

Women's Fund awards grants 6-28-09

The Post-Crescent

APPLETON – Requests for funding from the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region were up 54 percent this year, a reflection of the growing needs in the community.

Programs addressing economic self-sufficiency and violence prevention were a priority when the Women's Fund announced its 2009 grant recipients at a reception for donors and nonprofit agencies Thursday at Fox Banquets in Appleton.

Genie Georgen, a member of the Women's Fund Research, Education and Grants Committee, made the announcement of 14 grants totaling \$57,000. Georgia Pacific Foundation, Great Northern Corp., and the J.J. Keller Foundation provided collaborating funds to add to the granting pool.

"Barrier removal emerged as a common theme in many of the requests we received," said Becky Boulanger, executive director of the Women's Fund. "The needs for child care, housing assistance, transportation or education are all barriers that women who are trying to become self-sufficient face. We are pleased to be able to provide funding to programs that are removing these barriers and helping women make their lives safer and more secure for themselves and their families."

The largest grant in Women's Fund history was awarded to Wisconsin Interfaith Needs Response. The \$10,000 grant will help fund the donated wheels and loan program.

Nonprofits receiving Women's Fund grants:

ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

- American Red Cross-Outagamie Chapter, Shopping and Errand Services, \$1,250: Helps older adults and those with disabilities meet their basic needs.
- Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha, Helping Hands Program, \$1,000: Provides children's scholarships for enrichment activities.

- Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services Inc. Project POWER, \$5,000: Enables women who are victims of domestic violence to overcome barriers and obtain or maintain employment.

- Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley Inc. PRIDE Program, \$5,000: Builds skills and enhances self-sufficiency.

- Fox Valley Technical College Foundation, Wo/Men's Educational Bureau, \$5,000: Helps Fox Valley women gain access to education, develop important job skills, increase self-confidence, and achieve self-sufficiency.

- Wisconsin Interfaith Needs Response, Donated Wheels Program and Loan Program, \$10,000: Provides low-income women with reliable personal transportation to help them gain meaningful employment.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

- Boys' & Girls' Clubs of the Fox Valley, SMART Girls, \$2,500: Offers girls age 7-15 opportunities to develop positive choices.

- NAMI Fox Valley, Wings of Change Support Group, \$5,000: Provides support, information, education, fellowship and emotional healing to women with mental illness.

- Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Expanding Access to Health Care for Latina Women, \$1,500: Increases access to reproductive health care and education for Latina women in the Fox Valley.

- Reach Counseling Services, Inc., Sexual Assault and Eating Disorders Support, \$3,000: Provides direct, therapeutic services to young women who are survivors of sexual abuse.

- Youth Go Inc. GEMS Girls Peer Discussion, \$2,000: Gives teenage girls an opportunity to learn about healthy relationships.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- Fox Valley Voices of Men, Voices of Men Community Action Campaign, \$7,000: Engages Fox Valley men in a community action campaign dedicated to preventing abuse of girls and women.

- Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs, Girls Circles, \$5,750: Uses small group settings to educate and build self-esteem in girls age 9-18.

- The Arc Fox Cities, Healthy Lifestyles Education Program, \$3,000: Educates participants with developmental disabilities about healthy relationships.