

Patricia Foley Hinnen - Founding CEO of Capital Sisters International



Patricia founded Capital Sisters International, a nonprofit investment fund, to raise business capital for impoverished women in developing countries and to promote gender lens investing. She created the first women's bond in the world so that the general-public can invest in micro loans. Each \$1,000 zero-interest bond finances ten women's businesses and then the investor gets their money back (or reinvests in more women). Patricia launched the investment fund after decades of experience in international development with the microfinance industry, the U.S. Congress, and the State Department where she represented the United States in the 21-country Asia Pacific Economic forum for ten years as head of the Women Leaders Network.

Patricia has raised \$10 million in loan capital from donations and bond sales under the Capital Sisters umbrella since 2001, financing 100,000 women's businesses in 25 countries through a dozen microfinance institutions.

In recognition of her longstanding work to promote economic empowerment for women, Patricia recently received a number of prestigious acknowledgements:

- Global Purpose Prize for Financial Inclusion by AARP/Encore and MetLife Foundation
- "One of 15 Inspiring Female CEOs that Impacted the World" by Cause Artists
- Pathfinder Award for Outstanding Women Entrepreneur by World Denver
- Outstanding Global Service Award by the Alliance of Professional Women
- "Who's Who in Impact Investing" by the Denver Business Journal in its Inaugural List
- Leader in the Impact Investing Marketplace by the Impact Finance Center
- US Delegate to the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women

Within the U.S., Patricia is the Co-founder of Colorado Microcredit, the Micro Business Development Center, and the Colorado Microfinance Alliance and is an Advisor to the Rocky Mountain Microfinance Institute. Patricia developed a passion for economic justice early in her career while serving in the Peace Corps in West and Southern Africa, an overseas posting with the US Congress (GAO) where she managed the East European and Soviet portfolio after the fall of the Berlin wall, and travel to more than 60 countries. Patricia has a BA in Political Science and Economics from the University of Colorado and a Master of Public Policy and Program Evaluation from Denver University.