

# Funding Women. Changing Lives.



Mary's Pence

## About Us

Mary's Pence was founded in 1987 by women to support women at a time when women-led social justice projects were overlooked and under-funded. Now, more than 30 years later, we continue the important work of our founders by providing funding and holistic support to women working for justice, equity, and peace in their communities across Central and North America.

## Mission

We invest in women across the Americas by funding community initiatives and fostering collaborations to create social change.

## Vision

We envision a world where empowered women and their communities flourish in solidarity and justice.

## Values

Our commitment to justice motivates our work. We are grateful to walk alongside people of all faiths and beliefs on this journey toward justice.



### DIGNITY

We recognize the inherent dignity of every person, especially women and others who are marginalized.



### JUSTICE

Each person has the right and responsibility to participate economically, politically, and culturally in society and in the home.



### SOLIDARITY

It is our responsibility to accompany women working for justice by listening deeply and providing funding and responsive support.



## National Recognition of Mary's Pence Work

- Rated 100% on GrantsAdvisor, an online platform that collects, shares, and quantifies anonymous feedback from grantees
- 2019 Grantmaker of the Year Award in the private sector category by the Grant Professionals Association (GPA), an international member association for people in the grants industry
- 2007 Minnesota Nonprofit Award for Responsive Philanthropy presented by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and Propel Nonprofits

**Mary's Pence Grants** provide funding to organizations in the U.S. and Canada that are working to create long-term systemic change to ensure social, racial, and economic justice for women and their communities. To date, Mary's Pence has awarded nearly \$1.9 million dollars in grants to women-led organizations across the Americas that are amplifying the voices of women in their call for equity and justice.



- **Women Led** — Guided by and for cis women, trans women, non-binary people and their communities.
- **Community Centered** — Developed out of a need identified within the community, and collaboratively managed by members of the community to meet new, changing or emerging needs.
- **Sustainable Models of Long-term Change** — Dedicated to shifting public opinion about justice issues; forming alliances and collaborations across diverse populations; creating change in unjust structure or policies; or building capacity by building leadership, organizing or other social justice skills.
- **Social Justice Focused** — Committed to the promotion of human dignity, the common good, the right to economic security and dignified work, care for the earth, participation, subsidiarity (decisions are made at the most local level possible and involve those most impacted) and nonviolence.

“Mary's Pence is the most woman-focused funder we have encountered. They address social justice issues with none of the rigidity of other funders in that arena. Their approach is simple, logical and well-organized. They are incredibly accessible and supportive in their interactions with applicants but also in their funding processes.”

- Anonymous grant applicant review on GrantAdvisor

**ESPERA** partners with grassroots women's organizations in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador working to increase women's economic and emotional well-being. ESPERA, which means “she hopes” in Spanish, and is an acronym for *Economic Systems Providing Equitable Resources for All*.

- **Economic Security** — Collaborate with local organizations to help women increase their financial income through access to community lending pools. Contributing to the household income also helps women secure a more active role in their family and community.
- **Business Skills Development** — Provide training, coaching and accompaniment to help women develop and grow their own businesses and gain access to markets.
- **Organizational Strengthening and Support** — Strengthen the capacity of partners to promote the leadership and empowerment of women as both individuals and as part of a larger group of women.
- **Emotional Well-Being** — Committed to helping women gain access to emotional wellness support that allows them to feel comfortable expressing their feelings, addressing past trauma, and living healthy lives.



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