

Girls' Grantmaking Project 2014

The Women's Fund invited Kaukauna, Kimberly and Little Chute high school students 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.

The girls identified preserving self-confidence and improving access to opportunities as their priorities.



The following organizations received funding:

Best Friends Neenah-Menasha, Educational Support Services - \$2,000: Provides increased access to educational opportunities so that teens can build economic security upon graduation and become stable providers for their own families.

Boys & Girls' Club of the Fox Valley, Date SMART - \$1,000: Helps girls ages 12-18 increase self-confidence by learning how to achieve mutually supportive relationships free of violence and abuse, and encourages them to become community advocates for relationships that promote equality and respect.

CHAPS Academy, Hope Lives: Suicide Prevention & Intervention: - \$2,000: Identifies youth from the Kaukauna high school who are at-risk of suicide ideation or attempts, and introduce them to an equine-assisted counseling program that can help them increase their self-confidence, treat their mental health issues, and find a reason to live.

Girls on the Run, Scholarships for Girls on the Run Participants: - \$3,000: 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.

YouthGo, FLOW (Females Leading our Workforce) Program: - \$2,000: Teaches teenage girls how to design and implement a road map to higher education and success.

Comments from participants:

“I really enjoyed working with other people and meeting new people. I also like “having a voice” in our community.”

“Don't be afraid to speak up about something because some people may not see your perspective. It can open the eyes of others.”

“A small idea or thought can make a huge impact to many people in the community.”

“I learned that it isn't hard to make a difference if you have the will and want to do so.”

This program was made possible through a grant from the J. J. Keller Foundation.