

## 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

### Legislative Session Yields Success

*Maine Women's Lobby Advances Equality in the 2006 Short Session*

At the end of the second regular session of the 122nd Legislature, the Maine Women's Lobby had won protections for victims of violence and bolstered economic security for women workers. None of these victories came without a struggle, and several of our proactive initiatives were deferred to future years.

In the most tumultuous debate of the session, we advanced a bill **protecting victims of violence** by allowing holders of protection from abuse orders to be notified when their abusers attempt to purchase a firearm. The bill was scuttled by NRA-lobby amendments but was ultimately reintroduced and passed under a different title.

The Maine Women's Lobby weighed in on bill requiring the Department of Labor to coordinate a **task force on workplace safety** and participated in crafting recommendations for reducing the impact of domestic and sexual violence in the workplace. Maine's lowest paid workers benefited from passage of a **minimum wage increase** to \$6.75 in Oct. 2006 and to \$7.00 in Oct. 2007.

Other initiatives failed to pass in 2006, including a bill instructing the Department of Labor to calculate annually the livable wage for various household sizes and legislation to increase the Maine earned income tax credit and make it refundable. At the close of the session, we turned our attention to defeating TABOR at the polls in November.



Maine Women's Lobby staff and volunteers join children's advocates in speaking out against TABOR

### Maine Women's Lobby Launches Education Effort Against TABOR

*Strong Field Effort Helps Defeat Question 1*

When the Legislature referred the initiated petition, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR), to referendum vote, the Maine Women's Lobby was quick to organize an education and mobilization campaign to defeat the bill at the ballot box.

TABOR would have imposed a highly restrictive formula on state, municipal, and school budgets, ultimately damaging the very services - such as education and health care - upon which women most rely. At the height of the effort, the Maine Women's Lobby office bustled with three field organizers. They traversed the State going to meetings and ball games, organized phone banks, and spoke with voters at every opportunity. We were proud to be one of many community organizations to lead the successful public education campaign.

#### Financial Report

January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006

<u>Income</u>	
Membership Contributions	20,292
Grants	111,000
Donations	2,831
Miscellaneous	155
Total Income	134,278
<u>Expenses</u>	
Program	101,491
Operating	15,084
Fundraising	5,667
Total Expenses	122,242
<b>Total Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>12,036</b>
Current Assets/Total Assets	14,593
Current Liabilities	6,134
Unrestricted Fund Balances	8,459
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	14,593

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### 2006 a Year to Educate, Motivate

*Maine Women's Policy Center Builds Leadership for the Future*

**Educating voters:** The Maine Women's Policy Center made the most of the 2006 election cycle by launching a robust civic engagement effort. We distributed a multi-issue voter education guide to 12,500 Maine women, recruited 80 activists to contact more than 2,000 voters, and brought hundreds of people together at our **Breakfast of Champions** series to hear from gubernatorial candidates about their vision of equality for Maine women and girls.

At the top of the ballot in 2006 was **Question 1**, the TABOR initiative. The so-called "Taxpayer Bill of Rights," would have imposed an arbitrary and restrictive formula on state, municipal, and school budgets. Partnering with the **Maine Women's Lobby**, we contacted thousands of voters and advanced a statewide field campaign to educate voters about the dangers posed by Question 1.

We strengthened Maine citizens' commitment to protecting reproductive privacy by collaborating to contact 25,000 pro-choice Mainers. Also, we worked with leading advocates for environmental health to engage women as champions for policies that require safer alternatives to toxic chemicals.

**Turning the tide of women's representation:** By including non-partisan recruitment in all of our outreach events and by training 60 participants as part of the **Women's Political Leadership Forum**, we helped women increase their representation at the State House. Our annual **Girls' Day at the State House** brought more than 100 girls - our future leaders - to the State House for a day of hands-on involvement with Maine government. Reflected Sarai, a participant from Isle au Haut, "I learned that I would want to become part of the Maine Legislature."

When women take an active role in public life, everyone benefits. The Maine Women's Policy Center is committed to ensuring women's voices are heard and to developing the policies that will improve their lives. We are grateful to all of our donors, staff, volunteers, and community partners for their generous support of our mission.

### Snapshot of Successes

**Building new pathways to achievement:** Postsecondary education is the ticket to a good job with benefits. A degree is particularly important for women who are in low-wage jobs and need to upgrade their skills in order to get a good job with benefits. In 2006, we began speaking with students and would-be students struggling to find a way to complete school while balancing work, family, and financial challenges. Students like Elizabeth, from Lewiston, told us about her efforts to win a degree,

*"Being partially disabled, trying to go to school and trying to work, it puts me on a very, very thin line. And, if I step off that line in either direction, it's just going to be a downward spiral."*

That's why in 2006 we launched our **Pathways to Higher Education** project to ensure that more women like Elizabeth have a clear road map for the future, and we developed policy recommendations, such as a new training fund for low-wage workers, to make postsecondary education more attainable for Maine women.

### Financial Report

January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006

<u>Income</u>	
Foundation Grants	322,375
Contributions	81,028
Workplace Giving	5,910
Total Income	409,313
<u>Expenses</u>	
Program	281,669
Operating	28,165
Fundraising	4,947
Total Expenses	314,781
<b>Total Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>94,532</b>
Current Assets/Total Assets	165,957
Current Liabilities	7,176
Unrestricted Fund Balance	41,214
Temporarily Restricted Fund Balance	70,666
Dyer Restricted Fund Balance	46,901
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	165,957