

Women's Fund 2013 Grants Make Impact

February 4, 2014

The Women's Fund of Portage County heard from thirteen community projects it funded a year ago for a total of \$25,000. The grants focused assistance on local women and children.

A pilot project from Operation Bootstrap, "Household Stabilization Project for Single Moms," provided funds to stabilize one household with essentials for up to three months in order to stave off homelessness for a family that is temporarily in trouble but which will have sustainable income in the future. While the choice of the ONE mom was difficult, the project identified a 30-year old mom with a first and third grader in school and serious threats to their household. The family has strong prospects for the future but fell into financial peril recently. With help over the immediate crisis, this mom is ready to stabilize the family's future.

Other grants provided: summer breakfasts to eligible school age children through the Boys and Girls Club; clothes for school through Project Fresh Clothes at St. Paul's United Methodist Church; books for young children to own through Wisconsin Bookworms; emergency nutrition and cribs for newborns and supplies for Happy Smiles, all through Portage County Health and Human Services; pediatric emergency kits for First Responders through GFWC Stevens Point Woman's Club; a skills enhancement program for working-poor women seeking improved employment through CAP Services; enrichment activities for special-needs SPASH students through Community Partners; expansion of Junior Achievement in middle; scholarships at UWSP for single moms with financial need; reduced entrance fees for low-income families at the Central Wisconsin Children's Museum; energy payment assistance to at-risk families through Operation Bootstrap.

The Women's Fund of Portage County empowers women philanthropists by creating the opportunity to fund programs that develop the full potential of women and children. The Women's Fund is a permanent endowment of the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin. Gifts to the Women's Fund may be directed through our web site.