

GIVING BY AND FOR WOMEN:

Understanding high-net-worth donors' support for women and girls

Meet The High-Net Worth Female Philanthropist

For our latest study at the Women's Philanthropy Institute, we spoke with 23 high-net-worth women who give \$1 million or more to causes that benefit women and girls. Here's what we learned.

SHE LEARNED PHILANTHROPY YOUNG.

The majority of our participants did not grow up wealthy, but most had early experiences with philanthropy - and were "taught to give what they could," often by parents and religious institutions.

SHE BELIEVES WEALTH COMES WITH RESPONSIBILITY.

The participants who came into wealth later in life described a common sense of responsibility to share their financial resources with others. One said: **"My first step in coming to terms with my inheritance and working with it was through philanthropy."**

SHE EDUCATES HERSELF.

Participants believe it's critical to thoroughly educate themselves before making funding decisions. Education comes in the form of conversations with other women donors, research, joining women's funding groups and more.

SHE TAKES RISKS.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, the women we spoke with expressed a willingness to take risks with their philanthropy, funding experimental initiatives rather than just known solutions. Many of these women have also started their own business or enterprise.

SHE'S ALL ABOUT ROI.

Participants give to women and girls because they know it's a smart investment. One described funding for women as a "nexus" for many other issues, including poverty, climate change and wealth inequality.

SHE INVESTS IN SYSTEMS LEVEL CHANGE.

When giving to women and girls, many of the participants expressed a preference for investing in organizations focused on systemic change rather than direct service. One participant said: **"I was really interested in funding organizations that went upstream and try to address the root of the problem."**

SHE'S EMPATHETIC.

When it comes to supporting women and girls, participants were motivated in part by their own gender-based experiences with discrimination, inequality, reproductive health and education. One said: **"I have stayed in this field because I understand it."**



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