

The Women's Fund invited Neenah, Menasha and St. Mary's high schools to refer girls who could help us better understand the issues impacting high school-age girls. Thirteen girls met on March 13 and April 17 to discuss issues impacting them and their peers, learn about and evaluate resources in the community, and allocate \$11,500 in grant funding to the nonprofit program(s) which they felt best meet the needs of girls in the Fox Valley.



2013 Girls' Grantmaking Participants

Seated: Panhia Moua, Pa Chee Lo, Maddie Hibbs-Magruder, Brooke Zimmer, Zohne LaVell, Dallana Toledo. Standing: Cassie Mikkelson, Claire Young-Moxon, Bridie Prosser, Courtney Ellison, Grace Dejno, Jenny Recktenwald, Deliz Carmona.

The girls identified improving self-esteem for girls in middle school and high school as their top priority. The following organizations received funding:

Best Friends Neenah-Menasha, I'MPACT (I'm Pretty Amazing, Confident and Talented) - \$2,500; Provides a monthly program in partnership with REACH Counseling Services to instill confidence, strength and dignity.

Boys & Girls' Brigade, Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies (8th & 9th Grade Girls) - \$2,500; Addresses the issues of anxiety, depression and self-esteem by using the practice of yoga, conscious breathing, and healthy eating.

Girls on the Run, Scholarships for Girls on the Run Participants - \$4,000; Inspires girls to be joyful, healthy and confident by using curriculum that integrates running and prepares girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.

NAMI Fox Valley, Artful Expression - \$2,500; In partnership with the YMCA, teaches girls who are experiencing mental health issues to develop emotional coping skills that build self-esteem through the arts and peer support.

Comments from participants:

"My favorite part of this experience was having a voice. I really felt like I was able to make a difference and be a part of something big."

"I learned to appreciate my family more."

"Today made me really want to be a part of an organization like the Women's Fund when I am older."

"Being able to connect with other girls in my community to do such an "executive" process made me feel that I was affecting others' lives positively."

"I learned about the process and values of deciding between people applying for grants. I can apply this to my life when I am making hard decisions (values)."

"I enjoyed getting to know the girls and hearing their perspective on our community and learned how important it is to make a difference."

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