Dear Friends,

Twenty years ago a small group of women, fed up with the level of sexism in the environmental movement at the time, created an organization to build power and give stronger voice to women, especially under-represented women including women workers, women of color, young women and others, whose concerns were not being adequately addressed. Led by WVE’s founder, Bryony Schwan, these smart women recognized the inextricable links between the health of our communities and the health of the environment. And in 1995, Women’s Voices for the Earth was born.

Our earliest campaigns were Montana-based and spearheaded by tireless volunteers. Together, we reduced dioxin pollution from a pulp mill, helped stop a proposed gold mine and closed down medical waste incinerators. By 2000, our reach and the powerful energy of women organizing had grown, and it became clear that WVE’s work needed to expand beyond Montana.

Today, the Women’s Voices community is more than 25,000 members strong and we reach nearly 100,000 people nationwide through our campaigns, website and social media platforms. Our work helps realize a vision where women lead to create a healthy environment without toxic chemicals in our workplaces, homes, and communities. WVE raises awareness of critical health issues facing the nation’s nail and hair salon workers due to toxic beauty salon products. We move major multi-national corporations to reformulate products like Tide laundry detergent, and change how they do business. We take on issues no one else will touch, like toxics in feminine care products. We push for chemical policy reform nationally to ensure that dangerous chemicals in the products we use, the air we breathe and the food we eat, do not harm our health or environment.

With all of you fueling the work, Women’s Voices has remained rooted in our original goal and has become one of the most effective women-led environmental health organizations in the country today.

Thank you for advancing this crucially important work with us. We look forward to another 20 years of lifting up women’s voices, power, and wisdom for a healthy future. It is an honor to do this work with you.

After six years, our amazing Board Chair is terming off. We thank her for her incredible service and dedication to this work!

Erin Switalski,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Anuja Mendiratta,
BOARD CHAIR
What the Cleaning Product Industry Should Be Doing to Protect Your Health

My name is Elsa Aguilar. I am a professional house cleaner and working to help other women in the cleaning industry for 15 years and am proud to own my own company and employ other house cleaners.

After years of professional experience, I have seen first-hand how cleaning products cause health problems. I felt incredibly sick. I had trouble breathing, my chest ached, and I had a bad headache. I did not know what was wrong. Eventually, doctors realized I had become allergic to the chemicals in my cleaning products.

When I got home from the ER, I showed my mom my ‘Detox’ video, and she had never heard of Women’s Voices. She was so moved by my ‘mom’s organization’—and more like it’s ours.

I decided to make my own cleaner, knowing that my own household made the decision to avoid all ingredients like stripe. I also changed my name of my company. I try my new philosophy emphasis, “Green Today.”

JERSEY CITY, N.J.—The Cleaning Product Industry Should Be Doing to Protect Your Health

I am proud to be at the conference where I was able to learn and heard with hundreds of women who are eager to push forward, and to push back, against the smoke and stigma surrounding us, the unearned beauty standards that hurt us, and the general lack of respect that put women and mothers to the side. When I got home from the conference, I was so inspired. It got me thinking that young people can be change-makers.

It’s truly hard to find healthier options when it comes to some salon products. This is information we need to know—deserve to know—to protect our health.

What is that smell? It is a report that rates companies on ingredient transparency. This is dangerous. Without this information it is impossible to know that the products are safe for our health and the health of our children.

Working to Protect Salon Worker Health

My name is Sandy Edley. I’m a salon worker, a beauty professional. I have passion for the salon and cosmeceutical industries, especially through my service as a young adult. My hairdresser is a woman, and I’ve been dedicated to it for over 20 years. It’s a business that I love, and I want more to make better by educating the industry, my customers, and policymakers on the injustices salon workers experience by working with toxic salon products.

It’s truly hard to find healthier options when it comes to some salon products. Part of this problem is because some of the industries responsible for failing to comply with a New York law that requires manufacturers who sell products in the state to disclose fully to consumers all ingredients in their products.

Passing laws like this will allow many more people to become aware of the toxic chemicals and cleaning products at the hearing on the bill. It got me thinking that young people can be change-makers.

As a woman in the industry, I have heard many salon workers complain about their health issues, including fragrance. I was so inspired by the stories I heard about the dangerous conditions they suffer, and the need for better regulation of these harmful chemicals.

Now, the bill is up to the New York Public Health Department and environmental organizations to work together, and I’m optimistic that we’ll see it passed. I also want to make sure that we do not lose our voices, our ability to demand better for ourselves and our families.

In just a few short years. I’ve been able to protect salon and cosmeceutical workers from dangerous chemicals. We’ve seen incredible improvements in the conditions they work in, and their exposure to hazardous substances.

The voices of WVE

The voices of WVE

Toward a stronger, healthier future. The voices of WVE

The waiting for salon professionals to be informed and educated through knowledge and training on how to safely work with chemicals.

Toxic Chemicals Don’t Belong in Feminine Products. PERIOD.

My name is Kessa Juda-Nelson, and I am a professional house cleaner and working to help other women in the cleaning industry for 15 years and am proud to own my own company and employ other house cleaners.

I was so proud to be at the conference where I was able to learn and heard with hundreds of women who are eager to push forward, and to push back, against the smoke and stigma surrounding us, the unearned beauty standards that hurt us, and the general lack of respect that put women and mothers to the side. When I got home from the conference, I was so inspired. It got me thinking that young people can be change-makers.

After years of professional experience, I have seen first-hand how cleaning products cause health problems. I felt incredibly sick. I had trouble breathing, my chest ached, and I had a bad headache. I did not know what was wrong. Eventually, doctors realized I had become allergic to the chemicals in my cleaning products.

When I got home from the ER, I showed my mom my ‘Detox’ video, and she had never heard of Women’s Voices. She was so moved by my ‘mom’s organization’—and more like it’s ours.

I decided to make my own cleaner, knowing that my own household made the decision to avoid all ingredients like stripe. I also changed my name of my company. I try my new philosophy emphasis, “Green Today.”

JERSEY CITY, N.J.—The Cleaning Product Industry Should Be Doing to Protect Your Health

I am proud to be at the conference where I was able to learn and heard with hundreds of women who are eager to push forward, and to push back, against the smoke and stigma surrounding us, the unearned beauty standards that hurt us, and the general lack of respect that put women and mothers to the side. When I got home from the conference, I was so inspired. It got me thinking that young people can be change-makers.

It’s truly hard to find healthier options when it comes to some salon products. This is information we need to know—deserve to know—to protect our health.

What is that smell? It is a report that rates companies on ingredient transparency. This is dangerous. Without this information it is impossible to know that the products are safe for our health and the health of our children.

Working to Protect Salon Worker Health

My name is Sandy Edley. I’m a salon worker, a beauty professional. I have passion for the salon and cosmeceutical industries, especially through my service as a young adult. My hairdresser is a woman, and I’ve been dedicated to it for over 20 years. It’s a business that I love, and I want more to make better by educating the industry, my customers, and policymakers on the injustices salon workers experience by working with toxic salon products.

It’s truly hard to find healthier options when it comes to some salon products. Part of this problem is because some of the industries responsible for failing to comply with a New York law that requires manufacturers who sell products in the state to disclose fully to consumers all ingredients in their products.

Passing laws like this will allow many more people to become aware of the toxic chemicals and cleaning products at the hearing on the bill. It got me thinking that young people can be change-makers.

As a woman in the industry, I have heard many salon workers complain about their health issues, including fragrance. I was so inspired by the stories I heard about the dangerous conditions they suffer, and the need for better regulation of these harmful chemicals.

Now, the bill is up to the New York Public Health Department and environmental organizations to work together, and I’m optimistic that we’ll see it passed. I also want to make sure that we do not lose our voices, our ability to demand better for ourselves and our families.

In just a few short years. I’ve been able to protect salon and cosmeceutical workers from dangerous chemicals. We’ve seen incredible improvements in the conditions they work in, and their exposure to hazardous substances.

The voices of WVE

The voices of WVE

Toward a stronger, healthier future. The voices of WVE

The waiting for salon professionals to be informed and educated through knowledge and training on how to safely work with chemicals.
BUSINESS PARTNERS

WVE Business Partners are committed to promoting healthy working environments for their employees, healthy products and services for customers, and to increasing awareness of the links between women’s health and toxic chemicals.

Aza Anderson Non-Toxic
The Chooy Chunk
dolphin Organics
Earth Mama Angel Baby
Earth to Face
Good Clean Love
Green Blends
Honest Company
Just the Goods
Kelly Tegardan Organics
Luminance Skincare
LuanaPix International
Lunetta Cups
Lyte Angel Downing
Makos
Marchant Hygiene Products
Molly's Suds
Montgomery Distillery
Naturess
Orchidea Organics
Sumberga
Sweet & Woody Anusmara
Trillium Organisms

Interested in becoming a business partner?
Email Robyn Hegland at robynh@womensvoices.org

DONORS

Your contributions make a meaningful difference in the success and reach of our work.
We would like to thank the following donors for their support during our 2014 fiscal year.

$500+
Anonymous (1)
Annie Almson
Wanda Anderson
Paoli Arnold
Melissia Armstrong
Dais Brock
Nancy Brown
Dana Chapin
Molly Chisholm
Vicki Roberts-Creswell
Nancy Difazio
Eloise Kendy
Ann Koch
Gerry Jennings
Alysha Goheen-Janotta
Trisha Knaub
Mandy DeRoche
Sara Close
Amy Clark
Gayle Gifford
Nancy and Ron Erickson
Linda Eichwald
Nancy Dunne
Jean Duncan
Anita Doyle
Nancy Dunne
Linda Ferris-Burks
Nancy and Ron Erickson
Gail Gilchrist
Lisa Gibbott
Lilly and Aaron Carson-Greggini
Beth Gray
Kathy Gass
Erika Hannan
Mary Hansmann
Kerry Heftelos
Janice Hertz
Sheila Hollender
Emily Hunter
Cheryl M. Jacobs
Kate Jacobs
Alyssa Karver
Hannah Karver
Gerry Jennings
Julia Gillis
Kira and Joe-Jones
Rose Klee and George Mauick
Kari Kaiser
Elena K regulator
Kaye and Daniel Grissom-Kiley
Andy Koehn
Beverly Korber
Kris and Bryan Thompson
Gail Waldman
Casey and Andrew Wellington
Ivy St. Ward

$100+
Anonymous (2)
Barbara Kovac
Ann Koch
Eloise Kendy
Ann Koch
Gerry Jennings
Alysha Goheen-Janotta
Kate Jakubas
Emily Hooker
Sheila Hollender
Janice Heinz
Neva Hassanein
Erin Hanna
Gayle Gifford
Nancy and Ron Erickson
Linda Eichwald
Nancy Dunne
Jean Duncan
Anita Doyle
Nancy Dunne
Linda Ferris-Burks
Nancy and Ron Erickson
Gail Gilchrist
Lisa Gibbott
Lilly and Aaron Carson-Greggini
Beth Gray
Kathy Gass
Erika Hannan
Mary Hansmann
Kerry Heftelos
Janice Hertz
Sheila Hollender
Emily Hunter
Cheryl M. Jacobs
Kate Jacobs
Alyssa Karver
Hannah Karver
Gerry Jennings
Julia Gillis
Kira and Joe-Jones
Rose Klee and George Mauick
Kari Kaiser
Elena K regulator
Kaye and Daniel Grissom-Kiley
Andy Koehn
Beverly Korber
Kris and Bryan Thompson
Gail Waldman
Casey and Andrew Wellington
Ivy St. Ward

$50+
Anonymous (1)
$50+
Anonymous (2)

Rebecca Shahmoon Shanok
Stephen Seniger and Daphne Herling
Erica and Kyle Swantek
Debra and Steve Randall
Lorissa Peters
Marina Pastor
Eleanor McEntee
Melissa McBride
Natasha Mallette
Cynthia Loving
Nancy Koehler
Trisha Knaub
Gwyneth Kirk
Christine Kaufmann and Patricia Kemp
Tracey Kate Jennings
Karen Hurd
Christina Hanson
Karla Goettel
Dori Gilels
Joanna Field
Joan Essen
Nancy Difazio
Vicki Roberts Cresswell
Molly’s Suds
Sumberga
Sweet & Woody Anusmara
Trillium Organisms

BUSINESS PARTNERS

Interested in becoming a business partner?
Email Robyn Hegland at robynh@womensvoices.org