

News Release

March 17, 2008

For release upon receipt

Contact: Shauna Walden Ejeh, Executive Director, 830-1290

Violence Prevention Tops Grants Awards

Appleton, WI – Reported violence against women is increasing in the Fox Valley according to the 2006 L.I.F.E. Study. The Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region is working to reduce those numbers as part of its 2008 grants awards.

“The needs of the community are reflected in the grant requests we receive,” said Shauna Walden Ejeh, executive director of the Women's Fund. “We are receiving more requests to help make women and girls safe from abuse and also to help women overcome the economic barriers they face when they leave an abusive partner.”

“We support many different types of programs, but violence prevention and economic self-sufficiency are areas of particular need,” said Ejeh. “We are working hard to build our resources so we can support the women and girls in our community. Even so, we could only fund 40 percent of the requests we received this year.”

Harbor House Domestic Abuse Services will receive the largest single grant awarded by the Women's Fund this year: \$7,000 is being awarded to fund performances of a large-scale drama performance geared to elementary school students.

“With the help of the Women's Fund, we at Harbor House have been able to focus our attention on true primary prevention of domestic violence, reaching out to hundreds of young people before they are touched by this issue personally,” said Beth Schnorr, executive director of Harbor House. “The innovative programming we have brought to local schools has confirmed for us that by the time young people reach high school, there are patterns of abuse that have already been learned and accepted. Our best prevention programs now focus on middle- and elementary-school students. The positive impact of these programs will be felt in generations to come.”

The Women's Fund awarded 16 grants totaling \$33,636. Great Northern Corporation and Kimberly-Clark Corporation provided collaborating funds to add to the granting pool.

The Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region is a supporting organization of the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.

Agencies receiving Women's Fund grants are:

ARTS & CULTURE

Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra Association, Inc., *Partners in Education* - \$500: Expands an existing program to engage students in classical music and art at an early age by adding a dance component.

Valley Academy for the Arts, Inc., *Scholarship Fund for Underprivileged Children* - \$500: Provides girls from low-income families with scholarships to help them grow into healthy adults through their accomplishments in dance and the arts.

ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha, *Helping Hand Program* - \$2,633: Provides children's scholarships for enrichment activities such as sports or music lessons so families can use their monetary resources to meet their basic needs.

CAP Services, Inc., *Skills Enhancement Program, Fox Cities* - \$1,500: Helps participants achieve true, permanent self-sufficiency through employment, and long-term education and skills training.

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Inc., *Project POWER* - \$1,500: Enables women who are victims of domestic violence to overcome barriers and obtain or maintain employment that will help them become self-sufficient.

LEAVEN, *Home Sweet Home* - \$3,000: Assists women in transition from local domestic abuse or homeless shelters to independent housing by providing financial support for a security deposit and/or rent.

Wisconsin Interfaith Needs Response, *WINR Assistance Fund* - \$4,000: Provides low-income women with a safe, dependable vehicle to get to work or school.

EDUCATION

Boys' & Girls' Brigade Association, Inc., *Sixth Grade Girls' Program* - \$500: Offers the first step in a seven-year character building and leadership training program for girls.

Fox Valley Technical College Foundation, *Wo/Men's Educational Bureau* - 1,500: Helps Fox Valley women gain access to education, develop important job skills, increase self-confidence, and achieve lifelong self-sufficiency.

Girl Scouts of the Fox River Area, Inc., *Girl Programming (Non-School Days)* - \$1,000: Invites girls in grades K-6 to spend a non-school day doing art, science, and nature projects; learning money management skills; and making informed decisions about their healthy development.

PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH

CHAPS Academy, *HOPE Lives! Adolescent Suicide Prevention and Intervention* - \$2,500: Provides developmentally appropriate, equine-assisted suicide prevention and intervention for adolescents.

Fox Cities Community Health Center, *No Woman Left Behind* - \$1,000: Insures all women seeking care at Fox Cities Community Health Center access to recommended female preventive health services.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, *Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Project for Latina Women* - \$3,000: Provides low-income Latina women with preventive health care services including cervical cancer screening, breast exams, and reproductive health education.

Sexual Assault Crisis Center, *Empowering Women through Knowledge* - \$1,378: Provides for printing of educational materials to be distributed to local health care professionals.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs, *Elementary School Prevention Education Performance & Girls Circle Pilot Project* - \$7,000: Educates local elementary students about bullying and positive choices through a large-scale drama performance and provides small group support for girls age 9-14.

The Arc Fox Cities, *Healthy Lifestyles Education Program* - \$2,125: Educates participants with developmental disabilities about healthy relationships to prevent them from becoming victims of sexual assault.