



1956

Fifty Fabulous Facts  
about BPW Foundation

2012

1. BPW Foundation was officially established as a tax-exempt non-profit organization on February 25, 1956, and incorporated in the District of Columbia on February 27, 1956. The mission was and is *"to explore and recommend research projects related to the advancement of women in business and professions."*
2. The first BPW Foundation Grant from the Lena Lake Forrest Fellowship Fund was awarded that year to Dr. Margaret Cussler for research on and publication of a book titled *"The Woman Executive."*
3. The BPW Foundation Library was founded in 1959 in order to *"establish and maintain a research center or clearinghouse and library, devoted to the interests of business and professional women throughout the world."* The BPW Foundation Library was accepted as a member of the Special Libraries Association in 1959.
4. During the 1960s, BPW Foundation conducted 17 seminars on such diverse topics as: *"Effective Leadership for Women Executives," "Management Training for Executives in Small Businesses,"* and *"Modular Management for the Executive Woman."*
5. BPW Foundation began to administer *The Sally Butler International Scholarship Fund* for Latino Research in 1962.
6. In 1964, BPW Foundation's program, *"Seminar on Federal Government"*, hosted such prominent speakers as the U.S. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, Speaker of the House John L. W. McCormick, Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Senator Maurine Newberger, and Congresswoman Martha Griffiths.
7. A grant was given by BPW Foundation to Mrs. Leota Jean Brown in 1965 to assist her study of women of color to explore the attitudes of disadvantaged African-American girls and their perceptions for future employment.
8. By 1968, a total of 22 original research projects had been supported and published by BPW Foundation.
9. BPW Foundation held the first *"Special Financial and Investment Evaluation"* course in 1968. This popular course was followed by a seminar, *"Investing and Investment Clubs for Women."*
10. In 1969, the *General Scholarship Fund* was established, and in 1970, BPW Foundation awarded its first scholarships to 25 women.



11. BPW Foundation conducted a survey and published its findings in *Profiles of Business and Professional Women* in 1970.
12. In 1971, BPW Foundation conducted three seminars across the country on "Motivation for Business and Professional Women."
13. From 1972 to 1974, BPW Foundation continued this educational series, sponsoring a series of seminars across the country on "Dynamic Management of People and Situations," "Solving Specific Management Problems," and "New Patterns of Effective Management."
14. BPW Foundation undertook *The Career Awareness Project* in 1973. This pilot project was dedicated to helping women learn how to make career decisions based on the understanding of career opportunities available to them.
15. In 1974, BPW Foundation undertook a 14-month research study on the flexible scheduling of work. A full-time research intern was hired and the 80-page report, *Hours of Work When Workers Can Choose*, was published.
16. As its United States Bicentennial Project in 1976, BPW Foundation provided a grant to Caroline Bird, author of *Born Female*, to research and write a book on the women who had made a significant impact on American business since colonial days. The result, *Enterprising Women*, received excellent reviews and went through four printings.
17. From 1976 through 1980, BPW Foundation focused on a "Women in Management" seminar series and produced such events as "Situation Management: Effectively Managing Change," "Women: Developing Their Role in Management," and "Career Development and Advancement."
18. During the 1970s, six bibliographies were prepared by BPW Foundation staff, and the BPW Foundation Library was renamed in 1979 the *Marguerite Rawalt Resource Center*.
19. "Money in Motion" was the topic for "Seminars for Economic Effectiveness" presented by BPW Foundation from 1979 through 1980.
20. In 1984, the New York Life Insurance Co., contributed \$50,000 for three years for scholarships for *Women in the Health Professions*.
21. BPW Foundation joined with the Girls Clubs of America in 1988 for *Project SMART* to promote the study of science, math, and related technologies.
22. During the 1990s, BPW Foundation issued seven white papers, including, *Working Women and the Glass Ceiling*, *Financing Your Future: Women and Retirement Income* and *Women in Prime Time: Employment Issues for Middle-Age Women*.
23. The National Business Women's Week Roundtable for 1994, *Making Workplaces Work – Making Diversity Work*, was co-produced through BPW Foundation.
24. In 1994, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) requested that their *Women's Initiative 10th Anniversary Scholarship Awards* be distributed through the BPW Foundation Financial Aid Committee.



25. BPW Foundation co-sponsored a *Financial Education Awareness Program* with the Equitable Life Assurance Society in 1995.
26. In 1996, BPW Foundation partnered with the Eli Lilly Corporation on a two-year program, *Depression and Women: Dispelling the Myths*.
27. BPW Foundation published the *Resource Guide for Women Entrepreneurs* in 1997.
28. In 1997, Wyeth-Ayerst funded a scholarship program, *Women in Graduate Medical and Health Business Programs*, in partnership with BPW Foundation.
29. Also in 1997, BPW Foundation held its first Academic Symposium and published a summary volume entitled, *"The Duality of Work and Family Roles."*
30. Later that year, BPW Foundation undertook a two-year pilot program with the Avon Foundation. The *Avon Career Empowerment Scholarship for Women* was designed to help women transition from welfare by earning a college degree.
31. In 1998, BPW Foundation held an academic conference, *Work and Family: Today's Reality and Tomorrow's Vision*, which was co-sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women.
32. BPW Foundation partnered with the American Management Association in 1998 on a survey research project designed to explore gender differences in compensation benefit issues existing in corporate culture.
33. BPW Foundation entered into the *Scholarship Partnership Program* with the Wyndham Hotel Corporation in 1999.
34. In 2000, BPW Foundation co-sponsored an academic conference entitled, "Work and Family: Expanding the Horizons" with the Center for Working Families of Berkeley University and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.
35. In 2003, BPW Foundation launched WOMENomics®, a signature national grassroots program that convenes local businesses, government, educational institutions and civic organizations to identify and resolve issues that challenge working women and their employers.
36. In 2003, BPW Foundation surveyed 7,300 women across the country about workplace, security and quality of life issues resulting in the 2004 publication, *Workingwomen Speak Out*, sponsored by Sprint.
37. In December 2005, BPW Foundation launched *Successful Workplaces* with a national summit on *Workplaces & Workforces in Transition* that included leading employers from across the country.
38. In 2005-2006, to honor the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of BPW Foundation, the DeLonais Foundation agreed to match \$25,000 in contributions from BPW/USA members to establish a scholarship endowment with a value of \$50,000.



39. BPW Foundation celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2006, with "Lighting the Way: Exploring Our Past, Discovering Our Future," a gala and special programming during BPW/USA Policy & Action and the National Conference.
40. In 2007, BPW Foundation surveyed 1,600 women veterans about their transition from military to civilian life. BPW was the first non-governmental organization to examine the transition of women veterans and investigate their needs to advance in the civilian workplace. Several publications resulted from this research including an in-depth analysis, *Women Veterans In Transition*.
41. BPW Foundation hosted *Return On Investment*, a National Employer Summit and published the *Successful Workplaces Digest* in 2008.
42. BPW Foundation and BPW/USA merged in 2009 to continue the legacy of advocating for working women and transforming the workplace for the future.
43. In 2009, BPW Foundation partnered with Walmart Foundation to launch *Moving Working Women From Red to Green*, a pilot project to educate women and investigate their entrance into the green economy. BPW Foundation provided grants to four community-based training programs to increase women's knowledge of and training for careers in the growing green economy.
44. In October 2010, BPW Foundation, with support from the McCormick Foundation and Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust, hosted the inaugural summit, *Joining Forces for Women Veterans®* in Washington, DC, to elevate the issues and challenges faced by women veterans and launch a national program to provide ongoing support to this unique group of working women.
45. In early 2011, BPW Foundation issued the report *Joining Forces for Women Veterans®*, a blue print for future action to support women veterans in their transition to successful careers.
46. *Joining Forces for Women Veterans and Military Spouses Mentoring Plus™* was announced in April 2011 with the goal of providing 10,000 mentors by the end of 2012 to women veterans and military spouses. This project was recognized by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden's *JoiningForces.gov* effort to support our military families.
47. Also in April 2011, BPW Foundation released *Gen Y Women in the Workplace*, a report exploring Generation Y women's workplace attitudes and perspectives on intergenerational workplace dynamics. It included recommendations to help employers attract and support Gen Y women employees.
48. BPW Foundation conducted a survey during the spring of 2011 to learn about women's knowledge and use of the Internet resulting in a report *Women Are Always "On"*.
49. In June 2011, BPW Foundation established the *Joining Forces for Women Veterans and Military Spouse Mentoring Plus™ Advisory Council* to assist with the development and running of a program to provide mentors to women veterans and military spouses.
50. *Joining Forces Mentoring Plus™* was nationally deployed in January 2012, matching mentors and subject matter experts with [women veteran and military spouse](#) mentees seeking to establish successful careers.