

Women's Policy Research

COUNTING WOMEN IN: IWPR's Working Group On Social Indicators of Women's Status

By Danielle Hayot and Amy Caiazza, Ph.D.

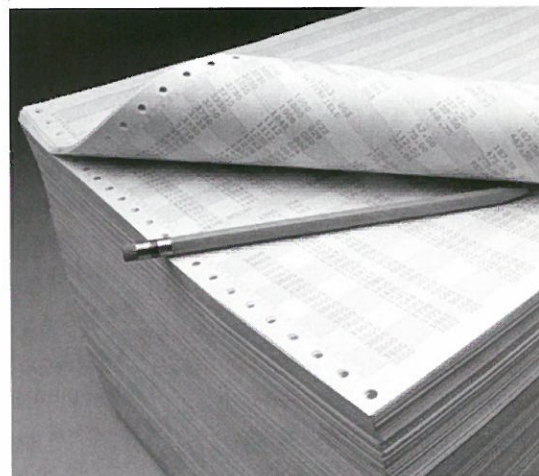
Social indicators are needed to measure problems women face like the wage gap, the proportion of women in political office, and the number of women earning degrees. Such research is essential to paint a realistic picture of women's lives. Yet, a lack of accurate and accessible data thwarts the ability of advocates and policymakers to

implement policy to improve women's status. Without the facts to identify women's needs, policymakers will inevitably miss the mark.

To fulfill this need, people are demanding better monitoring of women's progress here and abroad. Governments have responded by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data on the many issues affecting women. This information is a powerful and fundamental tool in raising the level of women's voices in the dialogue.

Unfortunately, U.S. monitoring efforts lag far behind those of its industrialized neighbors. Although many U.S. statistical offices collect and analyze data on women's lives, there is little emphasis on the unique problems and experiences women face. Often, data are insufficient to study differences among women by state or region, race or ethnicity, marital or family status, or other characteristics. Where data exist, it can be difficult for non-statisticians to access it. Moreover, because data on various aspects of women's lives are collected and analyzed in different areas of the government, compiling an overall picture of women's status can be daunting.

This is strikingly apparent in gathering data for IWPR's Status of Women in the States project, which evaluates women's status on a state-by-state basis. IWPR chose the indicators in this project based on many factors, but one of the most important was the availability of data. Little is known at the state level (and often the national level) about a variety of issues, including care giving and childcare; unpaid work; vio-



lence against women; pension coverage; issues concerning nontraditional families of all types; and issues concerning women with disabilities.

In 1998, IWPR established a Working Group on Social Indicators of Women's Status. Led by IWPR Study Director Amy Caiazza, the Working Group is comprised of top-level researchers and data experts, as well as government officials who serve as liaisons. The short- and long-term policy recommendations and research agendas developed by these experts, hopefully, will prove invaluable to scholars and policymakers nationwide as they deal with women's issues.

Recently, the Working Group on Social Indicators of Women's Status met in Washington, D.C., to discuss its report, *Measuring Women As If Women Mattered*. The report lays out a series of recommendations for improving state and federal data collection efforts on social indicators of women's *See Social Indicators on p. 6*

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Sixth Women's Policy Research Conference
A HUGE SUCCESS

See pages 4-5!

I W P R

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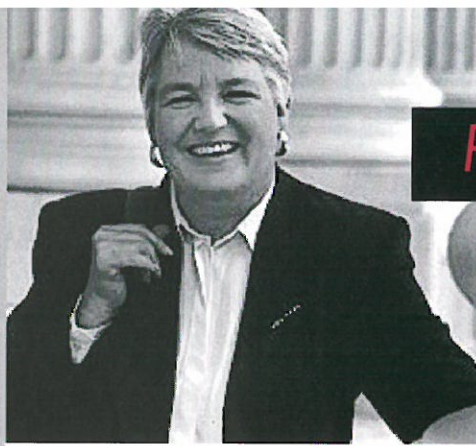
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President's Message

work together to bring about changes in policy that improve women's lives. The excitement, the "buzz," that the conference generates is a powerful testament to the thirst—indeed, the hunger—for the coming together to make a difference that so many people share, but for which they have few outlets. The simple act of bringing people together can be an important catalyst for change.

Of course, pulling the conference together every few years is not "simple." A great deal of thought and planning goes into considering the goals of the conference, selecting a theme (usually something that is both timely and inclusive), locating a conference site, soliciting proposal submissions, reviewing and selecting the proposals to be presented, arranging them in panels, supplementing the program with other important topics, recruiting moderators and discussants (usually from the policy and advocacy communities), inviting inspiring plenary speakers, ensuring an audience, and raising the funds to support it all.

The contributions of our co-sponsoring and partnering organizations are key, as are the contributions of IWPR's staff, consultants, and many volunteers from the members of its Board of Directors and Conference Advisory Committee to the volunteers who help with arrangements during the conference.

So, thank you one and all, those who presented research, those who inspired us with words, those who listened, discussed, and commented and pulled us toward policy action, those who supported the effort financially, and those who helped pull it all together. And, if you missed this unique opportunity, now is the time to put the Seventh Women's Policy Research Conference on your calendar: June 2003 in Washington, DC.

Looking out at the hundreds of people gathered in the ballroom at the Capital Hilton on the morning of June 8, 2001, was a heady experience for someone who started an Institute nearly 15 years before not knowing whether it would last more than six months. My hunch that the time was right to build an entity that could develop and use the work of feminist social scientists applied to public policy issues of special concern to women has proven correct. The excitement in the air last month was palpable, just as it was at our very first conference May 19, 1989.

From the beginning, an important goal of IWPR has been to build a community of those who use and those who do women-oriented, policy-relevant research. Nowhere is that community more visible than when it gathers every couple of years for the IWPR-organized Women's Policy Research Conference. This year the conference attracted more than 600 participants from 9 countries and 38 states in the U.S., from all manner of research organizations, levels of government, nonprofit organizations, and labor and business groups. Among the attendees were nearly a hundred students, who ensure the longevity of our community.

The need for knowledge that can be applied to improving women's status remains great—women's drive for equality will stop only when it has been achieved. Carole Parr, the then director of the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), hearing about the concept of IWPR as it was being birthed, referred to the endeavor as "building the intellectual capital of the women's movement." IWPR exists to link its three major constituencies—researchers, policymakers, and activists—to share information and

Reporting Back: Impacts of the Status of Women in the States Reports

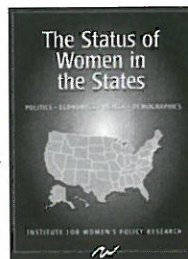
The women in Hawaii and Arizona aren't wasting any time. Results published in IWPR's *Status of Women in the States* have created a flurry of mobilization.

In Hawaii, which came in 49th (out of 50) in women's voter registration as reported by IWPR, the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women started a campaign to increase voter participation and registration. According to Jeanne Ohta of the Hawaii State Commission on the

Status of Women and a state advisory committee member, "*The Status of Women in Hawaii* was a wake-up call and we are determined to take action. A coalition of women's groups will start working on a state-wide campaign to get out the women's vote in the next election."

Not to be outdone, the Southern Arizona Women's Fund is working with Arizona State Attorney General Janet Napolitano to create a statewide lobby. The Women's

Action Alliance will address the needs of women in Arizona. Carol Sack, Executive Director of the Southern Arizona Women's Fund and co-chair of the Arizona advisory committee, says, "*The Status of Women in Arizona* was definitely the catalyst for this project."



THE FIRST 100 DAYS

January

- White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach closed (Amy Goldstein and Mike Allen. "Women's Outreach Office Closed," *Washington Post*, 03/29/01)
- Ban on federal funds for overseas groups using own funds to perform or discuss abortions ("Memorandum for the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development," White House Press Office, 01/22/01)
- Meat safety regulations put on hold (Dan Morgan. "Meat Safety Rules, Other Clinton Orders to Be Reviewed," *Washington Post*, 01/24/01)

February

- John Ashcroft confirmed as Attorney General (Alison Mitchell. "Ashcroft Confirmed, 58-42," *New York Times*, 02/04/01)
- Closure of the One America Office and reduction of the AIDS Office (Mike Allen. "Bush Acts to Quell Flap on AIDS, Race," *Washington Post*, 02/08/01)
- Tax-cut plan sent to Congress (David Sanger. "Tax-cut Plan Goes to Congress, But...", *New York Times*, 02/11/01)
- Census Bureau stopped from adjusting the 2000 head count to include the undercounted (Robert Rosenblatt. "Census Bureau is Losing Authority to Adjust the 2000 Count," *Los Angeles Times*, 02/17/01)
- Executive Orders signed banning project labor agreements and eliminating National Partnership Councils ("Revocation of Executive Order and Presidential Memorandum Concerning Labor-Management Partnerships," White House Press Office, 02/17/01)

March

- Refusal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. power plants (Douglas Jehl. "Bush, in Reversal, Won't Seek Cut in Emissions of Carbon Dioxide," *New York Times*, 03/14/01)
- Repeal of ergonomics bill (Mike Allen. "Bush Signs Repeal of Ergonomic Rules," *Washington Post*, 03/21/01)
- Arsenic water safety standard overturned (Douglas Jehl. "EPA to Abandon New Arsenic Limits for Water Supply," *New York Times*, 03/21/01)
- Rejection of Kyoto Treaty (Eric Pianin. "U.S. Aims to Pull Out of Warming Treaty; No Interest in Implementing Kyoto Pact, Whitman Says," *Washington Post*, 03/28/01)
- Access to FDA-approved abortion drug RU-486 restricted for women on Medicaid (Amy Goldstein. "Medicaid Coverage of RU-486 Limited," *Washington Post*, 03/31/01)

April

- Proposed end to salmonella testing on school lunch meat (Marian Burros. "U.S. Proposes End to Testing for Salmonella in School Beef," *New York Times*, 04/05/01)
- Proposed dropping birth control from federal employees' health insurance (Elen Nakashima. "Cut in Birth Control Benefit of Federal Workers Sought," *Washington Post*, 04/12/01)

Getting the Word Out



L to R – Donna Lenhoff, National Partnership for Women and Families; Vicky Lovell, IWPR; State Rep. Michael Dobson; Melvina Ford, Women's Law Center of Maryland; and Jennifer Terrasa, testifier, following the March 7 House Economic Matters Committee of the Maryland General Assembly's hearing. Dr. Lovell's testimony was titled, "Providing Income Security to Working Families through Paid Parental Leave: Improving Maryland's Unemployment Insurance System."



Dr. Catherine Hill, IWPR Study Director, addresses the Clearinghouse on Women's Issues at their April meeting. Dr. Hill told the audience why privatizing Social Security is a bad idea and why it would be particularly bad for women: (1) women earn less; (2) women live longer; (3) women have less money in pensions and/or savings; (4) more older women are unmarried; and (5) spousal/widow benefits would be greatly reduced.



Co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program at the George Washington University, IWPR's Friday Forum drew a packed house at the AFL-CIO headquarters April 27. A panel of speakers covered, "Rolling Back Reproductive Rights: A Look at the New Administration," a forum addressing potential consequences for reproductive rights policies in the Bush administration.

Conference Wrap-Up!

IWPR's Sixth Women's Policy Research Conference, The Status of Women: Facing the Facts, Forging the Future, June 8-9, 2001

Two lovely days in June provided the backdrop to IWPR's Sixth Women's Policy Research Conference, which proved to be our biggest and most successful conference to date. More than 600 attendees poured through the doors of the Capital Hilton in Washington, DC, for plenary, paper, and poster presentations.

Many sessions were filled to the rafters as attendees scurried for seats. Question and answer sessions led to spirited discussion, new perspectives, and a unique chance to network and strategize among a diverse group of advocates, researchers, academics, and policymakers passionate about issues affecting women and their families.

The Conference started strong on Friday morning with a packed Keynote and Opening Plenary—IWPR's President and CEO, Heidi Hartmann, welcomed attendees, and Shinae Chun, Director of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, delivered the keynote speech. The Opening Plenary included Linda Chavez-Thomson, IWPR Board Member, and concluded with Martha Burk, Chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations. The energy carried through the day as panels covered issues of violence and abuse; election strategies for women; childcare and women's experiences under the new welfare system; and much more. Amidst the serious dialogue, a communal tone was set with attendees sharing stories and laughs, and VIPs donning the popular IWPR Conference T-shirts. An evening reception at the AFL-CIO building provided a relaxing close to the day as attendees networked.

Early Saturday saw full attendance at three more plenaries followed by sessions covering issues ranging from economic and political gender gaps to the status of women in the states and beyond. The main ballroom was jammed for the Luncheon and Plenary, which drew C-Span coverage for Barbara Roberts, former Governor of Oregon; M. Jayne Brady, current Republican Attorney General from Delaware; and their fellow panelists (see photo at the top of pg.5). The Conference ended with a powerful Closing Plenary, featuring a keynote by Hawaii Representative Patsy Mink, a distinguished panel that included John Burbank of the Economic Opportunities Institute, Pat Friend of the Association of Flight Attendants, Irma Herrera of Equal Rights Advocates, Diana Spatz of Low-Income Families' Empowerment through Education, and Jody Heymann of the Harvard University Center for Society and Health, wonderfully moderated by Heather Booth of the NAACP National Voter Fund.

Thanks to all those who participated. From the fan mail we've received so far, everyone agrees, "it's the best conference I've ever attended!" Look out in 2003!

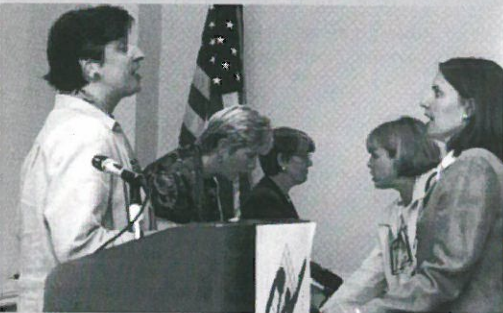


Janice E. Ereth of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency speaks about investing in "at-risk" girls during the panel, "Girls and Delinquency: How Policy Gaps Impact Young Female Victims of Violence."

Lisa Speicher of the Center for Urban Research Learning points out the keys to successful welfare to work transitioning during the panel titled, "Access to Effective Education and Training for Welfare Recipients."



Passionate discussion between panelists and attendees often extended beyond the end of the session.



Special Thanks to...

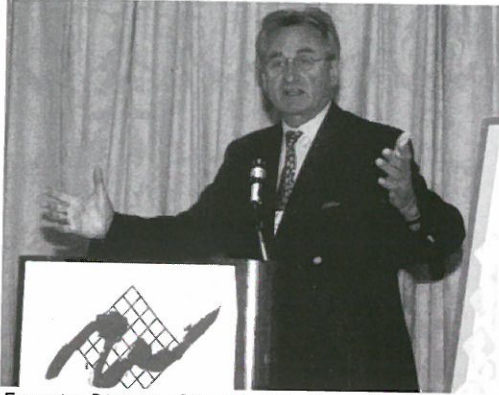
Conference Co-sponsors—the GWU Women's Studies Program and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Washington Office; IWPR's Partners, Benefactors, Supporters, and Friends; Olivia Parry, Conference Manager; Diahann Hill, Designer; Carolyn Jacobson, Consultant; Natalie P. Shear and Associates; Harris Lithographics, Inc., printer; Conference Exhibitors; IWPR Staff; and everyone who participated!

Catch the Webcast!

If you missed the event or this session, you can still "attend," "Older, Wiser, but Poorer: Social Security Income for Women," which is being webcast on kaisernetwork.org, a free service of the Kaiser Family Foundation. Please visit: www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/iwpr/jun01



L to R — Carolyn Jacobson, consultant; Martha Blaxall, IWPR Board Chair; Barbara Roberts, former Governor of Oregon; Dorothee Stapelfeldt, Deputy Chair of the Social Democratic Party of Hamburg; Barbara Lee, President of the Barbara Lee Family Foundation; Heidi Hartmann, IWPR President & CEO; Sharon Pratt, President & CEO of @theCentre, Inc.; M. Jayne Brady, Delaware Attorney General; and Olivia Parry, IWPR Conference Manager.



Executive Director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Dr. Dieter Dettke, puts the conference into perspective during his closing remarks.



Barbara Lee fields a question from the audience during the inspiring Saturday Luncheon and Plenary.



Pegi Brooks of IWPR models the top-selling Conference T-shirt. Mugs and posters were also popular.



2000 and 2002 State Advisory Committee Chairs gather for a luncheon to discuss activities for the 2002 Status of Women in the States reports.

Conference Stats	
Registrants	635
Exhibitors	18
Press	20+
Presentations	100+



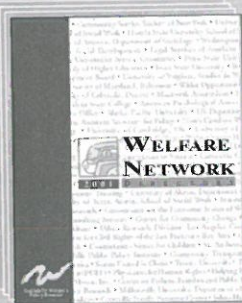
Conference attendees networking at Friday's Evening Reception crowded the AFL-CIO headquarters.



The poster session was extremely popular, drawing a huge crowd.

NEW RELEASES

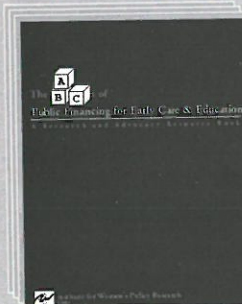
Directory, **Welfare Network Directory 2001**, produced by IWPR's Bethany Snyder,



April Shaw, Annisah Um'rani, and Lisa Osburn. The directory serves as a tool for networking among advocates, researchers, and others concerned

with welfare reform issues. Divided conveniently into an alphabetical list, a state index, and an interest index section, the directory is available for \$7.00. Order form on back cover or visit www.iwpr.org.

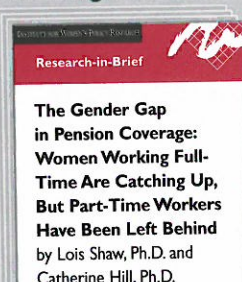
Research & Advocacy Resource Book, **The ABCs of Public Financing for Early Care & Education**, produced by IWPR's



Jennifer Johnson, Hedieh Rahmanou, April Shaw, Melissa Neuman, and Stacie Golin. This Resource Book is designed to provide researchers and advocates with

tools to investigate issues related to early education and care financing in the United States. Order your copy for \$12.00. Order form on back cover or visit www.iwpr.org.

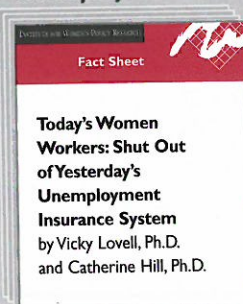
Research-in-Brief (RIB), **The Gender Gap in Pension Coverage: Women Working Full-Time Are Catching Up,**



But Part-Time Workers Have Been Left Behind, by IWPR's Lois Shaw, Ph.D., and Catherine Hill, Ph.D. This RIB summarizes key findings of the full IWPR report, detailing pension participation statistics, the gender gap that exists, and the pension problems part-time workers face. Visit www.iwpr.org/pdf.html.

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Fact Sheet, **Today's Women Workers: Shut Out of Yesterday's Unemployment Insurance System**,



Today's Women Workers: Shut Out of Yesterday's Unemployment Insurance System by Vicky Lovell, Ph.D. and Catherine Hill, Ph.D.

by IWPR's Vicky Lovell, Ph.D., and Catherine Hill, Ph.D. This Fact Sheet looks at the unequal distribution of unemployment insurance and the particular flaws in the system that prevent women from receiving the benefits they have earned. Visit www.iwpr.org/pdf.html.

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Social Indicators

(cont'd from p. 1) status; for creating government institutions devoted to women's issues and status; and for developing research on women's status.

One of the Working Group's most basic recommendations encourages all national and state statistical agencies to report relevant data by sex, race, and ethnicity, so that as much data as possible are available to advocates and policymakers.

The Working Group also considered ways to institutionalize women's interests within the national government. Possibilities include an interagency office on gender statistics or a cabinet-level women's issues secretary. This kind of institution potentially could be a "one-stop shop" for data on women's status; encourage research through grants and contracts; apply gender analysis to proposed policy changes; and/or highlight issues women face. Most other industrialized countries, and many developing countries, already have offices or bureaus along these lines, and the United States could clearly benefit from one.

The Working Group on Social Indicators of Women's Status will finalize its recommendations and release its report in Fall 2001. Currently, IWPR staff are working with Representative Carolyn Maloney and other members of the U.S. Congress to explore legislation that might move the United States toward better data collection and analysis of women's status. Moreover, several of IWPR's state advisory committees from The Status of Women in the States are working on improving data collection and analysis in their states. The State Advisory Committee in New Hampshire, led by the New Hampshire Commission on the Status of Women, hopes to pass legislation that would require all possible data to be published by sex and age.

Data collection issues can seem dry, but they are at the heart of understanding the status of women and the issues they face. Without data, the women's movement cannot effectively work for change. The efforts of the Working Group on Social Indicators of Women's Status are an invaluable contribution to improving women's lives.



Free Online Research-News-Reporter Trial Period

IWPR's Research-News-Reporter (RNR) went online in July. It will be accessible free of charge during a three-month trial period. Visit the IWPR website at www.iwpr.org and see for yourself what an amazing research tool RNR is. After the trial period ends in October, only members whose dues include an RNR subscription will have access—don't miss out!

July

27-28 The Center for Policy Alternatives' Southwest Policy Leaders Forum: Progressive Policy Solutions for the New Southwest, La Posada Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. State legislators, policy experts and advocates from six Southwestern states examine the 2001 legislative session. For more information, contact Jesse Romero, Southwest Director at 210/240-1266 or jromero@cfpa.org.

29-August 1 Center for the Child Care Workforce's 2001 Summer Institute 2001: Leaders in Action for Worthy Wages, Pyle Conference Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI. Community leaders from childcare and other fields will share knowledge about community and workplace organizing, crafting policy initiatives from grassroots efforts, developing leaders to carry a social change movement forward, etc. Visit www.ccw.org for more information.

August

5-7 First Annual Global Women's Conference on Trade and Technology, Paris Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. Sponsored by the Nevada Women's Business Resource and Assistance Center, workshops in the field of International Trade and Technology, specifically dealing with the high growth rates of women-owned businesses involved with international trade will be held. For more information, visit www.nwbrac.com.

September

6-9 The 11th Institute for Women's Economic EmPOWERment, Bridging Race & Class Differences to Build Women's Power, Aberdeen Woods Conference Center, Peachtree City, GA. This training event offers a chance to build practical skills, share knowledge, build networks, and develop action plans that complement the work being done in these fields. For more information or to request an Institute brochure call 212/742-2300 ext.317.

14-15 Women in Print Conference. Hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America. Studies dealing with class, religion, journalism, feminism, immigration, racism and sexuality will be featured. Barbara Sicherman, Kenan Professor of American Institutes and Values at Trinity College, will deliver the keynote address. For more information e-mail jpearl@slis.wisc.edu or visit <http://slisweb.lis.wisc.edu>.

W O M E N ' S CONGRESSIONAL EQUALITY & ACTION SUMMIT DAY

24-25 Women's Equality Summit & Congressional Action Day, Washington, DC. Hosted by the National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO), the conference will highlight Social Security & economic issues. More than 60 national women's organizations are helping to organize this event that features hundreds of grassroots' activists and leaders of the women's movement. Attendees will meet with Members of Congress and strategize on building a positive agenda for women and their families. Registration is free except for a small materials fee. To register, learn more, and get regular updates, visit www.feminist.org/summit.

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You Make the Difference!

At the Institute for Women's Policy Research, contributions from individual donors make all the difference. Over the past 14 years, our members have helped us go the extra mile—we are able to respond to hot issues and get the answers to tough questions facing women and their families. Because of your commitment to our work, IWPR is recognized as the premiere women's research institution. The support of our members has given us a free hand to explore new areas of research and expand our outreach to advocates and policymakers.

By becoming a member of IWPR with a tax-deductible contribution, you are ensuring that the issues concerning women and their families will be given a voice through IWPR's top-notch research. In addition to your membership, there are a number of other ways you can make a difference for IWPR and for women and families across the country:

- Check into workplace giving campaigns and choose IWPR as your charity. Did you know that IWPR is registered with the United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)? Our CFC and United Way number is 1909.
- IWPR gift memberships are terrific for students of all ages, researchers, and anyone concerned about issues facing women and their families.
- Consider making a tax-deductible contribution to IWPR in honor or memory of someone special. A letter will be sent to the recipient informing them of your thoughtful gesture, and we'll also note your gift in our next newsletter!
- Visit www.iGive.com to shop online and a portion of your sales total benefits IWPR. Just use iGive.com to make all your online purchases at stores like J. Crew, Brooks Brothers, Dell Computers, Land's End, Barnes & Noble, Coldwater Creek, Nordstrom, and many more.

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