

Ms. Foundation for Women

THE
NATIONAL
WOMEN'S
FUND

February 7, 1994

Wilma Mankiller
Route 1, Box 168
Stilwell, OK 74960

Dear Wilma:

My grandmother always gave other people gifts on her birthday. She wanted to celebrate being alive by saying thank you to the people and values she cared about most. Now that my own 60th birthday is on the way, I'm planning to do the same thing. In this time of hope and change for women, I have so much more to celebrate than my grandmother did. I hope we can do it together.

Here's the idea:

Each year, the Ms. Foundation for Women honors women grassroots leaders from around the country. If you've come to one of these Salutes to Women of Vision, you know they're evenings with a lot of heart. Each awardee's accomplishments are presented by a woman who's already nationally known, and the awardee tells her own personal story. Not only are new leaders introduced to the country, but their stories inspire and instruct us.

These awards, given by the Ms. Foundation in my name, seemed the right time to celebrate my birthday, too. Both events will be combined into one great, smashing evening that I hope will be the best of all possible worlds: a good time for a good cause. Most important, it will be one that allows me to give presents, too.

We've turned the usual birthday wish for "many more" into the theme of health. There will be awards and gifts to pioneers who are creating a healthy future for women and girls. After all, this is the year when two decades of health pioneering by the women's movement finally turned health into a national priority. We're going to celebrate that, too.

Save the date: **Monday, May 9, 1994**. The place is the ballroom of the Plaza Hotel in New York City. My co-hosts are Jessye Norman, Marlo Thomas, and Marie Wilson.

I'm going to give as much as I can. I hope you'll consider making this a gift-giving year, too - in your own honor, or in honor of one or more women in your life, your family, in history, or your corporation. If you support this event, it will make a big difference. There will also be a Birthday Vision Journal so you can say what you would like the world to know about the people or issues you're honoring.