

# Katie L. Dixon Women & Girls Leadership Endowed Fund

## Accomplishments and Objectives

### June 2009



University of Utah students worked with Murray High School leaders to plan a three-school Forum.



Girls wrote personal notes of thanks and encouragement to special women in their lives, then added a box of candy and decorations to make a special gift.



Murray High School girls help students from Hillcrest and Riverview Junior High Schools learn to work together as a team.

- In 2008-2009, College of Social Work program faculty and staff, along with University of Utah Bennion Center volunteers, conducted forums at:
  - Salt Lake Arts Academy
  - Odyssey Charter School
  - Hillcrest Junior High
  - Riverview Junior High
  - Murray High School
  - Ann Smith Elementary—Wendover, Utah
  - Kearns-St. Ann School
  - St. Francis-Xavier School
  - St. Vincent de Paul School
  - East High School—Utah Federation for Youth

- As in the previous year, the number of forums held at each school varied from one to four. In all, 341 new and returning young women attended 40 forums during the 2008-2009 academic year. Students strengthened their individual communication skills, increased their self-confidence through mentoring opportunities, and collaborated on community projects that benefited people locally and abroad. Visit our newly-developed website for more details: [www.socwk.utah.edu/dixon](http://www.socwk.utah.edu/dixon).

- Research supports our anecdotal evidence that the forums fill a need in the community. A recently submitted paper reports the following findings:
  - Improved relationships with other girls
  - Increased leadership skills
  - Increased desire to further education
  - Increased understanding of what girls can do

- In 2009-2010, the Dixon Girls Forums will return to the above schools. The College continues to seek funding for this endowment in order to support and maintain the many forums that are currently being conducted and the new requests for forums from schools in our community.

- In order to expand the Dixon Fund which supports this programming, a Dixon Advisory Board was formed in Spring 2008. Members of this group include several staff and faculty at the College as well as the following community members:

Stormy Simon  
Chuck Warren  
Kristy Coleman Jensen  
Paula Green Johnson  
Karen Klc  
Tricia McGarry  
Elly Muth

*ExOfficio:*  
Jerry Dixon  
Lou Jean Flint  
Marcia Price