



2007 Grant Awards

Celebrating 10 Years of Grant-making for Vermont Women & Girls

The Vermont Women's Fund, a component fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, promotes the advancement, self-sufficiency, and economic and social equality of Vermont women and girls. To accomplish this mission, the VWF awards grants to organizations throughout Vermont that share this vision.

In addition, The Vermont Women's Fund encourages all women to be philanthropists and use their collective financial power to help shape Vermont's future. This second key component of the mission makes grants possible.

To celebrate its 10th year of grant-making, The Vermont Women's Fund Council has awarded grants totaling \$201,186: \$156,186 to support 28 projects through its annual funding cycle, as well as an additional \$45,000 in special Strategic Partner Awards.

Over the past 10 years, The Vermont Women's Fund has provided \$745,000 to 109 organizations statewide. Funds for grant-making are available thanks to the generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations.

In 2007, The Vermont Women's Fund is supporting the work of the following organizations that share its vision for Vermont women and girls.

Economic Security & Self Sufficiency

Addison County Parent/Child Center

"Delayed Parenting Project"

Addison County

\$6,250

Outreach to very young, single women to increase the incentives and support to delay parenting until they are older and better able to parent well.

Bennington Coalition for the Homeless

"Support & Life Skills Training"

Bennington County

\$5,000

Support and life skills training for women seeking or trying to maintain housing, and assistance in exploring and eliminating their barriers to decent and affordable housing.

Champlain Valley OEO

"Credit Education"

Addison, Franklin, Chittenden, & Grand Isle counties

\$8,846

Fundamental credit education for low and moderate-income women, including classroom training, a monthly support group, one-on-one counseling, and a bankers forum.

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE)

"Project New Start"

Bennington County

\$10,000

Case management and programming around key issues such as money management, financial capability, health issues, community resources and parenting for survivors of domestic violence who are making a transition to permanent housing, and who are in need of coordinated and comprehensive services.

Springfield Area Parent Child Center

"Work Skills Training for Teens"

Windsor County

\$6,712

A 9-month training program for teen mothers in job readiness skills, with classes and hands-on work experience 10 hours per week.

Vermont Parent Information Center

"Girls in the Driver's Seat"

Addison & Rutland Counties

\$4,563

Young woman and girls with disabilities will take part in an 8-week program to understand their interests, needs, and talents in order to pursue their educational, economic, and personal goals.

Washington County Youth Service Bureau, Inc.

"Transitional Living Program"

Washington County

\$10,000

Teen mothers will gain crucial stability in the form of housing and other life necessities for a period of 6-10 months, as they work to become self-sufficient..

Freedom from Violence

Battered Women's Services and Shelter, Inc.

"Traveling Support Groups"

Washington County

\$9,500

Women who have experienced domestic violence and who are living in underserved rural areas will have access to traveling support groups that will meet regularly in safe locations.

Safeline, Inc.

"And Justice for All"

Orange County

\$8,303

Post-courtroom advocacy services for women involved in Family Court, with the goal of improving outcomes for them as they cope with relief from abuse, divorce and custody actions.

Access to Health Services and Information

Copley Professional Services Group, Behavioral Medicine

"Women in Recovery"

Lamoille County

\$600

A 17-week program that incorporates journaling for self discovery, self awareness and healing for sexually, physically or emotionally abused women.

KidSafe Collaborative of Chittenden County

"Children & Recovering Mothers program (CHARM)"

Chittenden; also Addison, Franklin, Grant Isle & Washington Counties

\$4,000

Specialized intervention and case coordination for pregnant and post-partum, opiate-dependent women undergoing substance abuse treatment.

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont

"The Nurturing Parenting Program"

Rutland County

\$5,000

Mothers in substance abuse recovery will learn about child development, practice healthy parenting skills, and make healthy choices for themselves and their children.

Turning Point Club of Bennington

"Women In Recovery: Hear Us Roar!"

Bennington County

\$10,000

A weekly support group for women in recovery from substance abuse. This support group is unique in the Bennington area in recognizing the challenges and barriers facing women in recovery.

Women and Families Coping With Incarceration**Girl Scout Council of Vermont**

"Inside Stories: The Voices of Incarcerated Mothers and their Daughters"

Statewide

\$3,211

Girls with incarcerated mothers will have the chance to take part in Girl Scouting and capture the unique stories of their daughter/mother relationships on a DVD, designed to assist moms in communicating with their absent children and enhance understanding of parenthood behind bars.

Mobius, Inc.

"Mentoring for Daughters of Incarcerated Women"

Chittenden County

\$5,000

Women will be trained to mentor the daughters of incarcerated mothers, to provide supportive, nurturing female relationships, and decrease the chances that girls will follow their mothers into lives of drugs, alcohol, abusive relationships, and incarceration.

Vermont Children's Aid Society, Inc.

"VCAS Kids-A-Part Program - "Family Survival Guide""

Statewide

\$5,000

This new "Family Survival Guide" will be a resource for caregivers of children of incarcerated parents on issues such as preparing for a visit, helping children through difficult transitions, dealing with grief and loss, and other situations unique to these children and their families.

VSA Arts of Vermont

"Telling My Story"

Windsor County

\$5,000

An 8-week theater program for female prison inmates, in conjunction with Dartmouth College Women's Study students, ending in a live performance and reflections by cast members on their experiences.

Non-traditional Roles**Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes**

"Rosie's Girls"

Addison County

\$5,000

Teenage girls will have the chance to practice carpentry and other trades as they learn non-traditional skills, build confidence, and increase self-esteem in this three-week summer program.

Vermont Works for Women, Inc.

"Step-Up for Women"

Statewide

\$6,659

This modified Step-Up for Women program will accommodate work and childcare schedules in a program that combines learning hands-on skills in the building trades with job-readiness and employment support.

Winooski Parks & Recreation

"Girl's Adventure Club"

Chittenden County

\$5,600

Girls will develop positive body images and connect with strong female role models in a six-week summer course that includes creative art, carpentry, martial arts, and horseback riding.

Changing Systems, Policies and Attitudes

In-Sight Photography Project, Inc.

"Photography for Girls"

Windham County

\$2,750

Teenage girls at Leland & Gray High School will learn traditional black and white photography techniques and gain awareness of how women are portrayed in the media.

Kingdom County Productions

"The Voices Project Movie"

Statewide

\$5,000

A project to create an original film based on the lives of teens in Vermont, with all writing, design and acting by Vermont teens. The film features strong female teen roles and highlights issues facing teenage girls.

Outright Vermont

"Education and Outreach"

Statewide

\$2,800

New information and outreach materials focusing on gender issues, as well as support and training, for a related Speakers Bureau.

Engagement in Civic Life

Alice M. Ward Memorial Library

"Stitching Socials"

Essex County

\$2,100

A multi-generational group of women will come together to build relationships and rediscover and pass on traditional arts such as spinning, knitting, crocheting, and quilting.

Association of Africans Living in Vermont

"Forward Together"

Chittenden County

\$4,542

Homebound African refugee and immigrant women will gather twice-weekly to socialize, engage in group activities, and learn about social services available in the community.

Greensboro Wonder and Wisdom, Inc.

"Senior Trotters"

Caledonia & Orleans Counties

\$3,000

A year of monthly day trips or presentations and a nutritious meal for seniors who may be otherwise isolated, with limited resources and opportunities for education, social contact and community involvement in this area.

Milton Community Youth Coalition

"Summer Girls"

Chittenden County

\$9,250

A component of the larger Milton Summers 4 Youth program, designed to support women and girls of different ages and socio-economic backgrounds by bringing them together through inter-generational activities and events.

NeighborKeepers

"Women in Poverty Poetry Writing Project"

Chittenden County

\$2,500

Women currently participating in Circles of Support and Mercy Connections' Education and Transition Center will be introduced to the art of poetry by Humanities Council scholar Suzi Wizowaty, and participants will learn the basic skills for writing poetry as a means of strengthening their emotional well-being.

Strategic Partners

The following organizations have been selected to receive the first **STRATEGIC PARTNER AWARDS FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC JUSTICE, SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE**. Strategic Partners will receive two years of funding, for a total award of up to \$30,000 each.

Central Vermont Community Action Council—Barre
Mercy Connections – Burlington
Vermont Works for Women – Statewide

Each organization will work individually and collaboratively with each other and with The Vermont Women's Fund. They will develop and test replicable strategies to break down barriers to economic self-sufficiency facing women. Collectively, this work will focus on:

- financial literacy;
- access to credit;
- training for professionals to understand issues unique to working with women in poverty;
- building understanding of poverty among policy-makers of higher socio-economic status;
- creation of a credentialing program for non-traditional learners;
- foundational research on the relationship among women, employment, and incarceration;
- designing a job training program for incarcerated women, to build skills for higher wage jobs.