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Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County awards \$112,500 in grants

WAUKESHA (June 5, 2019) – The Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County recently awarded \$112,500 to 11 local non-profit organizations to support programs that promote the welfare, independence and self-sufficiency of women and girls of all ages. With the presentation of its 2019 grants, the WGF has given just over \$1 million to nearly 60 Waukesha County non-profit organizations since its inception 15 years ago.

Grants for 2019 were awarded to:

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee:** \$15,000 for about 45 Waukesha County girls in single-mother households to participate in a one-to-one mentoring program.
- **Innovators in Learning and Achievement, Inc. CESA # 1:** \$10,000 to establish a teen academy for middle school girls that focuses on strategies to help them succeed in high school and beyond. Women mentors will help girls identify their strengths and possible career paths.
- **Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast:** \$10,000 to engage girls in robotics and coding, and offer opportunities in technology-focused camps, Girls & STEM events and STEM Journey curriculum.
- **Good Friend, Inc.:** \$5,000 to expand peer sensitivity workshops and classroom presentations for elementary and middle school students, and teachers and administrators on autism awareness, acceptance of differences, and developing empathy for children with autism.
- **Healing Hearts of Waukesha County:** \$10,000 to provide grief-support programs for children ages 4-18 in Waukesha and Oconomowoc who have experienced loss due to death, divorce, incarceration or other life-altering events.
- **IndependenceFirst:** \$1,500 to support GirlsFirst and LadiesFirst, programs that provide girls and women with disabilities a safe, non-judgmental environment in which to participate and form new friendships while raising consciousness about disability issues.
- **Lake Area Free Clinic:** \$15,000 to provide free medication for all female patients for six months.
- **Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.:** \$15,000 to support Trauma Informed Care for At-Risk Preschoolers, a program that gives primary caregivers the tools to effectively deal with young children who have a history of trauma.
- **Hispanic Health Resource Center:** \$15,000 for the Breast Health Education and Navigation program that works to reduce preventable deaths for an at-risk and underserved population by fostering breast cancer education, screening and treatment.

- **SHARP Literacy:** \$10,000 for a four-week STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) summer camp for 100 girls in grades 3-5 from Waukesha County schools.

- **Wisconsin Community Services:** \$6,000 for a program to support girls in Waukesha to ensure success at school, home and in the community. Services include mentoring, providing resources to girls and their families, regular contacts with parents/guardians and schools, and support over the summer to prepare girls to return to school.

The Women and Girls Fund, established in 2004, seeks to aid and enrich the lives of women and girls so they become thriving residents of their communities. Its signature event, the annual Women of Distinction luncheon, was held May 10 at The Ingleside Hotel. The event raised \$175,000 to support grants in 2020.

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