

Women and Philanthropy in the United States, 1790-1990

Kathleen D. McCarthy

Professor of History and Director of the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society

The Graduate Center, The City University of New York

Combined undergraduate and graduate guide.

128 pages.

Description

This guide provides an overview of the rich tradition of women's giving and volunteering in the United States over the course of two centuries (between 1790 and 1990) and illustrates the ways that women have changed American society. The volume focuses on voluntary associations and describes the activities of various groups of women in different regions of the United States.

Audience

It will be of particular use to those seeking to understand the ways that philanthropy has played an important role in enabling women of different religious, races, regions and economic backgrounds to shape American politics, professions and institutions. In providing insight into how American women have contributed to the social economy, it offers a context for nonprofit professionals and fundraisers who are looking to identify the best ways to tap into the enormous wealth held by women in the 21st century.

Uses

The best way to use this guide is to review the short weekly units and the literature overview to see what issues have engaged women, as a group, in the past, and to show how women's social action has been intimately connected with philanthropic giving. This knowledge may then serve as a springboard for involving women today by reminding women of their ability to use giving and voluntarism to shape the future in directions they believe important.