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## SPILLING THE BEANS WITH...HELEN HUNT

### A New Horizon For Women

Java: MaryEllen Fillo

September 25, 2009

Helen LaKelly Hunt is a well-known women's activist whose accomplishments include co-founding the "Women Moving Millions" campaign, which raised more than \$150 million to be used for social programs for women and girls. (Hunt founded the program with her sister, Swanee Hunt, former U.S. ambassador to Austria.)

President of "The Sister Fund," a private fund dedicated to the social, political, economic, and spiritual empowerment of females, and an inductee in the National Women's Hall of Fame, Helen Hunt will be the featured speaker Tuesday at the Aurora Women & Girls Foundation's "Women's Day Breakfast." Hunt, daughter of oil baron H.L. Hunt, recently "Spilled The Beans" with Java about her efforts and her thoughts on "girl power."

Q: Why did it take so long for women to come up with an idea like "Women Moving Millions?"

A: A lot of people ask that question. There is a disassociation between being female and using money for power. In our culture it is assumed men know how to wield financial power, an idea that has not been assigned to women. I was raised a Southern belle, so I certainly was indoctrinated that way. There has been some improvement.

Q: What is the new definition of sisterhood?

A: It used to be if you were cluster of women you had to think alike. Now the definition is much broader. We may see things differently, but there is a mandate for us to find where we agree on things and how to move forward. Women outnumber men, and if we are united, there is a chance to lift up a set of values the world needs.

Q: Are you surprised at the success of "Women Moving Millions," especially in this economy?

A: I did not expect it to be one of the most successful philanthropic initiatives of 2008-2009. People are saying, "This is the women's hour." I think women want to step up. We have a lot to contribute. It will get stronger. We are just stepping into our stride.

Q: What would you dad have said about your success? Your mother?

A: I think he would be thrilled. He was a risk taker. He would discover those wildcat wells that no else thought were there. He was a visionary. My sister and I have set a new horizon. My mother? I think she would be proud. There is no question we did things she never dreamed of.

Q: What are some of the biggest mistakes women make when it comes to the way they approach finances?

A: They procrastinate. They don't really get it that money is power. If they channeled their money strategically and thoughtfully, they would be empowered. They also fail to have their money reflect their deepest values. Some women just put money into clothes and material things. They would get more for their dollar emotionally if they funded the things they believe in.

Q: If there is one thing a woman could do as far as leaving a legacy, what would it be?

A: I think she should fund a women's foundation or build a financial institution. You won't be doing it alone.

•The breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. at The Hartford Golf Club, 134 Norwood St. West Hartford. For ticket information call 860-263-7840.

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