Globally, there are 155 women funds in six continents with total assets of $500m. According to Barclays Wealth’s study, “Tomorrow’s philanthropists,” women give an average of 3.5% of their wealth charitably compared to 1.8% for men. While the relationship between women and philanthropy has always been strong, it has not been very visible. At the initiative of Farida Kathawalla and Nirmala Garimella from our New England chapter, the American India Foundation is pleased to announce the Circle of Hope to bridge this gap and empower women to be philanthropic leaders.

The Opportunity
While many of the most effective and sustainable anti-poverty initiatives start with women and girls, the Circle of Hope both recognizes and focuses on gender equity on the ground in India. American India Foundation’s holistic interventions across education, livelihoods, and public health reverse the trend of discrimination to deprivation of opportunities and empower girls and women to achieve their potential.

—a commitment to giving back is a thread that runs through women’s lives. Giving is a tremendous source of fulfillment as you discover how to best put your time, talent, and treasure to work to make a difference. It’s also a reminder of how much we can learn from each other that can help us grow our impact.

— Pamela Norley, President, Fidelity Charitable
CIRCLE OF HOPE
AIF has established the Circle of Hope to:
• Inspire, educate and empower women philanthropists through the power of collective giving to positively impact the lives of underprivileged girls and women in India
• Amplify the awareness and impact of AIF programs in India and deepen the engagement of philanthropic-minded women

WHAT IS A GIVING CIRCLE?
The Circle of Hope is a Giving Circle—a form of shared giving and social impact philanthropy. Members pool donations and engage in collective decision-making on the allocation of funds.

WHY BE A MEMBER?
• To join a unique women’s network that is a catalyst for positive change
• To learn and increase awareness about AIF programs empowering girls and women
• To build meaningful relationships with professional peers based on shared values

MEMBERSHIP: $1,100 ANNUALLY
• $1,000 directly invested in the Circle’s chosen program (100% deductible).
• $100 operating costs
• American India Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

SAMPLE PROJECTS
Digital Equalizer
Support an all-girls high school with science kits through the Digital Equalizer program to provide hands-on, experiential learning experiences to students in order to help them improve their grades and retain knowledge.

Market Aligned Skills Training (MAST)
Support AIF’s livelihoods program aimed at vocational training of rural women, with a focus on widows, and help them become independent, overcome poverty and lead a life of self respect and dignity.

Empower women from economically and socially deprived communities to become entrepreneurs through the MAST+E (Entrepreneurship) project, thereby creating jobs and sustainable livelihoods in these communities.

Maternal and Newborn Survival Initiative (MANSI)
Support maternal and child health in rural India through MANSI, which equips villages with a trained community health worker (ASHA or Sahiya) to provide home-based care to identify and manage maternal and neonatal illnesses.

AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION
The American India Foundation is committed to catalyzing social and economic change in India, and building a lasting bridge between the United States and India through high-impact interventions in education, livelihoods, public health, and leadership development. Working closely with local communities, AIF partners with NGOs to develop and test innovative solutions and with governments to create and scale sustainable impact. Founded in 2001, AIF has impacted the lives of 3.7 million of India’s poor.

Learn more at www.AIF.org