

# Lost Coin Women's Fund, Inc.

P.O. Box 82  
Milton, MA 02186

*WOMEN HELPING WOMEN TO BECOME SELF RELIANT AND SELF EMPOWERED*

## HONORARY CHAIRPERSON

Evelyn F. Murphy, Ph.D.  
*Former Lt. Governor of  
Massachusetts*

## BOARD MEMBERS

Kathleen Chase  
Kara Conceison Fernandes  
Anne Finn  
Ellen Gallagher  
Julie Graham  
Monique Hubbard  
Seana Kelley  
Mary E. McNamara  
Nancy Conceison Riley

## FOUNDING MEMBERS

Dorothy Conceison,  
*(1931 – 2008)*  
Barbara Mahar  
Marie Sheehan,  
*(1926 – 2012)*

*“Never doubt  
that a small  
group of people  
can change the  
world –  
it is the only  
thing that  
ever has.”*

*Margaret Mead*

Visit us online at  
[www.LostCoinWomensFund.org](http://www.LostCoinWomensFund.org)  
or email us at  
[LostCoinWFInc@gmail.com](mailto:LostCoinWFInc@gmail.com)

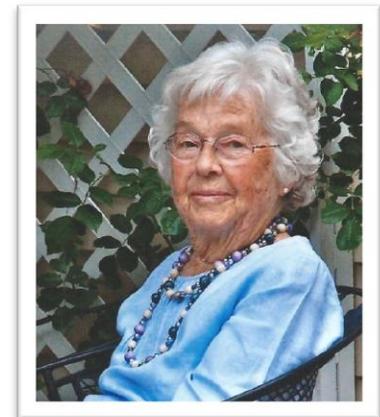
## Founders' Scholarship

In our Spring newsletter, we announced the start of our Annual Founders' Scholarship to be given each year in recognition of a distinguished supporter of the LCWF mission. In honoring a supporter each year, LCWF acknowledges the supporter's own accomplishments within his/her profession, community or family.

This year, we will be honoring a very special woman, Claire Chase, who has been a supporter of LCWF since its inception in 1992.

Although Claire was the mother of eleven children, she has always devoted much of her life to being a volunteer. One of her longest volunteer stints was as founder and chair of the Guild of Catholic Charities of the Old Colony Area.

As the fast-growing Guild required full-time attention, Marie Sheehan (one of



*Claire Chase*

the founders of LCWF) was employed to fill that role. Marie was Claire's mentor and good friend for many years. Marie later became program director of the agency. Marie's heart was always open to the problems of low income women and families, thus Lost Coin Women's Fund was born.

In addition to the guild, Claire was a member of the newly-formed Board of

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## Marie Sheehan: A Remarkable Story

Marie Sheehan, one of the founders of the Lost Coin Women's Fund, Inc., died on July 19, 2012 at the age of eighty-six. Left a widow by the sudden death of her husband, Marie raised her seven children on her own. Always attentive and responsive to her children's needs, Marie still forged an incredible life of service to others. In the process she also managed to earn a Master's Degree in Educational and Pastoral Ministry at Emmanuel College.

For eighteen years in the late 1970's and 1980's, Marie was the Director of Community Services at Catholic

Charities in Brockton. In this position she was responsible for overseeing services to the men, women and children of the South Shore in need of assistance. Concerned about the number of homeless families and individuals in the greater Brockton area, Marie brought together fifty community leaders and founded the MainSpring House and Shelter. After her retirement from Catholic Charities, the MainSpring Coalition honored the work Marie had done by establishing "The Marie Sheehan Heart of the Homeless Award" which is given annually to a worthy person or organization.

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To be a low-income woman responsible for her own well-being and income is a challenge in this economy. This is the woman Lost Coin reaches out to. We do this by assisting with books, training, or tuition. We offer a helping hand, not a hand out. It is a stepping stone to improve her possibilities.

Each woman applies for help and is recommended by an advisor or professional. Every dollar goes to a person in need. All work is done by volunteers.

Can we count on you to make this our most successful year?



Students who receive Lost Coin Women's Fund grants utilize the money for study in various programs, including the following:

- *Nursing*
- *Accounting*
- *Business*
- *Biology (research)*
- *Graphic Arts*
- *Emergency Medical Technician Certificate*
- *Funeral Service Preparation/Mortuary Science and Thanatology Science*
- *Psychology (Bereavement Counseling)*
- *Human Services*
- *Phlebotomy Certification*

## Founders' Scholarship, *continued...*

Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese and served as its chair for one term. That board was made up mostly of men including several clergy. It was a new experience for Claire. Today, Claire is comfortable in her current role as mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

The recipient of this year's Founders' Scholarship, Karol M., is a woman who stood out from other applicants because of her exceptional drive and persistence in achieving her education.

Karol, 19, is currently working toward an Associate Degree in Health Services in hope of one day using that degree to become a nurse, and possibly even a doctor. At age 11, Karol and her mother left the Dominican Republic and found safety in a transitional center in Massachusetts. Despite living in transitional housing, Karol struggled to learn a new language and excel in school; she recently graduated from a Boston high school and currently attends Roxbury Community College. According to Karol, "School is very important because I want to be somebody in the future. I want to be successful and I want to make a better life for myself and my mom. I want a life that is better than the one we had in the Dominican Republic and a life better than the one we have now."

Karol was awarded the Founders' Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 which helped with her Spring semester tuition bill. We wish Karol continued success!

## Past and Present:

A luncheon was held at the Inn at Bay Point in Quincy to honor and thank former Board members of LCWF. It was a great turnout of present and past members enjoying the lovely view and food. It gave the newer members a chance to meet and get to know some of the women who worked hard to build this worthwhile organization. The past Board members enjoyed talking to the

present members who continue the mission of Lost Coin Women's Fund.



## Marie Sheehan: A Remarkable Story, *continued from pg. 1*

Marie saw a need to directly provide women of limited financial means with the opportunity to improve their life through education and training. Dorothy Conceison and Barbara Mahar joined Marie in the work of establishing the Lost Coin Women's Fund, Inc.

Since 1992 hundreds of Mass. women have received grants totaling more than \$300,000.

For Marie, the Lost Coin Women's Fund, Inc. held a special place in her heart. Her desire was to see that this organization remained viable for years to come. With the financial support of many people, Marie's hope is being fulfilled.

Indeed, Marie Sheehan was a remarkable woman!

