

Susan Sadecki, president and CEO of the Main Street Community Foundation, speaking at the Wonder of Women event.

## WOW — More than 400 show up for women

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SOUTHINGTON — This year's Wonder of Women Gala saw high turnout, with many guests eager to aid the Women & Girls Fund of the Main Street Community Foundation in its ongoing efforts to support area women and girls.

The event was held May 1 at The Aqua Turf Club with more than 400 people attendeding.

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation, said that The Women & Girls Fund at Main Street Community Foundation works to "improve the conditions and opportunities" for women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

The event was "an incredible, uplifting evening," Rajotte said. Net proceeds benefit the fund's annual grant cycle.

"Speakers from BristolWORKS! and PARC, two of the Women & Girls Fund grantees, showcased the impact of the fund before Robin Reiser took the stage as guest speaker," she said. "We are so grateful they were all able to join us. This year's WOW event was a success in every way and will allow so many grants to be awarded."

Last year, the Women & Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation awarded \$50,500 to 11 area organizations. Since it was established in 2001, a total of \$780,000 in grants has been awarded to improve the lives of local women and girls.

This year, Rajotte said, there was a "Pass the Purse" collection to help senior women in the communities served by the Main Street Community Foundation. That raised \$5,000, which will help these senior women to obtain personal care items.