



## e-newsletter



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**March 13, 2006**

### **Atta Girls Awards**

*Welcome to Equipoise Fund's quarterly newsletter. We hope you enjoy hearing about the many outstanding women in Wyoming who work to improve the vision, voice and visibility of this state's women and girls. Through our newsletter we hope to keep you informed and inspired, for together, we can more effectively address those issues that hold women back from being the best they can be.*

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*Our first edition covers the recent Atta Girl Awards. Future issues will look at some of the broad issues facing the women of Wyoming and profile the efforts of particular women working to resolve them. Be sure to visit our website [www.equipoisefund.org](http://www.equipoisefund.org) for more information on Equipoise and our mission!*

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### **Atta Girls Awards!**

WHAT DOES YOUR VOICE SOUND LIKE IN A BIGGER SPACE?

The Atta Girl Award winners know the answer. Their efforts to support, enhance and inspire the lives of others in their community were honored as the Equipoise Fund presented its first-ever Atta Girl Awards on March 5, 2006, in conjunction with the LUNAFEST Film Festival in Jackson, Wyoming.

In the spirit of encouraging Wyoming women and girls to create positive change, Mickey Babcock, Founder and President of the Equipoise Fund, devised The Atta Girl Awards to give Wyoming women and girls a "butt-boost" for all the lives they lift. Hence, the Equipoise Fund invited nominations of inspiring yet undiscovered Wyoming women who continue to use their energy and creativity to inspire other women and girls in Wyoming. The Atta Girls were awarded in three categories: vision, voice and visibility.

The Vision Award is intended to highlight the efforts of a single individual to creatively address a need in

one's own community, whether that community is



local, regional or statewide. Award winner Deborah Clemens of Jackson, Wyoming, used her personal vision and business acumen to create a non-profit tamale business whose proceeds help fund El Puente, a medical translation service

that bridges the communication gap in order to improve health care access among Teton County's Latino population by reducing linguistic and cultural barriers to care.

The Voice Award honors someone who strives to give voice to those who don't have one. Award

winner Arden Lindsey put her career as an airline pilot on hold in order to follow her dream, establishing an outdoor leadership program for young women in Wyoming. Arden also successfully promoted Dubois as the pilot program for Main Street, a redevelopment program for rural downtowns.



The Visibility Award celebrates that person who has heightened the awareness of women in underserved or underrepresented segments of society. Award winner Sterling Harris of Laramie,



Wyoming, was instrumental in establishing SART, the Sexual Assault Response Team, for Albany County. Her work on behalf of those who have been physically abused has improved communication between governmental and service

agencies and the victims they strive to help, while serving as a model that can be adapted by other communities.

"Each of our winners is selfless, tireless and most importantly, creative in finding solutions to their problems," said Babcock. "As it turned out, we were delighted that each of our nominees was deserving of recognition. But our winners' energy and creativity were hallmarks of their approach to problem-solving, inspiring to others, and that made them stand out."

In this first-ever Atta Girl Awards, women were

nominated from ten different Wyoming cities and towns, including Alta, Cody, Casper, Dubois, Jackson, Laramie, Lusk, Moose, Rawlins and Powell. That's a lot of gals who deserve a pat on the back for their efforts to improve the status of women and girls in Wyoming.

Look for expanded stories on our Award winners on our website, [www.equipoisefund.org](http://www.equipoisefund.org), and selected stories of other nominees in future issues of this newsletter.

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