

2011 Grant Awards

In 14 years of grantmaking, The Vermont Women's Fund has awarded **over \$1.2 million** to organizations around the state. We are Vermont's only grantmaker dedicated to investing in our state's women and girls by supporting programs that offer them the tools they need to build strong, healthy, empowered lives.

2011 marks the start of a new grantmaking approach for the VWF. Spurred by the desire to do more with our limited philanthropic dollars, we have launched a 3-year focused grantmaking initiative targeting programs that provide under-supported, under-resourced young women ages 15-25 with opportunities and experiences that expand their vision for their future. We are proud to support the following grantees who share our vision for Vermont's young women.



Central Vermont Community Action Council (CVCAC)

"NatureSkills: Community-based Learning"
Washington County \$10,000

This community-based science learning program fosters self-directed pathways to economic security through weekly science classes, field-based learning at EarthWalk Vermont, long-term mentoring and career building opportunities in partnership with the Department of Labor. In addition to earning credit towards a secondary credential, young women develop lifelong learning skills and critical community connections that increase self-awareness and widen their landscape of possible futures.



NatureSkills participants in the field

Champlain Valley Area Health Education Center

"MedQuest Health Careers Exploration"
Chittenden, Addison, Franklin, GI County \$4,500

Utilizing UVM College of Medicine students to help staff the program, MedQuest Champlain Valley provides an intensive residential, week-long program held on the UVM campus. Students travel to area hospitals, take part in job shadowing experiences, become CPR certified, gain comfort in health care and college environments and interact with health care professionals and students. The program allows participants to explore and strengthen their skills and resources for health career development.

DREAM

"Young Women's Leadership Program"
Chittenden, Addison, Rutland, Windsor Cty \$1,900

This four part program engages and challenges teen girls, allowing them to learn and grow in both single-sex and mixed settings. Through a summer camp session, two school-year Leadership Trainings, and a late spring Teen Retreat, the young women engage in workshops and hands-on activities that focus on leadership, role modeling, self-advocacy, job-readiness, and more. After successful completion of the program, participants are eligible for a part-time summer job with DREAM as a camp counselor-in-training or community intern-in-training.

Gedakina

"Native Women & Girls Community Wellness Circle"
Chittenden, Franklin, Winsor, Washington, Orange County \$10,000

The Wellness Circle is a multi-generational mentoring and support system that nurtures and encourages all women in the community, while focusing on their growth and wellbeing. Young women find emotional, educational, and cultural support, as well as a safety net and help with informed decision-making in their daily lives. In the Circle, they can address issues that impact themselves, their families and their communities as they transition from teens to young women.

Girl Scouts of the Green & White Mtns

"Girls Rock the Capitol"
Statewide \$7,500

Girls Rock the Capitol is a nationally recognized legislative internship program providing teen girls with leadership and advocacy skills. Teens are paired with women mentors in the Vermont House and Senate to learn about public policy, advocacy, political service, and civic engagement. Girls Rock participants learn practical skills like public speaking, interacting with mentors and leaders, how to affect positive change and explore how to be a leader in the public arena.

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Past Girls Rock participants receiving the Enduring Democracy award for their work on the Constitutional amendment that allows 17 year olds to vote in primaries if they will be 18 by the general election

Governor's Institutes of Vermont
"Promoting Young Women in the Sciences"
 Statewide \$8,000

Young women continue to lag behind male classmates in pursuing science-related higher education and the high-salary professions that go along with degrees in science, math, engineering and information technology. Girls participating in the four science-related Governor's Institutes will gain the exposure, hands-on experience, peer support, and confidence to help close that gap and follow their dreams.

In-Sight Photography Project
"Digital Photography and Web Design"
 Windham County \$1,900

This 10-week class provides young women with the opportunity, materials and mentoring to develop marketable visual literacy skills while empowering them to express their views of the world. Students learn to use digital cameras and photo editing software as well as web design skills that result in a completed website featuring participants' photography portfolios. The young women will have the opportunity to work with a local organization or business to hone their professional skills and their website can be used in conjunction with a resume.

Mercy Connections
"Investigations in Economic Class in America"
 Chittenden County \$10,000

This 12-week workshop helps under-resourced young women who are involved with the Agency of Human Services Reach Up program prepare for college, gain life skills and strategize about their futures. Participants develop a plan for success that includes college

while finding a bridge to follow out of poverty. They learn to capitalize on their personal skills, learning styles and the new support networks they form in class. Two cycles of the workshop will be funded through this grant.

Northeastern Vermont Area Health Education Center
"MedQuest Health Careers Exploration"
 Caledonia, Lamoille, Essex, Orange, Washington, Orleans County \$6,300

Utilizing UVM College of Medicine students to help staff the program, MedQuest Northeastern Vermont provides an intensive residential, week-long program held on the campus of Lyndon State College. Students travel to area hospitals, take part in job shadowing experiences, become CPR certified, gain comfort in health care and college environments and interact with health care professionals and students. Participants are able to explore and strengthen their skills and resources for health career development.



MedQuest participants practicing on a patient simulator

Somali Bantu Community Association
"Rajo Women's Leadership Network"
 Chittenden County \$8,000

This leadership network is devoted to the specific needs and concerns of refugee and immigrant young women in the greater Burlington area. It features empowerment and financial literacy workshops, English language tutoring, career support, parenting workshops, an apprenticeship project for women's traditional arts and a mentor network linking Burlington community professionals to aspiring women. The program is overseen by Somali Bantu's Women's Committee and is provided for and by women in an effort to create a safe and comfortable environment for growth and development.

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YWCA of Vermont

"YW Strive" *Statewide* \$10,000

Strive provides an opportunity for teen girls to connect with other girls from across the state, network with women who hold exciting leadership roles and gain confidence and skills in a supportive environment. The program includes four overnight retreats for young women to identify their own strengths as future leaders, and practice essential leadership skills through a specific focus on leadership for the community, leadership for racial equity, and leadership for a sustainable environment.



Strive participants celebrate at their final retreat

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

"Female Leadership Development—Community Crew" *Franklin County* \$5,000

This intensive, 7-week, non-residential summer program for high school girls in the St. Albans area will provide opportunities for growth and leadership development through local conservation work. In a challenging and supportive all-women environment, participants will grow and gain a stronger understanding of teamwork, responsibility, goal-setting, self-confidence and active citizenship while learning from leaders in the conservation field. Weekly activities will also include a writing, reading and discussion program highlighting articles that focus on women overcoming adversity.

**Congratulations to our
2011 Grantees!**

STRATEGIC PARTNER AWARDS

Building upon the VWF's highly successful first round of Strategic Partner model funding, we are launching a new round in 2011. The following organizations will receive \$20,000 per year for up to three years for their work addressing young women's future economic independence.

Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board

"Three Steps Forward" *Rutland County*

The Three Steps Forward Project is a new community collaboration aimed at increasing access for young women to existing local programs that will assist them in achieving employability and economic sustainability. Beginning with personal assessments to determine their academic levels in reading comprehension and math, as well as career skill sets and interests, a cohort of 20-25 young women per year will develop a personalized path centered on their interests and goals. The cohort will access education, training and skill building opportunities through Stafford Technical Center with a strong focus on "Tech Forward", a computer curriculum that will be the nucleus around which other services revolve. Additionally, job readiness and life skills will be developed through exposure to both traditional and nontraditional education programs, computer technology, career mentorships, personal and leadership development opportunities and community service experiences.

Vermont Works for Women

"Voice, Visibility & Vocation: The Young Women's Project" *Chittenden County & Statewide*

This is a 3-pronged project with overarching goals to: 1) Increase the voice, visibility, and understanding of the needs of young women, ages 15-25, in Vermont; 2) Effect systemic and wide-reaching change by providing resources and training to adults who are already connected to—and have a great deal of influence upon—this population; and 3) Provide opportunities for young women in this age category to explore and pursue career options that lead to economic independence. Beginning with data gathering, the project will map resources and opportunities within the state that address the career or educational aspirations of young women – and any gaps that exist. VWW will then develop and implement their own programming for high school girls; and provide workshops for program providers serving youth, high school/Tech Center/college faculty, as well as parents/guardians. They will also further develop their existing experiential career events that expose young women to high-wage, high-growth nontraditional careers.