



WFA Grant History

The Women's Foundation of Arkansas began in 1998 as a project of the "Top 100 Women of Arkansas" and was a designated fund with the Arkansas Community Foundation. In its first year, WFA's founders contributed \$100,000 to establish the Women's Foundation as an enduring resource for all Arkansas women and girls. Grants from the fund are used to promote ideas and support programs that assist Arkansas women and girls in achieving their full potential in any endeavor. WFA gifted \$152,449 since the first grant-making cycle in 1999 through the 2006 grant-making cycle.

Grants Committee Report – 2000

The grants committee reviewed 41 applications and awarded \$20,000.

- \$5,500 for the Girls of Promise Conference, a one-day statewide conference held in Little Rock for eighth grade girls and their math or science teachers. The conference emphasizes math, science, technology, finance, and medicine. It features successful women who share their paths to success and who challenge the students to take higher level math and science courses.
- \$2500 to Conifer Girl Council, Texarkana for "HOT," (Hands On Technology). The project goal is to promote positive attitudes about math, science and technology. Women employed in these fields will conduct workshops and arrange job-site visits for the girls participating. Impact: 100 girls over 10 months.
- \$2500 to Mother to Mother of Northwest Arkansas in Bentonville. The grant will provide financial assistance to cover childcare and transportation costs for 12 under-served mothers to receive training in computer skills and self-enrichment courses to help them surmount personal barriers to achieving self-sufficiency. Impact: 12 women and their families.
- \$2500 to The Learning Center in Bee Branch. This pilot project will create an after-school mentoring and computer education program for at-risk girls in a rural area with few resources. The pilot project will focus initially on 8 girls.
- \$2500 to The Shepherd's Ranch Program (a part of Centers for Youth and Families). This grant will support an on-going statewide mentoring program for at-risk girls from age 10 until they graduate from high school. This project includes weekend and summer activities as well as weekly mentor contacts. Impact: 24 – 60 girls and mentors.
- \$2500 to Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Pulaski County. Funds will be used for a computer loan program for low-income single mothers enrolled in higher education. The new and/or upgraded used computers will allow mothers to complete their assignments at home while caring for their children. Nine used computers have been donated and are ready for upgrading. Other funds will allow the purchase of additional computers. The computers will be passed on to other scholarship recipients in subsequent years. Impact: initially, 9 – 11 women. Additional women will benefit in subsequent years.
- \$500 to the Arkansas Advisory Committee on the Status of Women to help purchase and disseminate 300 copies of a comprehensive report on the health, political and economic status of women in Arkansas. The purpose of the report is to promote women's equality and their full participation in society. This award will be made in memory of Diane Blair



- \$500 to Boys, Girls, and Adults Community Development Center in Marvell, AR, to support “Sowing Seeds of Fire: Stories of African American Women Activists in the Delta.” Funds will support an in-depth oral history research project that will incorporate interviews, film and photographs. Subjects of the research are two African American women activists, Erma Jean Davis of Marvell and Cassie Currence of Gould. Project will provide a teaching tool for Delta schools.
- \$500 to University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. Funds will support a nationally advertised 21st Century Families Conference focusing on initiatives critical to families and mothers. Topics at the conference will include health and nutrition; strengthening families; developing youth; managing resources; and developing leadership and volunteerism. Expected attendees: 400, 80% of whom are expected to be women.
- \$500 to UALR Foundation to support research for “A Gathering of Women: Arkansas Women 1930-2000,” an exhibit and website to be created through the research of Dr. Johanna Miller Lewis, Professor of History. This project will trace the trends in Arkansas women’s history by comparing experiences of women across the state. Impact: Exhibit will open in May 2001, available statewide.