

Women's Fund Impact in the Community 2014

January 11, 2015

The Women's Fund of Portage County gave out 16 grants totaling \$38,914 in 2014 to 10 local agencies that develop the full potential of women and children in our community. At the end of 2014, before the next grant cycle, Women's Fund asked the agencies that received grants to share the results they achieved using the grant monies. Joan North, Women's Fund President, noted that all of the agencies provided grant monies were effective in reaching into the community to enhance the lives of women and children. The following summaries provide a look into how local agencies made an impact in Portage County.

"Summer Breakfast" program through the Boys and Girls Club of Portage County focused on the at risk children. As they stated, "In Portage County over 3,000 families live in a food-insecure household." The WF grant provided food for 917 youth served, half of them girls.

"Safe Baby/Safe Child" project through Portage County Health and Human Services provides safety-approved cribs for families who would not otherwise have the means to provide a safe place for their infants to sleep. WF grant provided 40 (out of 53) Pack N Play cribs/sheets and educational materials along with 200 families that received Period of PURPLE crying program DVD/booklets which approaches the frustrating feature of crying; this went to 200 families in 2014.

"Community Partners" program through SPASH fosters independence for special needs students. In 2014 80% of 30 special needs students maintained regular contact and reported feeling more socially confident.

"Healthy Smiles of Portage County" is a Portage County Health and Human Services project in schools providing dental screening, sealants, fluoride varnish and education to all 2nd and 6th grade students. In 2014 1100 students participated.

“Every Child, Every Family, Every Fund!” through the Central Wisconsin Children’s Museum provides reduced admission for low-income, special needs children and families. In 2014 there were 1465 low-income individuals served and 232 individuals used the Museum for therapeutic and professional services.

“Very Young Composers” is an afterschool program that provides 4th and 5th graders the opportunity to compose original music. The fee is waived for all qualifying students. The WF funds were used for food at receptions, meetings and the Seminar and costs associated with the orchestration phase of the program.

“Sexual Assault Victim Services (SAVS) Child Advocacy Center” accompanied 21 individuals to Wausau, of which 9 were children. The WF grant supported SAVS’ ability to begin directly serving children and families of children who are sexual assault victims.

“Family Crisis Center’s secret garden” project provided a security fence for new green space area that provides a safe, private space for play, healing for women and children. Family Crisis provided a record breaking 4564 days of shelter to women and children experiencing domestic abuse. In total, 61 women and 53 children were served.

“Outdoor Learning Pavilion at Y Camp Glacier Hollow” through our partner, YMCA, uses its surroundings to enhance educational experiences by allowing interaction with nature. Over 1000 school age children and teens attend Y Camp every summer. An additional 600+ students come to Y Camp Glacier Hollow during the school year.

“Ministry Kids Fit” through Saint Michael’s Foundation will be expanded to children the Community Weight Race (CWR), which has been a long-standing successful program to encourage our community’s adults to choose healthier lifestyles through exercise and nutrition.

“Ministry Dental Center’s age0-3 program” through Saint Michael’s Foundation young children with problems with oral health. Ministry Dental Center’s 0-3 Program provides preventative care, access and education to the youngest children in our community who may be at risk.

“Skills Enhancement Program” through CAP Services provides training to help at risk women in working-poor families secure better-paying jobs since 1997. There were 35 participants, five more than last year.

“Operation Bootstrap” provides funds to keep families from being evicted through their “Rent/Mortgage Assistance Project for Single Moms” through Operation Bootstrap provides. Eleven moms with 23 children were stabilized with this project.

“Energy Payment Assistance for Single Moms” through Operation Bootstrap helps Moms pay for energy bills that have become emergencies. Twenty-seven moms with 64 children were stabilized by this grant; none were forced to leave their home, five families had utilities re-connected.

“Student Mothers Scholarship at UWSP” provides a scholarship for student moms who have significant financial need and might not be able to continue their education without help. The WF grant provided two scholarships, to women who each had two daughters.

“Sexual Assault Victims Replacement Clothing” program for replacement clothing for sexual assault victims who have their clothing collected as evidence during forensic evidence exams at Saint Michael’s Emergency Room. SAVS provided clothing to 22 women and children. There were 139 victims of violence were in 2014.

The Women’s Fund will celebrate the allocation of 2015 grants on May 8th at their Spring Luncheon to be held at SentryWorld, in Stevens Point.