

Women's Fund grants help community projects in the Valley

Post-Crescent, The (Appleton, WI) - April 25, 2004

Author: The Post-Crescent

APPLETON -- The **Women's Fund** within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region has awarded grants totaling more than \$25,000 to programs that help area women improve their parenting skills, train for better jobs and embrace their culture. The annual grant program uses earnings from the **Women's Fund**'s endowment to support nonprofit organizations and projects that help women and girls manage and enhance their lives. The endowment exceeded \$500,000 in the past year. The fund has awarded more than \$120,000 in grants since 1997.

Two corporate collaborators -- Great Northern Corp. and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans -- made donations to boost the total money available for grants this year.

This year's grants include:

Intertribal Community Center: The "Hoop Dance Project" will create a dance troupe that can share Native American culture with the Fox Valley area. A \$1,500 grant supports the purchase of costumes for the dance.

CAP Services: Rural Health Outreach will add prenatal and postpartum care to its work with low-income families in the growing Hispanic community in Central Wisconsin, including Waupaca County. A \$2,500 grant supports the addition.

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin-Fox Valley: A Child Advocacy Center at the Neenah hospital will provide a safe place for children who have been sexually or physically abused or neglected, and a neutral, victim-focused location for agencies to collaborate. A \$3,000 grant supports the start-up cost.

Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services: A support group will help teen girls break free from domestic violence. A **Women's Fund** grant of \$1,500 and a collaborative gift of \$1,500 from the King's Daughters Service Circle of Neenah-Menasha support the effort.

Diocese of Green Bay: The Star Parenting Program, an outreach to Hispanic families most active in Brown County, will expand its work in the Fox Cities. A \$3,000 grant supports the expansion.

Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley: The shelter will offer residents one hour per week of formal parenting training, provided by Children's Service Society staff. Additionally, all parents participating will have access to expanded alcohol and other drug abuse/mental health counseling services to complement training

at the shelter. A \$4,000 grant supports the project.

Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin: The Family Connection provides home visitation to first-time mothers -- particularly low-income teen parents, single parents and families -- in northern Winnebago County, Outagamie County and parts of Calumet County. A \$2,000 grant supports a new parent educator position.

Fox Valley Sibling Support Network: "Sibshop for Girls and Women" will help female siblings of children with special needs to express honest feelings and find opportunities to celebrate the positives through special events every four to six weeks. A \$1,000 grant supports the program.

Girl Scouts of the Fox River Area: "M.A.D. About Wisconsin" will offer 10 days of hands-on arts experiences and education to 80 Girl Scouts ages 14-18 June 22-July 8. A grant of \$860 supports two partial scholarships for the program.

Harbor House Domestic Abuse Program: The Yellow Dress Project, a drama and discussion, will address abuse and violence for teens. A \$1,750 grant supports the program.

Winnebago Interfaith Needs Response: The WINR Assistance Fund will help pay the costs related to receiving a vehicle for at least 25 families in need. A \$3,000 grant supports the program.

Section: *region and state*

Page: 09C

Record Number: *app51129356*

Copyright (c) The Post-Crescent. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.