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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women and Girls Foundation Rallies Its Troops For Equal Pay Day

WGF Expects Hundreds to Attend Rally in Downtown Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH (April 17, 2007) – The Women and Girls Foundation (WGF) is rallying its troops and demanding an end to the gender wage gap in Southwestern Pennsylvania. WGF is urging women and men to join them and thousands of others throughout the country to observe Equal Pay Day on Tuesday, April 24, 2007. WGF is sponsoring a rally in Market Square in downtown Pittsburgh from 12:00PM to 1:00PM to encourage citizens to become changemakers in their communities and fight for equal pay.

Equal Pay Day is a national observance that is organized each year by the National Committee on Pay Equity. It is observed in April to indicate how far into each year a woman must work to earn as much as a man earned in the previous year. Tuesday represents the day when a woman's wages catch up to a man's wages from the previous week.

Southwestern Pennsylvania has one of the most dramatic gender wage gaps in the nation. Nationally, women make 76 cents for every dollar that a man earns. In Pennsylvania, women earn 73 cents per dollar. **In Southwestern Pennsylvania, women earn only 69 cents for every dollar that a man makes.**

Women and men who are interested in changing the gender wage gap in their communities are encouraged to attend the rally. The event will feature

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both male and female speakers who will discuss the importance of changing the wage gap in our region. The following community leaders will give tangible examples of how people can do things everyday to fight for equal pay:

- Heather Arnet, Executive Director, Women and Girls Foundation
- Susan Corrigan, CEO, YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh
- Dr. Kim Goddess, Community Activist
- La'Tasha Mayes, Executive Director, New Voices Pittsburgh
- Khari Mosley, Pennsylvania Director of the League of Young Voters
- Sala Udin, Executive Director, Coro Center for Civic Leadership
- Representative from the Executive Women's Council

"Will Work for Equality" signs will be passed out to supporters to demonstrate the commitment in Southwestern Pennsylvania to decreasing the gender wage gap.

The Equal Pay Day Rally is one way the Women and Girls Foundation is striving to promote equal pay for women. Earlier in the month, WGF worked to close the gender wage gap by sponsoring a Catapult training session for Fayette and Greene Counties. Catapult is a program that trains volunteers throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania to become salary negotiation coaches. In 2008, women throughout the region will be able to call the Foundation and receive salary negotiation coaching for an affordable price.

"Fixing our local gender wage gap is critical for our region's economic health," says WGF Executive Director Heather Arnet. "Women currently make up more than half of every university graduating class in the country. For local companies to compete for the best talent, we must be able to offer fair and competitive wages. Equal Pay Day is an opportunity for women and men throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania to join together and demonstrate that we have had

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enough of the unfair pay practices that are hurting our families and our region.”

WGF is expecting five hundred women to gather in Market Square for the rally. The rally is free of charge and open to the public. Those interested in attending can email stephanie@wgfpa.org or call (412) 434-4883.

The Women and Girls Foundation (WGF) is an independent community-based foundation with a mission to achieve equality for women and girls in the region. Through a combination of public advocacy, coalition building and grantmaking, WGF seeds, supports and strengthens women's and girls' efforts to achieve social and economic justice in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

www.wgfpa.org

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