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Women's Foundation of Minnesota Awards \$342,750 in Social Change Fund Grants

(Feb. 11, Minneapolis) — The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded 18 multi-year grants totaling \$342,750 through its Social Change Fund. The grant period is February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2011. Grants will be renewed for up to three years, based on an annual grant review and approval of progress towards goals.

"While we're thrilled with this dynamic new cohort of grantees, we were disheartened to turn away nearly 80 percent of the requests we received from around the state," said Lee Roper-Batker, Foundation president & CEO. "The body of our grantee-partners' work inspires us to continue to grow our resources to fund women and girls, and encourage other philanthropies to do the same."

Through the Social Change Fund, the Women's Foundation annually awards grants and provides technical assistance to nonprofits across the state working to achieve equality for women in five Cornerstone areas of social change: economic justice, safety and security, health and reproductive rights, human rights, and political power.

CORNERSTONE: Economic Justice (\$85,250 in funding)

Casa de Esperanza (St. Paul) | **\$17,500** -- To build the capacity of Latinas and Latino-serving organizations in Minnesota to promote equitable access to critical safety-net services.

Child Care WORKS (Minneapolis) | **\$17,500** -- To increase access for all children to high-quality child care; build public will to ensure that child care is recognized as a key component to healthy communities; and advocate implementation of a statewide, child care quality rating and improvement system.

Ready 4 K (St. Paul) | **\$17,500** -- To expand public awareness and will for improved access to quality early learning with quality child care as the foundation, and advocate for passage of key policy proposals.

Women's Institute for Self-Empowerment (St. Paul) | **\$15,000** -- To support the Career Pathways for Foreign Trained Physicians program to affect institutional and policy changes to increase economic equality for immigrant female physicians in Minnesota.

Naytahwaush Community Foundation (Mahnomon County) | **\$17,750** -- To support the Learning Center, which works to break the cycle of poverty for women and girls in the Naytahwaush community of the White Earth Indian Reservation through education, wellness, and economic opportunity services.

CORNERSTONE: Safety and Security (\$110,000 in funding)

Arc Greater Twin Cities (St. Paul) | **\$15,000** -- To reduce violence against women with disabilities and increase the capacity of justice and victim service systems to serve women with disabilities.

Breaking Free, Inc. (St. Paul) | **\$15,000** -- To reframe the issue of prostitution as systematic violence against women.

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (St. Paul) | **\$15,000** -- To support the Battered Women's Custody Project to address policies harmful to battered women and their children, as related to child custody and parenting time decisions in family court.

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (Minneapolis) | **\$15,000** -- To address the disproportionate violence against American Indian women and girls in Minnesota at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels.

Pangea World Theater (Minneapolis) | **\$10,000** -- To support the *Breaking the Silence* theater production to address domestic violence in immigrant communities; empower battered immigrant women; educate immigrant men and boys about patriarchy and sexism; and educate government, educational institutions and civic groups to affect systems change.

(Collaborative) **Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (Duluth) & American Indian Community**

Housing Organization (Duluth) | **\$40,000** -- To address the systemic trafficking and prostitution of women in Duluth by reframing the issue and identifying service and systems gaps.

CORNERSTONE: Health and Reproductive Rights (\$95,000 in funding)

CAPI (Minneapolis) | **\$40,000** -- Collaborative: CAPI, Liberian Women's Initiative of Minnesota, Centro, Inc., Lao Assistance Center, SEWA-AIFW, African Health Action Corporation. | To support the Refugee & Immigrant Women for Change coalition to fight poverty and social inequalities through achievement of gender equality for refugee and immigrant women.

Rainbow Health Initiative (Minneapolis) | **\$40,000** -- Collaborative: Rainbow Health Initiative, Midwest Health Center for Women, Hennepin County Public Health Clinic, HOTDISH Militia. | To support the Exploratory Research and Intervention Development to Reduce Unplanned Pregnancy in LBTQ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) Youth project to determine the root causes of the significantly higher rate of pregnancy in LBTQ, female-born youth.

Women's Health Center of Duluth (Duluth) | **\$15,000** -- To support efforts to educate state legislators about public policies that pertain to reproductive rights, with a special focus on rural communities in northern Minnesota.

CORNERSTONE: Human Rights (\$32,500 in funding)

HNUB TSHIAB - Hmong Women Achieving Together (St. Paul) | **\$17,500** -- To support the "Family-Based Social Change Model" Family Dialogues, a three-part series that engages Hmong women and men in facilitated

conversations about gender issues in the Hmong community. The series aims to improve the lives of Hmong women and girls by engaging families in creating institutional cultural change.

Waite House (Minneapolis) | **\$15,000** -- To support Mujeres en Liderazgo, an internship-leadership development program that builds upon the strengths and assets of women participants at Waite House through surveys, leadership and professional development workshops, and community presentation opportunities.

CORNERSTONE: Political Power (\$20,000 in funding)

Tri-College NEW Leadership Development Institute (Moorhead) | **\$10,000** (Moorhead) -- To support annual five-day residency conference to engage women in developing leadership skills in grassroots community organizing, community activism, and running for elected office.

The White House Project (Minnesota) | **\$10,000** -- To prepare several hundred rural Minnesota women for civic engagement; to increase the number of women running for local, state and national office; to create networks, events, and tools that enable rural and other women leaders from across the state to broadly support one another's efforts; and to galvanize similar training and networking activities throughout Minnesota, and beyond.

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About the Women's Foundation of Minnesota

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota is a statewide community foundation that invests in social change to achieve equality for all women and girls in Minnesota. The Foundation funds innovative social change programs, builds women's philanthropy, conducts and reports research, advocates public policy, and educates the public about the successes and challenges of Minnesota's women and girls. It is the oldest women's foundation in the country. More at www.wfmn.org.