



# WOMEN'S FUND *of* OMAHA

## **2010 - 2011 Research**

### **Intimate Partner Violence in Omaha**

An assessment of survivors' needs and available services

### **Women's Fund Community Survey**

A survey of nonprofit agencies on the most critical issues affecting their clients.

### **Women in Leadership**

An update on the number of women in elected offices, on appointed boards and commissions, and on non-profit boards and for-profit boards.

# Women's Fund of Omaha

## 2010 – 2011 Research

Research has been the cornerstone of the Women's Fund work since its beginning in 1990. More than a dozen studies have been published on topics including socioeconomic conditions of Omaha-area women, domestic violence, leadership and women at work. These findings provide guidance for Women's Fund grants as well as action plans to improve the lives of Omaha-area women and girls.

*Special thanks to the Lozier Foundation for funding the Intimate Partner Violence in Omaha report and to the Kiewit Foundation for its support of the ongoing Community of Women for Change research project, including Women in Leadership updates.*





- In the next three to five years, poverty, employment and access to healthcare were identified as the top three issues facing women.
- Self-esteem, staying in school, and emotional and mental health ranked as the top three issues facing girls in the next year.
- Staying in school, poverty, and educational access are the top three issues facing girls in the next three to five years.

As follow-up to the survey, service providers were invited to a Talk of the Town event to discuss poverty, employment, and financial literacy. Nearly 50 nonprofit representatives shared their insights on these issues, and findings are being translated into an action plan by the Women’s Fund.

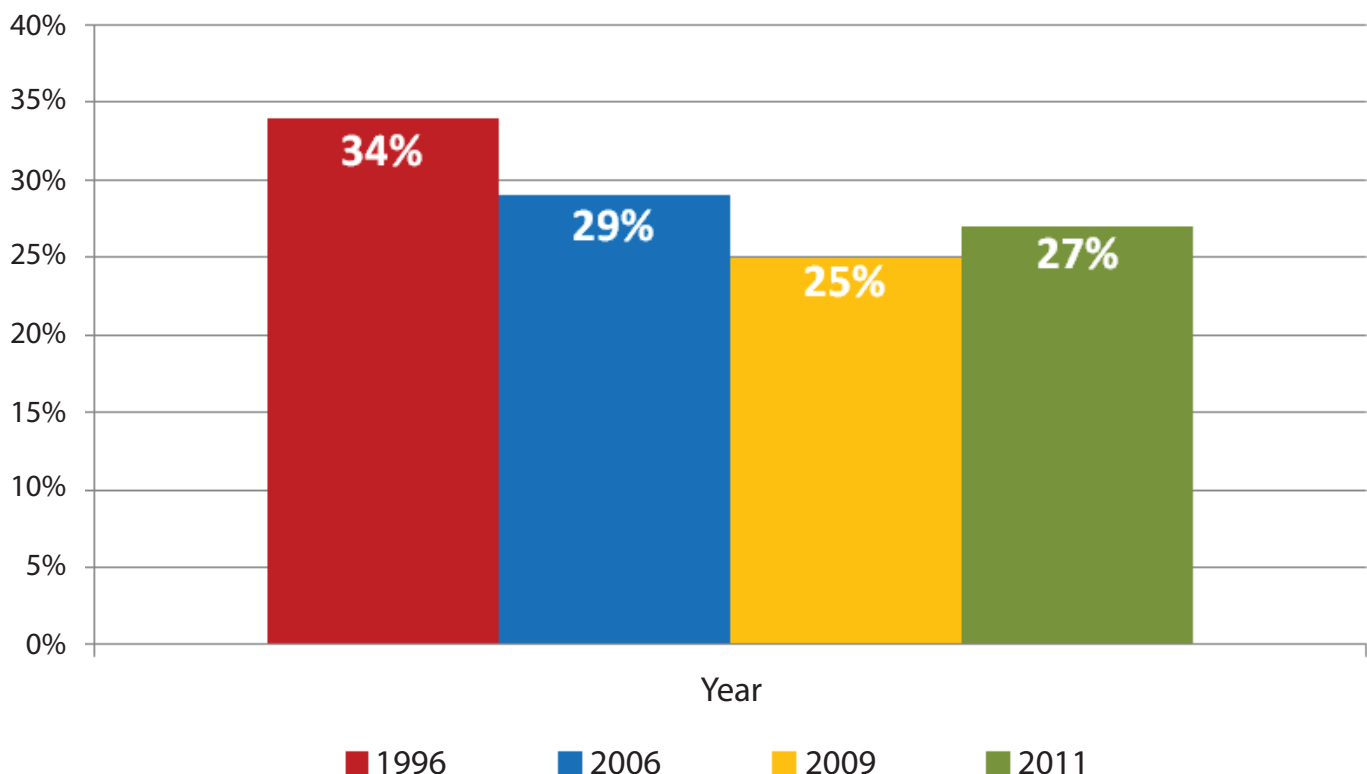
## Women in Leadership

The Women’s Fund has been researching the topic of women in leadership since 1996, and the last comprehensive “Women and Leadership in Omaha” report was published in 2006. Updates in 2009 and 2011 looked at the number of women in leadership positions. This year, the study was expanded to include women on corporate boards and in senior management positions at Omaha’s largest employers. Following is a summary of the 2011 update:

### Elected Offices

- The number of women in elected offices increased only slightly between 2009 and 2011, from 25 percent to about 27 percent.
- Area city councils, including Omaha, Ralston, Valley and Bennington, have women in 14 percent of the positions.
- Women have the greatest presence on boards of education. Across the metro area, they hold 39 percent of board of education seats. Women are especially well represented in Omaha, with 11 out of 12 seats held by women.
- Four out of 20 metro-area state legislators (20 percent) are women.

**Women in Elected Office- Douglas County (percentage compared to total positions)**



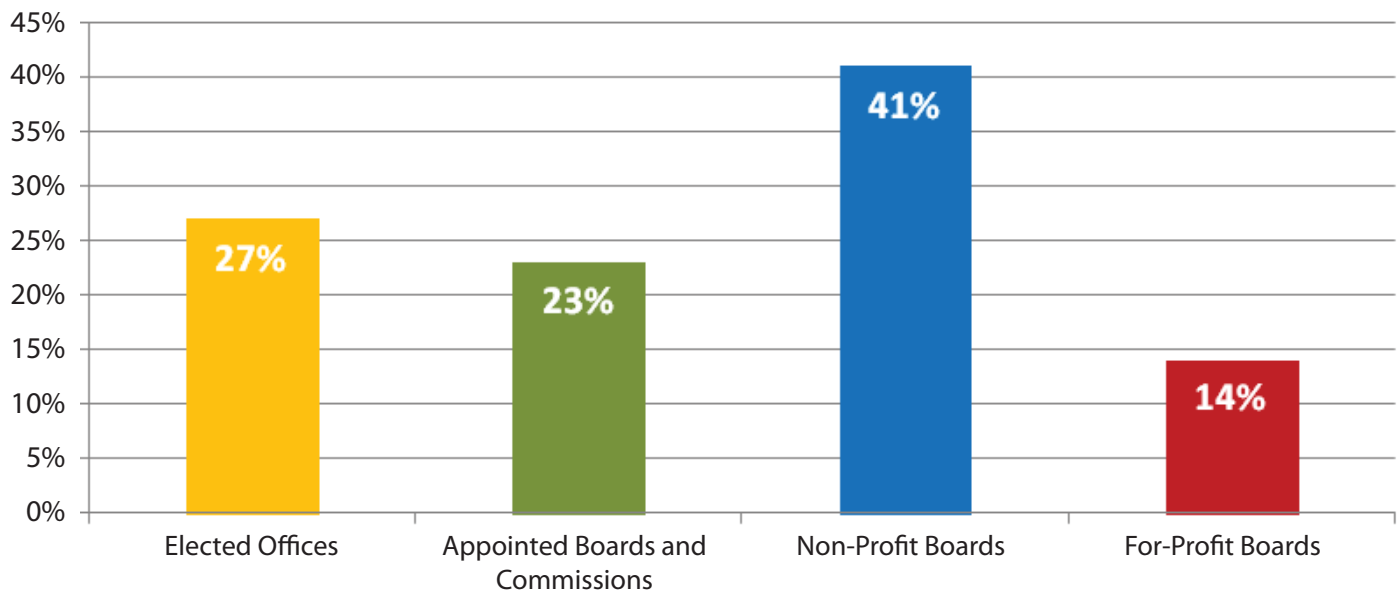
## Appointed Boards and Commissions

- Of the 269 positions surveyed on appointed boards and commissions, 62 (23 percent) are held by women. This number is a slight increase from 21 percent in 2009.
- Out of the 36 appointed boards surveyed, 10 (27 percent) have no women members. However, women are in or near majority on the Omaha Housing Authority board (60 percent women), Parks and Recreation (57 percent), Library Board (56 percent), and Personnel Board (50 percent).
- Women held 21 percent of appointed judicial positions in Douglas County, up slightly from 19 percent in 2009.

## Non-Profit Boards

- In general, women are better represented on non-profit boards. Out of 39 total boards surveyed, 352 of the 866 positions (41 percent) are held by women. This is an increase over 2009's total of 39 percent.
- Women have greatest representation in health organizations (48 percent of board members are women), followed by foundation boards (45 percent) and human service boards (42 percent). Women are far less prominent on art organization boards (34 percent) and civic boards (26 percent).
- The number of women serving on non-profit boards has risen by nearly 10 percent since the Women's Fund first began studying women's leadership in Omaha. In 1996, women made up 31 percent of non-profit board members, and that number is nearly 41 percent in 2011.

Women in Leadership Positions in Omaha (percentage compared to total positions)



**“We have a long way to go as a community before we achieve gender equity in leadership roles by any measure.”**

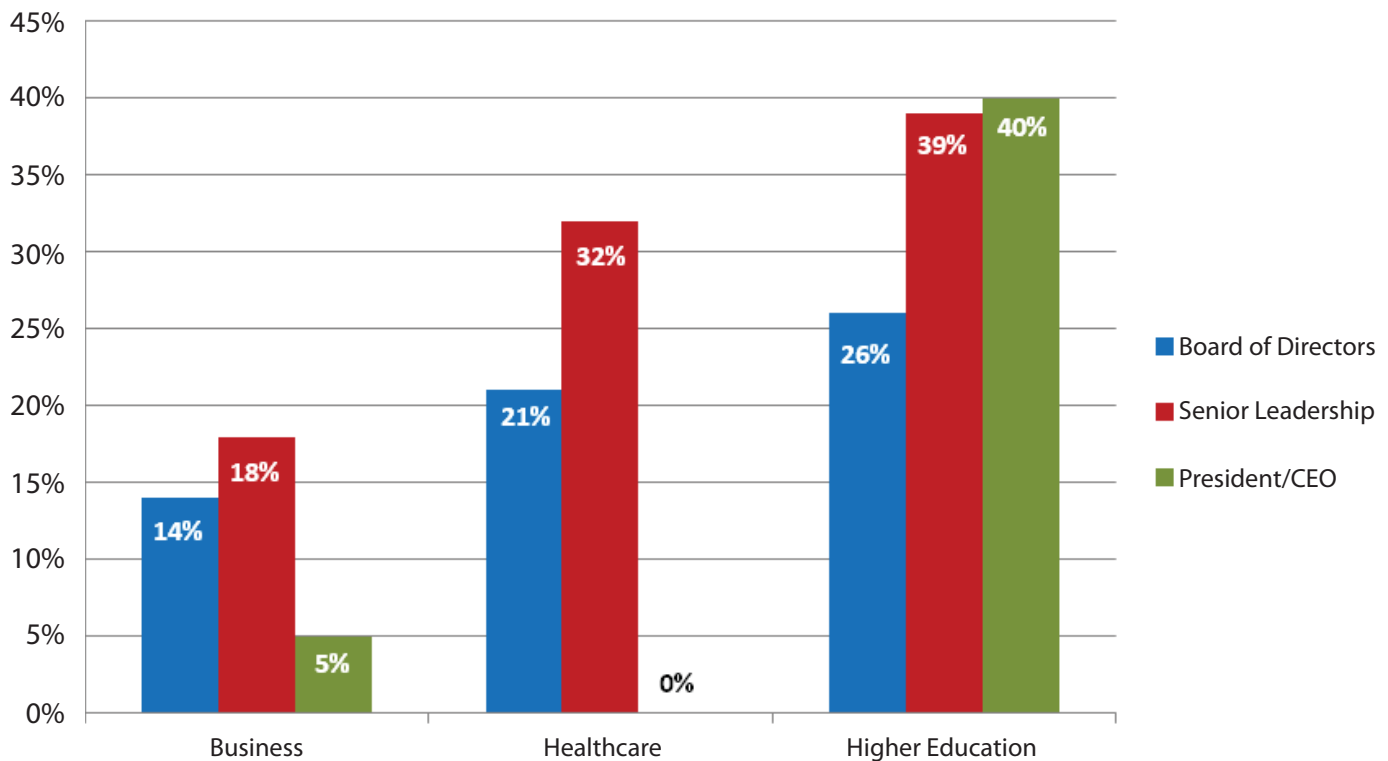
- Ellie Archer, executive director, Women's Fund of Omaha  
*Omaha World-Herald article, May 1, 2011*

## For-Profit Boards

In 2011, the Women's Fund surveyed 48 of the largest employers headquartered in Omaha, as defined by the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

- Women hold only 14 percent of board seats in the business sector and make up 18 percent of executive management.
- Women hold 21 percent of board seats in healthcare companies and 22 percent of executive management positions.
- In higher education institutions, women hold 26 percent of the board seats and comprise 39 percent of senior leadership.
- Of 37 businesses surveyed, only two (5 percent) had female CEOs.
- According to Catalyst, an international nonprofit that specializes in women's leadership, women hold about 3 percent of CEO positions in Fortune 500 companies nationwide.
- Catalyst also reports that women fill 16 percent of board seats in Fortune 500 companies and make up 14 percent of executive management.

**Women's Leadership in Omaha Across Three Industries**  
(percentage compared to total positions)



# Executive Interviews

The Women's Fund is grateful to the 47 women executives who shared their thoughts on leadership and personal experiences with us for an upcoming research report. Special thanks to these accomplished women.



**Sheri Andrews**  
President and CEO  
*Lozier Corp.*

**Janet Barnard**  
SVP/GM Central Region  
*Cox Communication*

**Nancee Berger**  
COO  
*West Corp.*

**Anne Boyle**  
Commissioner  
*Nebraska Public Service Commission*

**Karen Bricklemeyer**  
President and CEO  
*United Way of the Midlands*

**Susie Buffett**  
Director  
*Sherwood Foundation*

**Sandy Callahan**  
SVP  
*Lincoln Financial Group*

**Joan Chow**  
EVP and Chief Marketing Officer  
*ConAgra*

**Melissa Crawford**  
SVP  
*Physicians Mutual*

**Gail Deboer**  
President and CEO  
SAC Federal Credit Union

**Leslie Delperdang**  
COO  
*NP Dodge*

**Diane Duren**  
VP and GM Chemicals  
*Union Pacific Railroad*

**Kathy English**  
EVP and COO  
*Children's Hospital*

**Ann Finkner**  
SVP and Chief Administrative Officer  
*Farm Credit Services of America*

**Jean Fober**  
Merchandising and Buying Manager  
*Nebraska Furniture Mart*

**Andrea Frost**  
VP Financial Reporting  
*InfoGroup*

**Kristy Gerry**  
Director of Production  
*Omaha World-Herald*

**Vickie Hagen**  
VP and General Manager  
*Omaha Steaks*

**Mary Hawkins, Ph.D.**  
President  
*Bellevue University*

**Ruth Henrichs**  
President and CEO  
*Lutheran Family Services*

**Sherrye Hutcherson**  
VP Essential Services  
*OPPD*

**Susan Jacques**  
President and CEO  
*Borsheims*

**Cara James**  
SVP Compliance  
*First National Bank*

**Maria Jensen**  
Director of HR  
*Airlite Plastics*

**Kathy Johnson**  
VP Franchise Services  
*Godfather's Pizza*

**Mary Jones**  
VP and Treasurer  
*Union Pacific Corporation*

**Sue Korth**  
VP and COO  
*Methodist Women's Hospital*

**Johanna Lewis**  
VP and Chief Merchandising Officer  
*Gordmans*

**Jan Madsen**  
VP Finance  
*Creighton University*

**Kathy Mallatt**  
Plan President  
*UnitedHealthcare Community and State, Share Advantage*

**Jane Miller**  
Executive VP and COO  
*Gallup*

**Adrian Minks**  
VP Essential Services (retired)  
*OPPD*

**Stephanie Moline**  
EVP  
*First National Bank*

**Joan Neuhaus**  
SVP and COO  
*Alegent Health*

**Connie Ryan**  
President  
*Streck*

**Barb Schaefer**  
SVP HR and Corporate Secretary  
*Union Pacific Corporation*

**Debra Schneider**  
SVP and CFO  
*MUD*

**Stacy Scholtz**  
EVP Corporate Services  
*Mutual of Omaha*

**Sara Smith**  
President and General Manager  
*KETV*

**Deb Smith-Howell, Ph.D.**  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean for Graduate Studies  
*UNO*

**Connie Spellman**  
Director  
*Omaha by Design*

**Maryanne Stevens, RSM, Ph.D.,**  
President  
*College of St. Mary*

**Nikki Theophilus**  
SVP Human Resources  
*ConAgra*

**Sarah Waldman**  
VP Ethical Practices and Corporate Secretary  
*Blue Cross Blue Shield*

**Gail Werner-Robertson**  
President and CEO  
*GWR Wealth Management*

**Mary Wise**  
VP Technology and Administrative Services  
*Metropolitan Community College*

**Lyn Ziegenbein**  
Executive Director  
*Peter Kiewit Foundation*



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**Current and historical research studies are  
available on the Women's Fund website  
([www.omahawomensfund.org](http://www.omahawomensfund.org))  
under Research or scan on your Smartphone**

