



2004 GRANT AWARDS

The Vermont Women's Fund is a grantmaking organization that supports the advancement, self-sufficiency, and economic and social equality of Vermont women and girls. We also encourage all women to be philanthropists and to use their collective financial power to help shape Vermont's future. We are a fund of The Vermont Community Foundation, a member of the international women's funding movement, and are governed by a diverse Council of women from across the state.

This year we are honored to support 17 phenomenal projects with \$79,000 in our 7th year of grantmaking. In that time, we are proud to have awarded 106 grants totaling almost \$400,000! Please enjoy perusing the list of awards and know that individual community members like you make each of them possible . . .

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont

"Safe Talk"

Bennington & Windham Counties

\$4,400

The Safe Talk Program hires peer facilitators to facilitate house parties, hosted by a woman in the community, in which friends are brought together in the hostess' house to participate in a three hour workshop about female sexual anatomy, HIV, sexually transmitted infections, safer sex, and lowering risky behaviors.

Burdett Commons

"MOM to MOM Mother's Network"

Bennington County

\$8,298

The "MOM to MOM Mother's Network," which provides individual mentoring and group support to mothers of adolescent children, plans to expand their "Empowering Your Adolescent" support group. This group offers mothers of adolescents the opportunity to share concerns about communication, conflicting values, sexuality, and substance abuse issues that their adolescent children are facing, as well as information on how to promote supportive independence and increased self-esteem for their children.

This group was started with the support of a \$3,008 Vermont Women's Fund grant in 2003.

Central Vermont Community Action Council

"Emergency Assistance & Life Skills Development for Women At Risk for Homelessness"

Lamoille, Orange, & Washington Counties

\$4,000

This project will provide emergency assistance and life skills training to women managing their households solo that are facing eviction or foreclosure, enabling CVCAC to reach these women before their potential homelessness reaches a crisis point.

Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union

“Women and Government”
Franklin County

\$5,362

Women already enrolled in the Franklin Northeast Family Literacy Program designed this education project with the goals of learning about Vermont history, state government and ultimately to become informed, registered voters. Participants will read books, visit local museums and the State House, attend a legislative breakfast, participate in Town Meeting Day and give a final presentation.

Greater Burlington YMCA

“YMCA Infant and Toddler Home Child Care Network”
Chittenden & Franklin Counties

\$7,000

This project provides women with the tools to become economically self-sufficient by establishing their own early care and education programs at home, while also meeting a critical demand for high-quality infant and toddler care in the community.

King Street Youth Center

“Girls Growing Strong”
Chittenden County

\$2,700

“Girls Growing Strong” is a curriculum to strengthen girls minds, bodies, and souls. Young women will meet twice a week to focus on nutrition, obesity prevention, and other fun activities designed to increase self-esteem while gaining respect for their developing bodies.

North Country Hospital

“North Country Women's Resource Network”
Essex & Orleans Counties

\$4,000

To hire a full-time coordinator for further development of the North Country Women's Resource Network. Goals of the project are to increase awareness of the Women's Resource Network, make information and services for women's issues more available to women in Orleans and northeastern Essex County, and to increase the number of women who access the network.

The Vermont Women's Fund helped to establish the Women's Resource Network with a grant of \$10,000 in 2002.

Orange Center Community Association

“Girls' Week 2004”
Orange County

\$1,287

This annual program increases life skills in young girls, grades 5-8, throughout the Orange community by partnering them with teen mentors to accomplish things such as trail-clearing, building bird houses, fitness areas, and wildlife observation areas, and planting trees at the local Girls' Week Nature Trail. These young girls, their teen mentors, and adult women leaders will gain confidence, build leadership skills, make new friends, and much more during their week-long adventure.

The Vermont Women's Fund supported the first-ever Girls' Week with a grant of \$3,000 in 2001, and its continuation with a grant of \$2,000 in 2002.

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Windham County

“RSVP Bone Builders - Windham County”
Windham County

\$3,991

This project will provide the staff support, equipment, and promotional material required to offer 4-6 additional Bone Builders classes in Windham County at no cost to the participants. The RSVP Bone Builders osteoporosis exercise program has been documented to alleviate, prevent, and even reverse the negative impacts of the disease through a twice-a-week, weight-bearing exercise program that also improves strength and balance.

The Vermont Women’s Fund is proud to have funded the first-ever Bone Builders program in Vermont in 2000, and to have made \$25,961 in grants that have served 1,300 women through osteoporosis prevention programs since then.

SafeSpace Incorporated

“SafeSpace Support Line”
Statewide

\$6,000

The SafeSpace Support Line provides direct services and advocacy to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning survivors of domestic, sexual, and hate violence. Advocates work with survivors on the phone and in person to increase their safety by connecting them to appropriate community resources. This grant will allow SafeSpace to expand the hours of the crisis line.

The Vermont Women’s Fund supported SafeSpace in its second year of existence with a grant of \$5,166 in 2003.

Stride: The Wright Foundation for Female Athletes

“Sisters in Sport”
Addison & Chittenden Counties

\$1,125

“Sisters in Sport” will be pairing girls basketball teams from Winooski Middle School and Middlebury Union Middle School with women’s basketball teams from St. Michael’s College and Middlebury College, respectively. The college women’s basketball players will be mentors throughout the season.

“Sisters in Sport” received a grant of \$638 in 2003 from The Vermont Women’s Fund.

Vermont Children's Aid Society

“Birth Parent Counseling Project”
Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, Washington, & Windsor Counties

\$5,900

This project serves birthparents who are involved in Termination of Parental Rights proceedings by the Vermont Department of SRS, where the prognosis for reunification with their children is poor. This Birth Parent Counseling Project is an innovative counseling program that empowers birthparents to participate, with dignity, in the permanency planning process for their children in a non-adversarial approach. This grant will allow the program to expand to Addison County.

The Vermont Women’s Fund made a grant to the Vermont Children’s Aid Society in 2003 for \$5,836, allowing them to continue the Birth Parent Counseling Project, which had been proven to be a successful pilot project.

Vermont Humanities Council

"Reading & Discussion Programs in Women's Correctional Facility"

Windsor County

\$2,260

This year, the Vermont Humanities Council will expand their "Connections" reading and discussion programs with four sessions at the new women's correctional facility in Springfield. These programs will help participants develop literacy skills, a desire to read, and bolster their self-confidence; directly impacting not only these women, but also their children.

A Vermont Women's Fund grant of \$4,500 in 2003 supported the first-ever Connections program, working with women who are incarcerated.

Vermont Institutes

"Tech Savvy Girls Go to College"

Chittenden, Essex, Lamoille, & Orleans Counties

\$7,700

This program will expand the "Tech Savvy Girls" program to create a cadre of female college-level mentors to provide quarterly activities for the college mentors to interact with middle and high school girls. The college mentors will gain increased technology and leadership skills, while creating a pipeline for younger girls to technology and technical programs at three different Vermont State Colleges.

The Vermont Women's Fund is proud to have supported the first year of "Tech Savvy Girls" with a grant of \$6,935 in 2002, and its continuation with a grant of \$6,985 in 2003.

Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties

"A Helping Hand"

Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties

\$5,000

"A Helping Hand" identifies difficulties new mothers may have adjusting to motherhood early on, and provides support through follow up phone calls and/or home visits. This project aims to identify women suffering from Post Partum Depression and referring them to support services.

The Vermont Women's Fund supported "A Helping Hand" in 2002 with a grant of \$3,000.

Volunteers in Action

"Volunteers in Action"

Windsor County

\$2,000

Volunteers in Action seeks to continue and expand their outreach and service to frail, elderly, and socially isolated individuals (82% of whom are women) in a seven town region of southeastern Vermont.

Women Helping Battered Women

"Safe Transitions"

Chittenden County

\$8,374

This project will provide weekly educational support groups to formerly incarcerated women who are survivors of domestic violence, as well as therapeutic playgroups to their children, in order to increase their personal safety and to support their re-entry into the greater community.

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