



2008 ANNUAL REPORT



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as of July 2009

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Our Message to You

I began my association with the Center for Women as a volunteer about six years ago. I was asked to conduct a couple of brown bag lunch programs. I continued my involvement because I liked the fact that women did not require a label to receive services. No status (age, economic, marital, race, creed, or whatever else we use to label people) impacted the quality of the services we received. Everyone was always treated with dignity and respect. I am proud to say that although the quality and quantity of our programs has evolved and expanded, that value has never changed.

Our mission is to help women succeed every day, all women, and any woman. It is just that simple and yet just that complex. There is not any one program or service that fits the needs of all women, so the task at hand is to continue listening to what women need and more importantly, what women want. Then, we give it to them. That is why we are vital to women's lives, all women's lives.

This is not by accident. Our staff is enterprising and effective. Our board of directors is diversified and dynamic. After all, we are the only comprehensive non-profit women's development center in the Lowcountry.

Doretha Walker
President, Board of Directors

In the 8 years I have been involved with the Center I have seen the impact our programs and services have had on literally thousands of women. Many come to us looking for everything from a job to starting a business to getting through a divorce to making any number of life transitions.

Our many successes come from the energies and synergies of our stakeholders and our collaborations. We now conduct programs outside of the Charleston peninsula and its surrounding cities. Our divergent volunteer base allows us to quickly adapt to meet the urgent needs of our women. For example, we now offer career counseling conducted by human resource professionals. A recent survey indicated that our services appeal to women aged 23-75! This year our Women in Business conference sold out and by fall, we will have over 1,000 members. In addition to our many educational seminars and workshops, the Center for Women has *Lowcountry Women with Wings* that provides support to women with ovarian cancer and the *Walker Phenomenal Spirit Award* that each year funds a 40+ year old woman's dream.

Regardless of their issues, the women who avail themselves of our programs leave here with confidence, commitment and the power to make the informed decisions that will bring them success. Our membership is at an all time high because we are delivering what women want. We welcome your support!

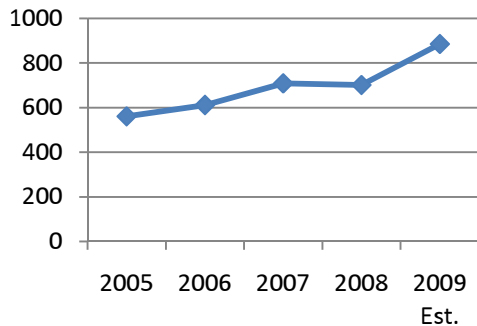
Jennet Robinson Alterman
Executive Director



(Left to Right) Doretha Walker,
President, Board of Directors &
Jennet Robinson Alterman,
Executive Director

CFW Awards & Accolades

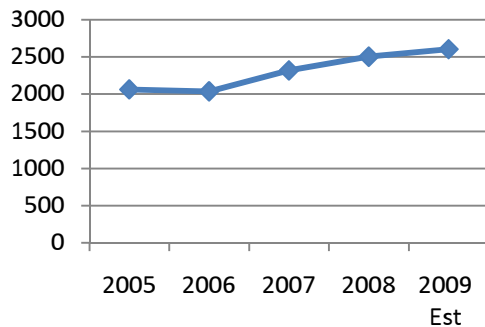
CFW Membership Growth



CFW ended 2008 with 700 members and will likely reach 1,000 members by year end.

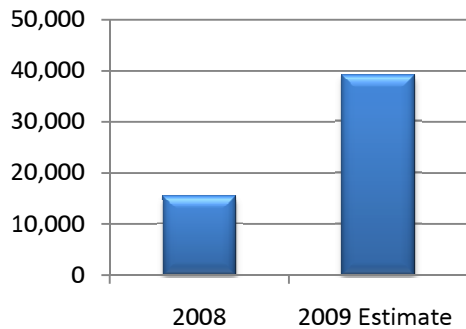
CFW has significant age diversity. Approximately, one-third of CFW members are aged 20 to 34, one-third are 35 to 49 and one-third are 50 & older.

Program Attendance Growth



2,600 women will attend a CFW program or event in 2009!

Unique Website Visitors



Traffic to our website has more than doubled in the first 6 months of 2009.

The Center for Women is honored to be the recipient of many wonderful awards and accolades!

2009

The Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce selected the Center for Women for their prestigious **"1773 Award"** in the Public/Non-profit category. The Chamber's **"1773 Award"** is given to organizations that exemplify their core values of leadership, relevance, integrity, diversity and innovation. The CFW is proud of the contributions we have made to the community and are pleased to be recognized by the Chamber for our leadership on women's issues.

The non-profit organization PAR (People Against Rape) awarded the CFW their **"Outstanding Victim Service Program."** We were recognized for our referral services and community co-operation in working with domestic violence and rape victims.

For the fourth straight year in a row, the Center for Women was selected as Family Circle Cup's **"Charity of Choice."** The objectives of both organizations are to encourage and promote women's excellence and success. Every April, CFW volunteers and staff have spent nine very busy days at the tennis tournament on Daniel Island selling programs and participating in other events to raise money for our programs and services.

Prior years

In 2006, the Center for Women received an unexpected and exciting \$25,000 grant from **Oprah's Angel Network**. Oprah's award not only confirmed the work we were doing, but the power and use of the internet! In 2005, we received the **Excellence in Non-profit Management** Award from the South Carolina Association of Non-profit Organizations.



"By attending one of the Center for Women events, I was able to establish a connection with a prominent business woman in the Charleston area. Just a few months later, she hired me full-time. I would like to thank the Center for Women for their outstanding programs and the limitless opportunities they offer. Without them, I might not have been able to receive the wonderful job experience I did."

Ashley, Summerville

The CFW offers programs and services that provide assistance and development opportunities to women.

Our speakers and panelists are women in the community who are experts in an area and share their insight and knowledge with other women. Our volunteer presenters and facilitators are wonderful women engaged in the community who are willing to help others achieve their goals. Scholarships are available for those who need financial assistance.



BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES

One-hour informative and engaging programs on emotional, physical and financial health topics are held twice a month on Thursdays at noon. Brown Bag programs are free of charge to allow women to experience the CFW at no cost.



ENTREPRENEURIAL WOMAN

Practical workshops and networking for women starting or running their own business are held once a month. Many programs focus on how to improve marketing products or services and using the internet to its full marketing advantage.

WOMEN WRITERS FORUM

Once a month Saturday workshop on the art and business of writing. Aspiring authors, poets and dramatists learn from established women who have succeeded in their field of writing or publishing.

In partnership with the Lowcountry Initiative for the Literary Arts and funded by a generous grant from the James O. and Harriet P. Rigney Endowment.

YOU CAN DO IT! SERIES

This series features unique opportunities to learn something new and useful. Workshops are held one Saturday a month on topics as diverse as "Dream Interpretation" to "Selling on eBay".

EAST COOPER SERIES

Our most popular programs are brought to the East Cooper area and held at the Family Circle Cup offices on Daniel Island.

"I have paid a lot for similar seminars and didn't get as much out of it as I got today."
Mary Pat, Charleston

EMPOWERMENT GROUPS

Empowerment groups are formed quarterly to help women reach a deeper understanding of difficult issues or cope with one of life's many transitions. Women, in particular, benefit from sharing similar experiences and learning from one another.

Empowerment groups are facilitated by licensed counselors and typically meet once a week for seven weeks. Frequent topics are: career and life transitions; living a positive life; loss of a parent; separation & divorce; depression & anxiety; self-esteem & body perceptions; and mid-life challenges.

COUNSELING

Individual counseling is available from a licensed therapist for any woman who needs assistance meeting life's day to day challenges. Fees are based on a sliding scale and no one is refused assistance.

"Thank you! I've been meaning to join the Center for a couple of years, and now I see what I've been missing. This morning's workshop was one of the best things I've ever done for myself."

Sue, Mt. Pleasant

JOB COACHING

The CFW began a Job Coaching program in early 2009 in response to the severe economic downturn. Individual job counseling appointments are available with experienced job coaches and Human Resource professionals to help women with resumes or direction in finding a job.

LEGAL CLINICS

Attorneys present basic legal information to help women understand their rights and the legal process. Popular Legal Clinic topics include: separation & divorce; child custody and support issues; bankruptcy, renters rights and employment issues.

SUMMERVILLE SERIES

Our most popular programs are brought to the Summerville area and held at the Summerville Dorchester Chamber of Commerce on Main Street in Summerville.

In addition to our regular programs, the **CFW** presented major educational and networking events in 2008.



**Women's History Month Event -
Local Women Art Exhibit**



**3rd Annual Women in Business Conference
in partnership with the Charleston Metro
Chamber of Commerce**



**Family Circle Cup Tennis Tournament's
"Charity of Choice" Activities**

**7th Annual "It's in the Bag"
Purse Silent Auction & Reception**



***The Wedding Machine* by Beth Webb Hart
Book Signing & Reception**



**Women of Influence Special Event
with Kathleen Kennedy Townsend,
Author & Activist**



**Women's Equality Day -
Showing of *Iron Jawed Angels***



Women in Philanthropy Panel Discussion



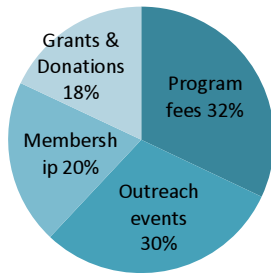
7th Annual Entrepreneurs Networking Event

**2nd Annual Lowcountry Women Authors
Holiday Book Sale & Signing**



**CFW Members-Only Holiday Party
& Walker Phenomenal Spirit Award Presentation**

2008 Revenue Sources

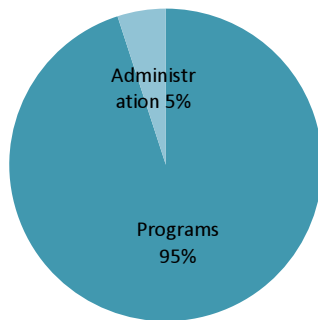


2008 Revenue = \$226,173

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2008

Assets	
Current Assets	\$306,033.58
Fixed Assets	<u>\$947,570.34 + 1,194.63</u>
Total Assets	\$1,254,798.55
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	\$6,338.04
Equity	<u>\$1,248,460.51</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,254,798.55

2008 Expenditures



Thanks to a major grant from the Spaulding Paolozzi Foundation in 2007 the Center moved operations to 129 Cannon St. downtown after completing the sale of our previous home on Savannah Highway. Our revenue streams are varied as is the support we receive from the business community.

2008 Financial and In-kind Supporters Major Series & Event Sponsors in Bold

A Spot In Time Photography
 AAA/All Occasions
 Abigail & Lindsay
 AllCare Living Services, Inc
 Alterman Studios
 Amanda's Fund, Coastal Comm Foundation
 Arcadia Publishing
 Ashley Hall
 Bakker Family Foundation
 Belk
 Blend
 BlueCross BlueShield of SC
 Bluestein and Douglas, LLC
 BP Fabric of America Fund
 Carina Wealth Management
 Center for Natural Breast Reconstruction
Charleston Cookie Company
 Charleston Elevator Company
 Charleston FitQuest
 Charleston Florist
 Charleston Junior Woman's Club
Charleston Magazine
Charleston Regional Business Journal
 Chicks With Checks
 Chocolate Cake

Cindy Cantore Photography
 Clawson and Staubes, LLC
 Colby's
 Dish & Design Catering and Events
 Dixon Hughes PLLC
 Dr. Ann, Just Wellness, LLC
 Elysium Salon
 Esther B. Ferguson Fund
 Event Dynamics
Family Circle Cup
 Firefly Vodka
First Federal
 Fork and Spoon Kitchen Studio
Fork Fine Gourmet Catering
 Gaylord Design, LLC
 Gwynn's
 Juggling Board Press
 John Carroll Doyle Art Gallery
 John Winthrop Charity Trust
Legacy Wealth Management Group
Little Black Book for every busy woman
Lowcountry Live - ABC News 4
 Lynn Murphy, Attorney at Law
 Mad River Bar and Grill

Mass Mutual
 MoM Spa
 Morris Financial Concepts, Inc
 New Home Charleston
Palmetto Behavioral Health System
Post & Courier
Prudential Financial
 Ramsdale Law Firm
 Red Triangle
Relax The Back
 Rosebank Farms Café
 Saks Fifth Avenue
 SC Bar Pro Bono Program
Skirt! Magazine
 Sony Ericsson
 South Carolina Bank & Trust
 South Carolina Women's Business Center
SunTrust
 Sweetsmith Bakery
The Alternative Board
The Post and Courier
 Tiger Lily
 Upper King Street Design District
Wachovia Foundation
 Weight Watchers SC