

# Women, Wealth, and Giving

## The Virtuous Legacy of the Boom Generation

Margaret May Damen and Niki Nicaastro McCuiston

### Foreword

There are moments in history when breakdowns happen and so too do breakthroughs. This book, collected by a woman who has had her own breakthrough, Margaret May Damen, and shaped by another remarkable soul, Niki Nicaastro McCuiston, is full of caring interviews with powerful women ready and committed to serve and lead for the greater good.

Here you will find stories that will move you to impactful action; here are women sharing, which women have come to know is essential, from the inside out and revealing stories of their evolution for the future of humankind and those they mentor and guide.

*Women, Wealth, and Giving* is about the transformation, influence, and leadership of women. It is also about their resourcefulness and their multiple forms of capital—courage capital, influence capital, financial capital, and social capital—as they are moved intentionally to make personal and community change.

“The women effect,” as this new wave of women stepping up is called, is about the heart cracked open in the face of great loss, grief, hope, and fear. What you will read here is about those who did not dwell in fear; instead, when the rest of the world cocooned, these women transcended their personal difficulties and the culture of anxiety around them to serve and make change happen. These thriving and generous community and family leaders stand out because of their contributions and generosity, and you will find them resilient and infinitely more hopeful than their peers who were less giving. For it is their very giving that has supported their leaps to personal healing or greater leadership. And who cannot be moved by reading stories of inspiration and impact?

In only a short half century, women have taken their places as creative forces for shifting the constructs of families and communities and are shaping the world they want. Nearly 150 public and private women’s foundations in the United States and globally have been created, and women are heads of over 60% of family foundations. As women rise or inherit the role of primary decision maker in stewarding larger sums of money, their advisors will also benefit from seeing what motivates these women managers.

Only a short time ago, a group of women donors I was part of, led by two sisters, Swanee and Helen Hunt, invited a group of women worldwide to step up to their giving and leadership potential and form a community through the Women’s Funding Network,

called Women Moving Millions ([www.womenmovingmillions.org](http://www.womenmovingmillions.org)). In two short years, just 80 women donated lifetime and legacy gifts to women's foundations of \$180 million, breaking the ambitious goal that had been created of \$150 million. While you may or may not have this level of financial wealth, we understand this surge even during the economic downturn that the campaign faced. "This is the time when we know as hard as it may be to face our own losses, there are always those who are in much greater need," proclaimed one donor in making her substantial pledge while offering to raise more from others. You are not alone. There is a force between us now, and a collective understanding about our responsibilities and moral imperative to lead so as to save the planet, and so we are doing it.

Born into a world that did not value them, the boom generation of women has made known already its intentions and determination for a world that will work for everyone. Propelled by the injustices they have seen and experienced, the passionate commitments of these women will rock you to tears. We are reminded also of the sacrifices of our own mothers, as well and their guidance. "There is no greater gift than service to community," said my own exemplary mother, Pat deBary, when I was 14, and so, too, I had the guidance and mandate from her that has moved in me for some 40 years since. I could see the joy it brought her amid many shadows of other difficulties.

Readers will be aided by the authors' Three Principles of Abundance and tools such as the Seven Covenants. These weavers of wisdom share the steps of just who and how we can count on this generation and how best to cheer and support them. Readers can step forward expecting remarkable opportunities.

Faithful to their call to build community, these are the queen bees of our action, in their homes and hives. They are the builders of a new culture and a new generosity consciousness. Here is the generosity generation. Watch and listen to them shaping our future with love and remarkable compassion.

*Women, Wealth, and Giving* is an inspiring story of how we enrich our lives on every level when we give to others. It is a call to action, for each one of us to get involved, to join hands and hearts, in collaboration with others, to share, to give what we can, to volunteer, and to strengthen our commitment to our communities.

Join me in making a deep bow to our writers for gathering the wisdom found here and showcasing these inspired women. May we all seek to join them and, by doing so, create a lasting legacy and make a great leap forward for the love of humankind.

Tracy Gary

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Founder, Inspired Legacies