



## **Presentation of Shaw-Hardy Taylor Achievement Award to Tracy Gary**

March 15, 2017

We take this moment at the symposium to recognize and celebrate a true cultivator and gardener of women's philanthropy – an advocate whose career spans more than four decades and she's not finished yet. It is my honor to award Tracy Gary the 2017 Shaw-Hardy Taylor Achievement Award for moving women's philanthropy forward. Tracy has been called the "Janie Appleseed" of women's philanthropy. She wakes up each morning as an activist and in the spirit of our symposium theme, she DREAMS, she DARES, and she DOES.



Martha Taylor, Tracy Gary, Sondra Shaw-Hardy, Debra Mesch

Throughout Tracy's career, she has demonstrated a profound commitment to donor education. She is passionate about serving the needs of women and girls. She uses a holistic approach to leverage all of her resources to achieve her vision. And, she is focused on lifetime and legacy giving. There is virtually no area of the field of women's philanthropy as we know it today that Tracy has not helped to create.

Tracy's parents were great role models. Their passion for philanthropy influenced Tracy's path as did their insistence that she volunteer and give away 10 percent of what she earned. Tracy learned at age 14 that she would inherit a million dollars at age 21. Upon receiving her inheritance, she quickly contributed the majority of it to charitable causes and has continued to contribute at least half her earnings annually.

Tracy has been a trailblazer in so many areas and has used what she has learned to teach others. Tracy turns dreams into action and she dares others to step fully into their philanthropy. She was one of the early leaders to recognize the importance of donor education and founded Resourceful Women, her first of 23 nonprofits, to teach women about money and philanthropy. Tracy's experience at the ground level of founding a number of donor networks including the Women's Funding Network, Women Donors Network, and Women Moving Millions has demonstrated to her that "donor education networks accelerate leadership, knowledge, and generosity." Research has affirmed the impact of networks in these areas.

Not satisfied working with small and large groups of women, Tracy published the first edition of *Inspired Philanthropy* in 1998 as a way to expand the audience for donor education and to provide a resource for all women. Now in its third edition, *Inspired Philanthropy* continues to be a principal resource to help people think intentionally and strategically about their charitable giving. The book's exercises, emphasis on creating a giving plan, and vision of philanthropy as a lifetime of giving are powerful tools for all donors.

Tracy's passion for causes that support women and girls grew of her mid-1970s experiences seeing the discrimination first-hand against women in the workplace. Early in her nonprofit board experience, she learned how hard it was to raise funds for women's and girls' causes. She transformed those formative moments into action as one of the co-founders of the Women's Foundation of California and hasn't look back. Tracy is committed to seeing women's leadership flourish. She says, "When you grow a movement, you grow all of women's leadership."

No matter where you look in women's philanthropy, Tracy's footprints are evident. Tracy – we are grateful for your vision, for your leadership, for your commitment to women's philanthropy, for your gentle nudges to help us think about our giving as a lifetime journey, and for challenging all of us to seize the moment and step fully into our philanthropy.

We are delighted to present you with the 2017 Shaw-Hardy Taylor Achievement Award.