

20^{for} 20 stories years

Building On 20 Years
Our Foundation is strong because of you!



Washington Women's Foundation
wawomensfoundation.org
#BuildingOn20

Amy Michael

WWF member since 2006, Chief Financial Officer of FareStart since 2009

I was hooked from the first WWF event I came to – **a room full of smart women excited by learning and passionate about building a stronger community.**

I became a member right away.

The last 10 years have been truly transformational, both personally and professionally. While I was building my career in accounting and finance, I was working on WWF committees and became increasingly familiar with and enamored by the amazing work that is done by the nonprofit sector in our community. When an opportunity arose for me in 2009 to switch sectors and join FareStart as its CFO, I felt that **my work with WWF had prepared me well to make the leap.**

Because of WWF, I am better equipped to make contributions and decisions that can make an impact. **I am more confident because of the hours I've spent flexing my leadership muscles** on WWF committees, and I have met the most amazing women.



FareStart \$100,000 in 1998

Today, FareStart is well-known for its culinary job training and placement program for homeless and disadvantaged individuals; however, in 1998, FareStart was virtually unknown. FareStart's vision was to grow to serve more individuals, especially women.

Winning a \$100,000 WWF Pooled Fund Grant put FareStart "on the map" with funders and provided a springboard for building organizational capacity. WWF's grant gave FareStart the credibility to leverage several other significant foundation gifts and the support to improve their outreach and training for women students. In the first year after the grant, FareStart increased the number of women they served by 200%.

Amy Michael says, "It was really courageous of WWF to invest in this small nonprofit and have faith in the vision we were trying to accomplish. I hope that WWF members are proud when they hear about FareStart today. **We helped build this!**"



Dorothy Nelson

WWF member since 1997, WWF Emeritus Board

Prior to joining WWF, I worked with a large communication corporation. After I retired, a trusted friend urged me to join WWF to continue using my knowledge and skills.

The same friend introduced me to Cheryl Sesnon, then Executive Director of Common Meals (now FareStart). **She recruited me as a board member in 1992, and I became Board President three years later.** When WWF funded FareStart in 1998, I was proud of the members' decision because I deeply understood the tremendous impact those funds would have.

I am inspired by working with like-minded women who are smart and capable of causing change through the power of collective, well-researched giving. I continue to support WWF because I see the grants wisely given by the members change lives. I also believe the life of each member is changed through participation in WWF.

