

The Women's Fund invited six Appleton high schools to refer girls who could help us better understand the issues impacting high school-age girls. A dozen girls met on March 27 and April 30 to discuss issues impacting them and their peers, learn about and evaluate resources in the community, and allocate \$10,000 in grant funding to the nonprofit program(s) which they felt best meet the needs of girls in the Fox Valley.



**2012 Issue Spotlight Girls' Grantmaking Group**

*Seated: Sascha Hartl, Jennifer Sanchez, Abby Bautch, Neha Siddiqui, Rachel Baldwin. Back row: Kathryn Sauter, Bridget Flaherty, Grace Deininger, Taylor Orozco, Jenny Andrysczyk, Viviana Ramiraz. Not pictured: Lisette Martinez.*

The girls identified mentorship and leadership opportunities for girls in grades 6-12 as their top priority. The following organizations received funding:

**Appleton Central High School, School Age Parent Speaker Series - \$900;** Provides important parenting information to a very vulnerable, at-risk population, and gives teen parents a network of support.

**Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha, Site-based Mentoring Program - \$2,000;** Brings one-on-one mentoring experiences to schools for children primarily between the ages of 5 and 13. Mentors will be recruited from local high schools, providing leadership opportunities for young women in our community.

**Boys & Girls Brigade, Character Development and Leadership Training: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Program - \$1,250;** Empowers young girls to build confidence, develop positive, healthy relationships, and leadership skills by providing them with resources and mentor support in a structured and nurturing environment.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley, Girls Vibrancy Program - \$850;** Allows middle-school girls who have been identified as at-risk to visit UW-Madison and UW-Oshkosh, as well as the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, to inspire and encourage them to understand that a college education is desirable and attainable.

**Girls2BGirls, Girls2BGirls program - \$5,000;** Provides a program for area schools to create a foundation for positive lifetime decision making for girls in grades 5-12 through monthly meetings, mentorship, and summer camp.

**Comments from participants:**

"It was a very meaningful and empowering experience."

"I learned the value of group work and decision making."

"I learned how to collaborate and see things from others' point of view."

"I learned that everyone's opinion matters and everyone should try to give their opinion and make a difference."

"I was surprised at how much I had in common with the other girls from different backgrounds."

"I learned how to effectively make decisions with varying opinions."

"This not only helped girls in my community, but it really impacted me and my personal views on how I can improve my life."

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