



## Grants Totaling \$93,000 Support Programs for Women

Seven nonprofit organizations providing services to women will receive \$93,336 in Women's Fund grants this year. Each of these organizations will be recognized at the Oct. 23 Women's Fund luncheon.

"The Women's Fund board has chosen to narrow its priorities this year to address specific needs in the community affecting women, as identified by our research conducted over the past two years," said Sara Woods, grants committee chair. Thirty organizations submitted grant proposals. "The grants committee was impressed by the quality of the applications we received. We believe the programs selected for funding represent the best programs to make a substantial and sustainable impact on the well-being of women in Omaha," Woods said.

Recipients are:

**Catholic Charities** – \$14,584 to provide legal services, benefits and information to immigrant families. The Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Assistance Services program began in 2001 in response to a growing immigrant population that needed assistance applying for immigration benefits. The program provides a pathway to immigration status for certain battered women by helping them apply for residency through the Violence Against Women Act and U Visa. The grant will allow Catholic Charities to increase staffing for the program.

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council** – \$20,947 for the bilingual "The Silence Stops Here" documentary production campaign. This mass marketing campaign is designed to increase awareness of domestic violence against "vulnerable women," such as the elderly, mentally disabled or physically

disabled. The film will air on television as a public service announcement. It also will be used during DVCC educational programs and will be distributed to agencies that assist domestic violence victims. The director/producer will be selected through a documentary/commercial film competition.

**Family Housing Advisory** – \$7,500 for the Smart Change Program that helps women improve their financial condition. The program uses workshops, educational forums and one-on-one housing and financial education to help participants make positive changes in their financial habits. Twenty-five women will participate in the 12-month program.

**Holy Name Housing Corporation** – \$10,000 for the Crown Program that rents single-family homes to persons willing to work toward home ownership. Tenant selection focuses on participants' desire for home ownership and a demonstrated willingness to address obstacles to owning a home. The program includes counseling, workshops on the responsibilities of home ownership and education in home maintenance. Tenants who graduate from the program receive assistance in identifying and purchasing an affordable home. The program serves 84 families earning less than 60 percent of the median Omaha income. In the past

three years, the Crown Program helped 24 families graduate and purchase their own homes.

**Justice for Our Neighbors** – \$10,000 for a project to expand a community education campaign about immigrants' rights. It focuses on the most vulnerable populations, such as domestic violence victims and unaccompanied minors. Justice for Our Neighbors provides free immigration legal services, education and advocacy for immigrants.

**Midwest Women & Children's Services** – \$20,000 for a program to assist women in securing their own economic success and prosperity through self employment. The program, which is modeled after the successful WomenVenture program in Minnesota, will include three core focuses - business development, financial literacy and career counseling. It also will provide micro lending.

**Omaha Street School** – \$10,305 for the Transitions program that assists young women ages 18 to 22 with transitioning from high school to self-sufficient adult living. This time period is critical in determining the future outcome for at-risk women. The one-year, pilot program will include former Omaha Street School female students. Participants will be eligible to join Transitions after graduation or their decision to quit school. The program is a collaborative effort with Creighton University.

## WOMEN'S FUND OF GREATER OMAHA

### Our Mission

*The Women's Fund of Greater Omaha examines issues and conducts research to provide informed support for initiatives that improve the lives of metropolitan area women and girls.*

### What's Inside

- Women's Fund Receives Google Grant
- Ready To Serve Workshops Planned
- Profile: Michele Feichtinger
- Women's Fund Moves to New Location



## New Web Site Includes Interactive Features



The Women's Fund launched its new Web site in late July. The site is hosted by eTapestry, the online database management firm used by the Women's Fund.

Many exciting new features are available with the revitalized Web site. First of all, making a donation to the Women's Fund has never been easier. It is now as simple as a click of your mouse. Also, stay on top of events sponsored by the Women's Fund with current information posted on the home page. Then, use the event registration page to quickly enter your information to purchase a ticket or table.

"The Women's Fund is profoundly grateful to board member Sharon Carleton and her team at Ervin & Smith Advertising and to our own Shari Gilg

for our tremendous new Web site," said Ellie Archer, executive director. "The many updated features will allow us to operate more efficiently, communicate more effectively and make transactions easier for both our donors and our constituents."

Behind the scenes, this new Web site will link data entered for either online donations or event registration directly into the database, where it is easily maintained by the Women's Fund staff. This integration will be key in managing our donor information. E-marketing is a priority for the Women's Fund for the remainder of 2008 and into 2009. Our new Web site provides a flexible way to update our donors and ensure they can follow the important work being done by the Women's Fund.

Check it out at [www.omahawomensfund.org](http://www.omahawomensfund.org) today!

### Did You Know?

- In 2006, 84 percent of Omaha women surveyed said a male-dominated corporate culture was the number one obstacle to their success in the workplace.
- In the last decade, the number of women in elected positions in Douglas County declined from 34 percent to 29 percent.
- 73 percent of women surveyed reported a concern for work and family balance.

These statistics are from the "Women and Leadership in Omaha" research study conducted by the Women's Fund. Visit [www.omahawomenwork.org](http://www.omahawomenwork.org) to view the full report and read more about women and leadership.



How does

the Women's  
Fund



bring  
about  
change?

Identifying and researching major issues impacting the lives of women and girls in the Omaha area.

Educating the public on these issues.

Funding initiatives that benefit the women and girls of our community.

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