

## WUiP awards \$70K grant at gathering

**HACKENSACK** — It was an evening of inspiration like no other, and a celebration of women helping women that sent spirits soaring when Women United in Philanthropy, New Jersey's first women's giving circle, hosted its fifth-annual Fall Gathering at the Stony Hill in Hackensack with Mavis Nicholson Leno as their featured speaker.

Leno is the chair of the Feminist Majority's Foundation's Campaign to Help Afghan Women and Girls and wife of late-night talk show king Jay Leno. She is an outspoken critic of the Taliban's horrific treatment of women and is currently leading the effort to make the restoration of women's rights a nonnegotiable element of a post-Taliban Afghanistan.

"Mavis Leno has become the voice for women a world away who have lost theirs," said Maxine Frampton, director of Women United in Philanthropy. "She is an informed and articulate spokeswoman who understands the world and the role we as women play in changing it."

Women United in Philanthropy's membership is extended to women who contribute \$1,000 annually to the collective fund and vote each year to award a large grant to a local program helping women. At the Fall Gathering members come together to celebrate what they've accomplished and commit to a new investment. Event sponsors included BD, Medco Health Solutions, United Water, UPS

Information Systems, North Jersey Media Group and 201 Magazine.

This year the group awarded its \$70,000 grant to Women's Rights Information Center of Englewood. The organization serves as a hub in Bergen County for women to find resources, information, and training and support as they move toward economic self-sufficiency. WUiP funds will be used to launch a specialized transition and training program for servicewomen returning to northern New Jersey following deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. The program includes the partnership of Fairleigh Dickinson University and Women Lawyers in Bergen County.

Grant funds will be used to provide services in three areas: academic preparedness for those who plan to take advantage of the GI Bill Education Subsidies; career services for those wanting to seek and obtain employment; and legal assistance for those facing child custody and family law issues.

"We are growing our membership every day. It's clear that women are responding to this new idea of collective, strategic, democratic and local philanthropy — by women and for women," said Frampton. "To have Mavis Leno share our commitment is incredibly exciting."

For information about how you can join Women United in Philanthropy visit their website at [www.wuip.org](http://www.wuip.org) or call 201.291.0601.

