

# The Bay Area's Most Influential Women In Business



## Julie Castro Abrams

*CEO, Women's Initiative  
for Self Employment.*

**Residence:** Novato.

**Education:** B.A., Northwestern University; M.S.A., University of Chicago.

**Community involvement:** California Association for Microenterprise Opportunity, treasurer. Julie and her husband, Raul, are licensed foster parents and had two children, ages 2 and 5, join their family of four last year.

**What makes you influential:** I am a connector that helps the most powerful women in the Bay Area use their passion, business skills and networks to help propel low-income women into economic prosperity. Everyone wins and that is perhaps where the most influence happens. My work this year will influence \$150 million in economic growth in the Bay Area.

**What has most contributed to your success:** My 100 percent, unbridled commitment to social justice and changing the world for women and children.

**Biggest issue or opportunity facing women in the workplace:** Living their values. Whether it is balancing family and work, being in an environment that is kind to people and the environment, or feeding our souls by making a difference in the world, women are now feeling an intense pull.

**Leader you most admire:** Evelyn Dilsaver, recently retired president of Schwab Mutual Funds Cos.