



The Vermont Women's Fund ~ 2008 Grant Awards

Celebrating more than a decade of grantmaking for Vermont women and girls!

In its 11th year of grantmaking, **The Vermont Women's Fund** has awarded grants totaling \$194,969: \$149,969 to support 24 projects through its annual funding cycle, as well as an additional \$45,000 in special Strategic Partner Awards.

Over the past 11 years, the Women's Fund has provided \$890,000 to 119 organizations statewide. The Fund's mission is to promote the advancement, self-sufficiency, and economic and social equality of Vermont women and girls, and encourage all women to be philanthropists and use their collective financial power to help shape Vermont's future.

In 2008, The Vermont Women's Fund is proud to support the work of the following organizations that share its vision for Vermont women and girls.

Economic Security and Self Sufficiency

Morningside House

"Life Skills Housing Program"

Windham County

\$10,000

A 2-year transitional housing program that creates a safe, stable, supportive environment for families led by single mothers, while assisting the young women in obtaining the educational, social, and health services necessary to help break previous cycles of poverty and abuse. Residents are provided with secure housing, case management and the opportunity to obtain essential life skills and education with the goal of establishing and maintaining a successful, healthy, independent lifestyle for their families.

Peace and Justice Center

"Economic Justice Project – Guaranteed Paid Sick Leave"

Statewide

\$7,500

This project provides advocacy and outreach for low-wage women, working mothers, and health and child care providers to secure guaranteed paid sick leave for all working people in Vermont through community organizing, education, and coalition-building.

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE)

"Project New Start"

Bennington County

\$10,000

An on-going initiative that offers coordinated and comprehensive transitional housing services to victims of domestic and sexual violence. The project offers case management and programming around key issues such as money management, financial capability, parenting, health issues, community resources, and avenues for communication with landlords.

Stern Center for Language and Learning

"African Family Literacy Project – Women's Component"

Chittenden County

\$3,000

This component of the Center's on-going African Family Literacy Project provides essential literacy services to the Burlington community's at-risk, non-literate African refugee women.

Women Helping Battered Women

"Economic Justice and Self-sufficiency for Victims of Domestic Violence"

Chittenden County

\$8,000

Recognizing the need for long-term housing and economic recovery options for survivors of domestic violence, this program provides support and advocacy for obtaining safe and affordable housing, creating an economic "action plan", and accessing economic resources and referrals to achieve self-sufficiency.

Safe Environments and Freedom from Violence

Clarina Howard Nichols Center

"Survivor-centered Shelter, Support and Direct Service"

Lamoille County

\$10,000

This project provides a secure environment for women and girls who have experienced sexual and domestic violence by providing safe shelter and essential support and direct services. As experts of their own lives, survivors will work with peers and advocates to establish new futures no longer dominated by violence.

Umbrella

"Horizon House"

Caledonia and Essex Counties

\$10,000

Horizon House provides much needed emergency and transitional housing and supportive services for victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children.

Women's Rape Crisis Center

"Support and Advocacy for a Safer Environment for Women and Girls"

Chittenden County

\$10,000

This two-part project incorporates facilitating teen support groups for young women at high risk of abuse, and providing medical accompaniment and advocacy for girls age 0 to 13 and their mothers during pediatric exams following sexual abuse.

Outright Vermont

"Gender Bender Programming Nights"

Statewide

\$4,600

Through peer mentorship and group activities, this new program will address the systems, institutions, and societal perceptions of non-normative gender roles whose stereotypes serve to reinforce unequal power dynamics and discrimination in our society. Weekly, themed events will provide a safe environment to build self-esteem, change views and empower youth.

SafeArt

"Community Roots Collaboration"

Orange and Windsor Counties

\$10,000

This collaboration between SafeArt and the Orange County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force (OCTF) concentrates a spectrum of long-term abuse prevention programming, ranging from activist work to recovery and healing, in the greater Randolph area. The project includes groups that serve women, teens, sexual assault survivors, and prevention-minded community members.

Personal Growth and Well-being

Bella Voce Women's Chorus

"Women's Mentoring Program"

Chittenden County

\$1,500

This project offers women the unique opportunity to advance in their musical careers through a supportive mentoring program that provides a variety of leadership experiences and direct feedback and instruction by multiple professionals for each step of their development from rehearsal preparation through performance.

The DREAM Program, Inc.

"Camp DREAM"

Statewide

\$5,850

Providing girls from low-income families with a free, high-quality summer camp experience where they will participate in team building, skill building, and environmental education activities. The camp provides the girls with a unique and supportive environment to develop self-confidence and healthy lifestyles, while building a sense of caring for community, environment, and self.

Mercy Connections

"Video Voices"

Chittenden County

\$7,000

Highlighting the importance of issues such as low-income housing, childcare, transportation and hunger, women living in poverty tell their stories as a way to educate the public about life in low-income Vermont. By sharing their experiences and engaging in discussion at public video presentations, the stories of these women will offer upper and middle class residents a new understanding and awareness of the struggles of poverty.

Montgomery Teen Center

"Montgomery Girls Group"

Franklin County

\$3,500

A safe environment where teen girls can have fun and just be themselves while learning about personal growth, healthy life skills, leadership, social responsibility, discovering their inner-strengths, and making important connections within their community. The girls play a lead role in designing the activities, content, and structure of their program.

Rosie's Girls – Rutland

"Rosie's Girls Summer Camp"

Rutland County

\$6,500

This flagship project will establish a first-ever Rosie's Girls summer camp program in Rutland for girls age 11 to 13, designed to build self-esteem, perseverance, and leadership through learning and applying basic skills in non-traditional trades. Through these activities, young girls are challenged to develop a broader sense of themselves and their capabilities, learn independence, expand their math and science skills through concrete applications, and consider careers in non-traditional fields. The camp will begin its first season in July 2009.

Vermont Advocacy for Prisoners and Offenders Re-entry (VAPOR)

"Franklin-Grand Isle Women's Mentoring Program"

Franklin and Grand Isle Counties

\$7,500

Matching trained volunteer mentors with females returning from incarceration, this program aims to reduce recidivism by providing mentees with positive role models, encouraging healthy, substance-free lifestyles, emphasizing family unity and the rebuilding of relationships, and offering quarterly community-building events.

Vermont Humanities Council

"Women, Poverty, and the Promise of the Future"

Chittenden County

\$2,500

Through this collaborative project, women in poverty served by 7 social service agencies will gain a better understanding of themselves and their future possibilities by reading, discussing, writing about, and meeting with the author of a unique memoir entitled *Welfare Brat* – a powerful story which illuminates the causes of welfare dependence, generational poverty, and submission to a popular culture that values sexuality more than self-esteem and self-sufficiency.

Winooski Parks and Recreation

"Girls Adventure Club"

Chittenden County

\$5,700

A special six-week component of the Parks and Recreation Summer Program that involves martial arts, carpentry, horseback riding, and dance to help girls build self-confidence, develop positive body image, and connect with female role models.

Access to Health Services and Healthy Lifestyles

Behavioral Health and Wellness Center

"Women in Recovery" & "Voices Program"

Lamoille County

\$2,560

This initiative will continue the Women in Recovery group and expand it to offer a special Voices Program for adolescent girls, ages 12-14. Using gender-specific curriculums, the women's group addresses essential recovery needs while the adolescent program will focus primarily on self-awareness and personal growth. This grant will specifically aid in overcoming the barriers to treatment these women and girls face by providing assistance with transportation and childcare.

KidSafe Collaborative

"Children and Recovering Mothers – Child Protection Team"

Chittenden County

\$5,000

A specialized intervention and case coordination team that supports pregnant and post-partum women undergoing substance abuse treatment for opiate dependency. By coordinating the multiple services needed by these women during their recovery, their health and the safety and well-being of their infants is greatly improved.

Little Bellas

"Mentoring on Mountain Bikes"

Chittenden County and Surrounding Areas

\$3,000

This program joins adult female mentors and girls ages 8 to 14 through the sport of mountain biking. Once a week, June through September, mentors and girls ride together and participate in group team and skill-building activities, focusing on the importance of positive role models, teamwork, goal setting, and participation.

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)

"RSVP Bonebuilders"

Statewide

\$3,426

A free, twice weekly exercise class for seniors that incorporates balance exercises and weight training, as well as nutritional and physical education, to alleviate, prevent, and reverse the negative effects of osteoporosis.

RU12? Community Center

"Vermont Diversity Health Project"

Statewide

\$5,000

This project helps lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer patients identify friendly, supportive, and effective health care providers in Vermont, and offers training and support to enhance providers' skill in working with LGBTQ people.

Turning Point Center of Bennington

"Women in Recovery: Hear Us ROAR!"

Bennington County

\$7,833

A weekly support group that provides an opportunity for women to address and discuss their unique challenges and barriers to recovery. Participants are exposed to a variety of community, educational, employment, and self-enhancement resources to increase their self-confidence and strengthen their sobriety and recovery.

Strategic Partners

The following organizations have been awarded a second year of funding as part of the **STRATEGIC PARTNER AWARDS FOR WOMEN’S ECONOMIC JUSTICE, SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE**.

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

This collaborative, two-year initiative, launched by The Vermont Women’s Fund in the spring of 2007, has provided a total of \$30,000 to each of the three organizations. The Partners have been working to develop and test replicable strategies to break down barriers to economic self-sufficiency facing women, and meeting quarterly in an informational forum to discuss their progress, address challenges, and share ideas. The collective body of their work focuses 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;
- job training programs for incarcerated women to build skills for higher wage jobs.