

Patricia Foley Hinnen - Founding CEO of Capital Sisters International



Patricia established Capital Sisters International, a nonprofit investment fund, in order to finance business loans for impoverished women in developing countries, and to promote gender lens investing. She created the first women's bond in the world to enable the general public to invest in micro loans. Each \$1,000 zero-interest bond finances ten business loans and then the investor gets their money back (or reinvests in more women). Patricia launched these Sister Bonds® after piloting the world's first Person-To-Person Lending Model with micro loan recipients in 25 countries. Her innovative financial models were inspired by decades of experiences in international development with the U.S. Peace Corps, 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 APEC Women Leaders Network.

Patricia has raised \$14 million in loan capital (half from donations and half from bond sales) under the Capital Sisters umbrella, financing 140,000 women's businesses in partnership with a dozen microfinance institutions across the developing world. In recognition of her longstanding work to promote economic empowerment for women, Patricia has received numerous acknowledgements and awards:

- Formal recognition for bringing Gender Lens Investing to the Colorado Women's Foundation - they now apply a gender screen to their entire \$30 million dollar endowment and to all impact investments;
- "Impact Award", pitch competition - Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade;
- "Ideas Remaking the World Award" - International Women's Forum, for creating the first Women's Bond;
- "Global Purpose Prize for Financial Inclusion" - AARP/Encore for pioneering work in gender lens investing;
- Designation as "One of 15 Inspiring Female CEOs that Impacted the World" - Cause Artists;
- Chair of the world's first Gender Lens Investing Symposium in partnership with Beyond Our Borders;
- "Pathfinder Award for Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur" - World Denver;
- Inaugural List of "Who's Who in Impact Investing" - Denver Business Journal;
- US Delegate to the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women, annually since 2018;
- "Outstanding Global Service Award" - the Alliance of Professional Women;
- "21st Century Leadership Award" – the International Alliance for Women.

Within the U.S., Patricia was the Co-founder, board member, and advisor for Colorado Microcredit and the Micro Business Development Center, which is now called the Rocky Mountain Microfinance Institute. She is also the Co-founder of the Colorado Microfinance Alliance, and a long-time board member of Beyond Our Borders at the Colorado Women's Foundation and of the Foundation for the Alliance of Professional Women. Patricia developed a commitment to social and economic justice early in her career while serving in the Peace Corps in West and Southern Africa. The pursuit of a more just world remained central to her work and travel experiences in more than 60 countries, including a Congressional posting in Europe where she managed the East European and Soviet portfolio (for GAO) after the fall of the Berlin Wall. 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. She lives with her "high school sweetheart" husband in the foothills of Golden Colorado where they raised two sons.