



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.

The Women's Foundation is currently working to grow the WFA Grant-making Endowment Fund so that we might provide increased support to deserving organizations currently addressing the states' greatest needs for women and girls. Funding is made available to human service, educational, and charitable groups in every corner of the state.

Grants Committee Report – 2011

In 2011 the Women's Foundation of Arkansas received 31 Letters of Interest totaling \$244,400 in requested funds. Regional Grant Making Committees reviewed Letters of Interest and applications from their areas and made recommendations for the WFA Board of Directors.

The Foundation awarded a total of \$29,970:

- \$14,970 for programs/projects in Central Arkansas;
- \$5,000 for programs/projects in Northwest Arkansas; and
- \$10,000 for programs/projects in Southeast Arkansas.

CASA Women's Shelter of Pine Bluff, \$10,000 for a **Job Training Program Coordinator**

The job training advocate will work one on one with the agency's clients to develop their confidence and skills so that the women may find gainful employment. This program will help the CASA clients in their skill building: resume preparation, interviewing skills and professional attire. CASA is committed to ending violence against women and children and believes that women and children have the right to live without fear of battering - physically, emotionally or financially.

Girl Scouts Diamonds of AR, OK, & TX, \$6,500 for **Financial Literacy for Girls**

Through an interactive Girl Scout Pathway Series focusing on financial literacy, the Girl Scouts - Diamonds Council will partner with local experts, educators and/or volunteers to educate teenage girls in grades 9-12 on the importance of effectively managing their personal finances and to empower these girls to make sound financial decisions as they enter adulthood. Utilizing the "Hands On Banking" materials available through Wells Fargo Bank, the Diamonds Council will host financial literacy programs throughout the state for both Girls Scouts and non-Girls Scouts providing over 240 girls with useful resources and tools to help them improve their organizational and money management skills.

Girls Inc., \$2,500 for **Girls Dig It!**

Girls Dig It! will give Ft. Smith area young women participating in the Girls Inc. program a more detailed look into the dynamic world of archaeology. The program bridges the sciences and the humanities, combining the tools of scientific disciplines with the interpretive practices of humanities'



disciplines such as history, art history, anthropology, linguistics, philosophy, folklore and folk life.

The program introduces the girls to the analytical and interpretive skills used in these disciplines, as well as to the epistemological and ethical questions raised by archaeological investigation.

Methodist Family Health, \$3,645 for **Arkansas Cares**

Funds from the WFA grant will purchase GED preparation software and printed materials for the women of Arkansas CARES (Center for Addictions Research, Education and Services). Many of the CARES women have not completed high school or the General Educational Development (GED) test. Having this software allows Methodist Family Health to help the women prepare for the GED test, opening up the door to better jobs, continuing education and overall future success (and their children's success) upon leaving the program.

Ozark Literacy Council, \$2,500 for **Financial Literacy Program for Women**

OLC's financial literacy program for their women ESL students will enable them to acquire language skills to secure a job, to allow them to become knowledgeable participants in their own financial situation, and to develop financial independence. Partnering with Arvest Bank, LULAC NWA, LULAC Arkansas, NWA Hispanic Advisory Council, and the U of A's International Students and Scholars Program, OLC can coordinate efforts to meet the financial literacy needs of the Washington and Benton County women immigrant population, so that they and their families can inevitably contribute to the economic vitality of our community.

Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Pulaski County, \$2,825 for **Women's Employment Initiative**

The Women's Employment Initiative is designed to help SPSF recipients who are soon-to-be or recent college graduates find lucrative employment. The program offers employment assistance for approximately 30 women. Services such as mock job interviews; individual resume design and production consultation; guidance with interview attire, and professional job-search assistance are offered through a day-long workshop and several follow-up consultations for each participant. Workshop presentations are offered by the employment specialists at Little Rock Workforce Center and HR professionals from L'Oreal and Acxiom.