6

### **Health Care Services & Prevention Programs**

- Nearly 38% of women have a chronic condition that requires ongoing medical attention, compared to 30% of men. Incidence of chronic conditions increases with age. Nearly 58% of senior women have hypertension, 61% have arthritis, and 45% have high cholesterol. 12
- 37% of low-wage working women were uninsured, compared with only 6% of higher income women. Women who are Latinas, low-income, single, and young are particularly at risk for

being uninsured. One-third report having delayed or gone without health care due to lack of insurance and/or cost of care. 12, 10

- Ventura County is facing a severe nursing shortage that will impact the health of all residents. The average age of RNs in California is 47.7 years and we are graduating less than half of the number of nurses needed to replace those who plan to retire in the next five years. 13
- 23% of girls in Ventura County are overweight (compared to 25% of boys). 75% of people who are overweight as children are overweight as adults, at risk for diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma and heart disease. 7
- The rates of births among teen mothers aged 15 to 19 years old has dropped from 43 births per thousand in 2000 to 35 births per thousand in 2004. 6

### **Housing, Food and Shelter Services**

- More than 1,900 Ventura County residents are homeless on any given day (with estimates of over 6,000 homeless at some point each year). 5 Over half of those sheltered in Ventura County have been women and children for the past five years. Single mothers now head 85% of homeless families. 7
- Ventura County has the third least affordable housing in Southern California. In 2005 only 13% of the county's families could afford a median-priced home. 6
- In Ventura County, 53% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing. This percentage is higher in lower income areas, such as Oxnard, where more than 63% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing. 6

### **Physical, Sexual and Verbal Abuse**

- One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. An estimated 1.3 million women in the US are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. 3
- In 2005 there were 7,527 domestic violence calls to law enforcement in Ventura County. Ventura County has nearly double the amount of domestic violence calls than the state average. 2
- Approximately one in five female high schools students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. 4

### **Senior and Aging Issues**

- Women over the age of 65 are 71% more likely to be living in poverty compared to men. 11
- According to the US Census Bureau, projections for the year 2010 show life expectancy then will be approximately 81 years for women and 74 years for men, meaning that women will have to support themselves on a single income in their senior years.
- More than 1,000 seniors in Ventura County participate in meal programs managed by nonprofits and government agencies.
- Seniors are the number one target for many types of fraud, such as telemarketing fraud, fraudulent investment schemes, and health insurance fraud.

*Please note that data and statistics were compiled from a wide variety of local, statewide and national sources. If you would like to receive an electronic list of sources, please e-mail Tina Knight at [tknight@vccf.org](mailto:tknight@vccf.org).*

*Sources inside*



*Sources:*

- 1 Source: Foundation Giving Trends, Dec. 07 Preview & 2006 edition
- 2 [www.venturaprofile.org](http://www.venturaprofile.org)
- 3 Domestic Violence Facts: California- from the website of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (<http://www.ncadv.org/files/California.pdf>)
- 4 Family Violence Prevention Fund: The Facts on Domestic Violence (<http://endabuse.org/resources/facts/DomesticViolence.pdf>)
- 5 County of Ventura 2007 Homeless Count ([http://www.vchhc.org/media/reports/07\\_Ventura\\_HomelessCount\\_Report.pdf](http://www.vchhc.org/media/reports/07_Ventura_HomelessCount_Report.pdf))
- 6 Ventura County Civic Alliance 2007 State of the Region Report (<http://www.vccf.org/civicalliance/download/2007sotrr.pdf>)
- 7 Growing Up in Ventura County: Trends and Issues for Children & Their Families 2006 Report by the Community Commission for Ventura County
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- 9 Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2005. U.S. Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/prod/2006pubs/p60-231.pdf>)
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- 11 Reading Between the Lines: Women's Poverty in the United States, 2003. Legal Momentum (<http://www.legalmomentum.org/womeninpoverty.pdf>)
- 12 Women and Health Care: A National Profile. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2005. (<http://www.kff.org/womenshealth/upload/Women-and-Health-Care-A-National-Profile-Key-Findings-from-the-Kaiser-Women-s-Health-Survey.pdf>)
- 13 Consensus Report on Ventura county Priority Nursing Issues. Ventura Nursing Legacy Project, 2007. (<http://www.csuci.edu/orsp/VNLP.htm>)
- 14 State of the Workforce 2003, Next Step: Economic Self-Sufficiency. Workforce Investment Board of Ventura County ([www.wib.ventura.org](http://www.wib.ventura.org))