



The Vermont Women's Fund 2009 Grant Awards

Invest in Women ❖ Building Strong Communities

The Vermont Women's Fund (VWF) harnesses the collective power of giving to promote leadership, equality, self-sufficiency and philanthropy for Vermont women and girls. A member of the International Women's Funding Movement and a component fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, we are Vermont's only grantmaker dedicated to supporting programs that offer women and girls the tools they need to build strong, healthy, empowered lives.

Over the past 12 years The Vermont Women's Fund has provided over \$1 million to 127 organizations throughout the state. We are pleased to announce our 2009 grant awards totaling \$131,294 to 20 organizations, and proudly support the work of the following organizations that share our vision for Vermont women and girls.

Economic Security and Self Sufficiency

Have Justice – Will Travel

"Legal Empowerment Assistance Program"

Statewide

\$10,000

The Legal Empowerment Assistance Program (LEAP) will offer free long term legal assistance to women in Vermont Family Court who are pro se litigants who cannot afford an attorney. In addition to legal advice for relief from abuse hearings, divorce, parentage, child support, child custody and visitation, LEAP clients will have access to the social services and referrals they need to empower themselves both emotionally and financially.

The Intervale Center

"New Farms for New Americans"

Chittenden County

\$10,000

New Farms for New Americans offers a workforce training and microenterprise development program that works with 30 African refugee women and their families in the Burlington area. The program provides training in business development, financial skills, English language, production, marketing, and local culture; access to land, water, and other farming infrastructure; and marketing support from women who are developing farm and food-based microenterprises.

Kids Are Priority One Coalition

"Childcare Subsidy Campaign"

Windham County

\$10,000

To ensure that all children have access to quality child development services, Vermont needs a well trained and compensated child care workforce. The Coalition's Child Care Subsidy Campaign develops the leadership skills of child care professionals (includes both owners and staff of child care providers) and parents whose children are in child care settings and coaches them to effectively advocate to Vermont's policymakers around investing in Vermont's Child Care Tuition Assistance (Subsidy) Program (CCTAP).

Mercy Connections

"Strengthening Connections"

Chittenden and Franklin County

\$10,000

This project will expand upon the current Strengthening Connections Program Series (SCPS) at Mercy's Education and Transition Center by implementing new satellite programs available to women within the correctional system. Through the curriculum of SCPS, women build support systems and skills necessary to make long-lasting significant life changes with a commitment to education and employment.

Project Against Violent Encounters

"Project New Start"

Bennington County

\$10,000

This successful, on-going project offers coordinated and comprehensive transitional housing services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, including financial services, self-esteem-building workshops, parenting classes, educational support, and mediation between landlords and tenants.

Vermont Works for Women

"Step Up to Law Enforcement"

Franklin, Orange, Washington, Chittenden & Lamoille County

\$7,000

This grant provides emergency funding to enable the continuation of one of Vermont Works for Women's core programs, Step Up to Law Enforcement, which lost its primary funding through the Workforce Education and Training Fund due to state budget rescissions. The highly successful program offers the nation's only pre-academy training for women interested in careers in policing and corrections – a non-traditional field offering economic independence and numerous opportunities for professional advancement.

Women Helping Battered Women

"Women's Economic Independence Program"

Chittenden County

\$5,000

A collaboration between Women Helping Battered Women's Economic Justice Program and community service providers, this program works with women who are rebuilding their lives after domestic violence to ensure they have the crucial support and resources needed to overcome barriers to economic independence associated with domestic violence situations. The program provides participants with the tools to meet their economic needs and plan for long term security through financial literacy education and employment mentoring and support.

Access to Health Services and Healthy Lives

Girls on the Run of Vermont, Inc.

"Girls on the Run Scholarship Project"

Statewide

\$5,000

Delivering research-based curriculum-driven health and nutrition programming throughout the school year, Girls on the Run fosters positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual and physical development for girls in grades three through six. Participants work with a female coach/mentor and participate in running activities, work outs and games that strengthen body image and self esteem, encouraging healthy behaviors and increased self-confidence and self-esteem. The 2009 Scholarship Project will help ensure that all girls who desire to participate in Girls on the Run programming are able to do so, regardless of financial need.

Greensboro Wonder and Wisdom

"Senior Trotters – Memory Care Project"

Orleans, Washington, Caledonia and Lamoille County

\$2,500

The Memory Care Project provides women in rural, northeastern with Vermont tools to increase their cognitive functions as they age. Through a series of workshops and group classes, participants will develop techniques to delay and cope with natural memory loss, helping to maintain their self-esteem, confidence, and self-sufficiency.

Lund Family Center

"Teen Pregnancy Prevention Outreach"

Statewide

\$6,039

Through a powerful “straight talk” presentation, pregnant or parenting young women share an honest depiction of the reality of teen pregnancy with groups of their peers. In conjunction with the panelist presentation, a Lund Pregnancy Prevention Outreach counselor provides the students with an educational presentation and question-and-answer period. The program seeks to reduce Vermont's teen pregnancy rate by changing the attitudes of the young women and men attending these presentations at middle schools, high schools, and community centers around Vermont.

Outright Vermont

"Gender Bender Thursday Night Programs"

Statewide

\$9,600

Continuation and expansion of the weekly "Gender Bender" Thursday Night radical queer organizing program, which provides a safe space for Vermont's girls, boys, and gender non-conforming youth to find peer support, serve in leadership roles, and build stronger community support in the most remote parts of the state.

RU12? Community Center

"Vermont Diversity Health Project"

Statewide

\$5,000

Building upon program success from the past year, the Vermont Diversity Health Project will enhance the number and capacity of skilled female trainers from within the LGBT community to increase healthcare provider trainings. As a result, the people most affected by health care discrepancies have the opportunity to actively create change in their own communities, and further the possibilities for reaching providers in all regions of the state with the valuable information they need to work with and for the LGBTQ community.

Westminster Cares

"2009 Wellbeing Initiative"

Windham County

\$5,000

The Wellbeing Initiative addresses the physical and emotional wellbeing of older women in the greater Westminster area. Programming focuses on issues such as nutrition, strength, balance, aerobic capacity, mental alertness, and emotional health.

Safe Environments and Freedom from Violence

AWARE

"Legal Advocacy Program"

Caledonia, Orleans and Washington County

\$5,000

AWARE's legal advocacy program assists and empowers victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence in successfully accessing the legal system in order to keep themselves and their children safe. Advocates are available to clients on a long-term basis to offer legal guidance, emotional support, links to resources, and to provide transportation and attend court with clients when necessary.

Development of Leadership Skills

Friends of North Branch Nature Center

"Young Women in the Woods – Training Girls in the Natural Sciences"

Washington County

\$4,000

Young Women in the Woods is designed to inspire middle school girls to develop a personal and professional interest in the natural world. Participants will develop self-esteem and leadership skills through a combination of outdoor recreation and hands-on natural history study.

Girls Move Mountains

"Dirt Divas"

Lamoille, Franklin, Caledonia, Washington and Orleans County

\$5,000

Serving girls age 11 to 15 from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, with a special emphasis on engaging sedentary youth, this summer mountain bike program fuses girl-centered curricula and experiential education. With program sites in 5 counties, Dirt Divas addresses girls' need for positive role models and mentors, safe spaces in which to discuss and get support for the challenges they face, and engagement in a healthy activity that encourages self-confidence, positive risk taking, and physical and emotional resiliency.

Girls Scouts of the Green and White Mountains

"Girls Rock the Capitol"

Statenide

\$5,000

An internship program for girls in grades 9 to 12, Girls Rock the Capitol pairs women mentors from the Vermont legislature with teenage girls to encourage their voice and help them better envision themselves as full members of their state with the power and skill to affect change. Through this hands-on experience, girls learn about activism, leadership, public policy, civic engagement, critical thinking, and women's political history.

Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union

"Rosie's Girls"

Bennington County

\$5,000

Rosie's Girls® introduces middle school girls to non-traditional careers for women through experiential learning that increases self confidence, math and science skills, resiliency, self advocacy, and personal aspirations. This flagship program in Bennington County will use the Vermont Works for Women Rosie's Girls® curriculum, materials, and training with a unique "Go Green" sustainable energy focus.

The Hub Teen Center

"Leadership Garden"

Addison County

\$4,080

Working with a master gardener, teen girls will plan, plant and harvest a garden with the goal of improving the teen center's nutrition program, donating produce to senior homes, and selling additional goods at the local farmers market. Teamwork, self-confidence, leadership skills, and basic job and entrepreneurial concepts will be learned while providing the girls with a unique way to engage with their community. The seasonal project will be documented with digital video and photography for a presentation in Bristol in the fall.

Vermont Humanities Council

"Women in Need – Seeing the Past & Envisioning the Future"

Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle County

\$5,215

This collaborative program engages women in poverty and other challenging circumstances served by the Vermont women's correctional facility and six social service and educational organizations. Participants gain a better understanding of themselves and their future possibilities by reading, discussing, writing, and meeting with the author of a powerful childhood memoir that illustrates the causes of welfare dependence, generational poverty, and submission to a popular culture that values sexuality more than self-esteem and self-sufficiency.