

Women for Women Grant History **2006 – 2018**

Total Grants \$3,489,689

**2018 *Women for Women* Collaborative High Impact Grant totaling \$450,000
Grant Focus Area – Promotes the Facilitation of Safe Living Environments for Women
and Girls: Addressing issues of violence in Western North Carolina**

Buncombe Partners in Prevention: Helpmate, Mountain Child Advocacy Center, Our VOICE and Pisgah Legal Services - \$450,000 over three years to implement their prevention project. The goal of the project is to promote healthy relationships where people live, learn, work, play and worship, which will ultimately reduce the perpetration of sexual violence, domestic violence and child abuse in Buncombe County.

With the funds, Our VOICE, Helpmate and Mountain Child Advocacy Center will each employ Prevention Educators who will provide educational presentations, policy consultations and public information promoting healthy relationships and parenting norms. Helpmate and Our VOICE will provide intake services at the Buncombe County Family Justice Center, as demand for services is expected to increase as prevention messaging becomes more widespread. Pisgah Legal Services will designate a staff member as a Public Policy Advocate to research best practices for violence prevention policies, draft sample legislation and policies and disseminate information to support advocacy for appropriate public policy changes.

On average, every 2 hours in Buncombe County, the Department of Health and Human Services receives a report of child abuse. Weekly, 50 survivors of domestic violence contact Helpmate for assistance. To address the staggering rates of violence, service providers banded together to overhaul victim services and launch facilities such as the Buncombe County Family Justice Center and the Mountain Child Advocacy Center. These efforts intervene after violence has occurred. Prevention is necessary and an effective strategy. Using proven public health strategies and consistent messaging, the Buncombe Partners in Prevention project will work to change social norms and create a community free from abuse.

2017 Women for Women grants totaling \$270,000

Grant Focus Area – Promotes the Facilitation of Safe Living Environments for Women and Girls: Addressing issues of violence in Western North Carolina

Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County - \$31,772 over two years to fund staff, supplies and field trips for participants in a program for high-need/high-risk girls and boys. The Club uses SMART Moves, a national program with a research-based curriculum aimed at the prevention of Bullying and Domestic Violence, as well as healthy relationship building. Delivered through gender-specific and co-ed classes, participants learn to avoid risky behaviors, combat attitudes leading to dating violence/sexual assault and techniques for solving conflict, all of which can shift norms regarding violence.

Mitchell County SafePlace - \$41,428 over two years to continue funding for a staff person who provides a primary Domestic and Sexual Violence prevention education program **“Love = Respect”** at Mitchell High School, Bowman Middle School and Harris Middle School for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 school terms. **“Love = Respect”** uses the Safe Dates curriculum that is proven to help young people recognize the difference between caring, supportive relationships and those that are controlling, manipulative or abusive. This program has resulted in increased student knowledge about the laws and consequences of dating violence, sexual harassment and sexting and has the potential to reduce violent behavior.

Park Ridge Health - \$70,000 over two years to create a Henderson County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), an organized group of professionals who support victims through the medical, emotional and legal issues and procedures that result. PRH is partnering with Safelight and The Free Clinics to implement this project. Funds will renovate a specialized forensic exam room, purchase vital forensic equipment, conduct specialized training for SART partners and increase community awareness about the available services for victims. The SART is a nationally recognized and proven model that leads to the prosecution of perpetrators.

SAFE, Inc. of Transylvania County - \$100,000 over two years to develop a Family Justice Collaborative and hire a Victim Navigator who will be the point person for the coordinated efforts of the partnering organizations. The Collaborative is based on the Family Justice Center model and involves the cooperation of law enforcement, the court system, governmental service agencies and other nonprofits. The Victim Navigator will improve the delivery of services to victims including those who may have been isolated from services due to geography or culture as well as those overwhelmed by the complex service matrix.

Steps to HOPE - \$26,800 to upgrade the security system of its domestic violence shelter, a locked facility that is in service 24 hours. The current system is 14 years old; software no longer supports programming and parts for repair are not available. The upgraded security system will ensure that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault remain safe from their abusers. The need is acute as the Polk County Sheriff’s Department is moving from next door to 1.5 miles away.

2016 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$254,181.70

Grant Focus Area – Promotes the Facilitation of Safe Living Environments for Women and Girls: Addressing issues of violence in Western North Carolina

Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) -- Steadfast House - \$50,000 for one year to support a no-cost residential program which gives each Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault survivor access to resources to become independent emotionally with counseling and parenting classes, physically with medical treatment, and financially with job skills, financial training and saving for the future in order to afford safe housing. Steadfast House has established a beneficial relationship with both Homeward Bound and the Housing Authority to assist these women with housing options, which is important to the stability of their family as well as themselves.

Our VOICE - \$100,000 over two years to build capacity across a 5-county area to identify and respond to victims of human trafficking. Funding will support a new Human Trafficking Coordinator who will facilitate the development of a Rapid Response Team (RRT), identify and disseminate best practices to service providers, ensure coordination with Charlotte and 30th Judicial District Alliance RRTs, and provide both outreach and education to the public, traditional/non-traditional service providers and communities. This project will build a stronger infrastructure for women and girls who have been trafficked and provide them with the tools to escape this ordeal.

REACH of Macon County - \$64,181.70 over two years to enhance and expand current violence prevention efforts for 5th - 9th grade students in Macon and Jackson Counties. The prevention curriculum includes education instruction on how to identify abuse, safe ways to intervene, the development of healthy relationships, and the prevention of violence by working to change previously accepted attitudes and beliefs that create an environment in which violence against women is acceptable. The program over its five-year existence has gained much community and school system support.

Wheels4Hope (March 2017: Grant transferred to W4H Asheville dba Working Wheels) - \$40,000 for one year to assist in the repair of donated cars and to connect them with economically vulnerable females in the counties of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania and Yancey. In a partnership with Helpmate, the cars will be matched to survivors of domestic violence in order to facilitate the victim's recovery and independence. This access to a dependable car is essential to escape unsafe environments, earn an income, stay independent and break the cycle of violence.

2015 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$258,186

Grant Focus Area – Promotes the Facilitation of Safe Living Environments for Women and Girls: Addressing issues of violence in Western North Carolina

Helpmate, Inc. - \$98,686 over two years to create a new case management position to work with women victims of domestic violence in Buncombe County. They will conduct emergency and long-term safety planning and guide women through the confusing maze of support options. With the anticipated opening of a Family Justice Center in Asheville, a one-stop-shop for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, Helpmate anticipates an increase in the number of domestic violence victims taking advantage of its services.

Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) - \$45,000 toward the planning phase of the Family Justice Center (FJC). FJC is a coalition of public and private agencies that will operate in a centralized location with the goal of providing enhanced services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and child abuse. Past experience with FJCs has shown that extensive planning is needed to ensure a smooth transition to this “one-stop-shop” for services. Organizational leaders from MAHEC, Helpmate, Pisgah Legal Services, Our Voice, Child Abuse Prevention Services, and Mission Forensic Services will participate in this planning.

Options, Inc. - \$24,500 to purchase a van and begin a transportation program for victims of domestic and sexual violence residing at its shelter. Lack of transportation creates a substantial barrier for victims attempting to leave violent homes. Once they reach the Burke County shelter, only 1 in 8 clients have transportation, limiting their ability to establish independent lives. This program will transport clients to service providers such as Social Services, the Housing Authority, and various other locations needed to help them improve their living situations.

Pisgah Legal Services - \$90,000 over two years to expand free civil legal aid to rural women in 16 WNC counties and thereby protect and stabilize the lives of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Pisgah Legal Services will promote its services to rural women through its own outreach and through partnerships with domestic violence prevention agencies, law enforcement, DHSS, court officials, churches and civic groups and community colleges.

2014 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$210,000
Grant Focus Area – economic security for financially-disadvantaged women and girls

Clean Slate Coalition - \$35,000 to launch a new direct service program, called Clean Slate Enterprises, for women residing at the Clean Slate House in Sylva, some of whom have been imprisoned or institutionalized. They will make organic cleaning supplies and offer custodial and cleaning services to businesses and individuals in WNC, primarily in Jackson County. The goal is that after one-year in the program, women will have acquired work experience, possibly a job (at minimum a resume with references), and improved life skills; thereby reducing their risk of recidivism, addiction relapse and homelessness.

Mainstay, Inc. - \$50,000 for the Dandelion Eatery Job Training program, located in Henderson County, which prepares women who are survivors of domestic violence (as well as teen mothers and other at-risk women) for jobs in the food service industry. On-the-job training occurs in all aspects of food service (menu preparation, purchasing, inventory control, sanitation, food preparation, cooking, food service, cashiering, etc.) and each participant will be able to identify her most appropriate job niche. Dandelion interns directly experience how their actions affect other members of the team (most of these women live together as well as work together), learning the importance of cooperative behavior, dependability, financial responsibility and other important life skills.

Eliada Homes, Inc. - \$50,000 to expand the Eliada School of Trade Arts (ESTA) program to include female students. ESTA is a 1-year culinary arts /vocational, transitional living program that serves financially disadvantaged youth who have been part of the foster care system but will otherwise “age out”. ESTA students spend part of their time working at Eliada Homes and also in paid work-study opportunities off campus in restaurants. These internships may result in permanent job placements upon completion of the program. Students are housed on campus and pay rent. These funds are reserved for the students in a trust savings account available to them when they leave Eliada. Academic studies in the program include business math, business English, computer technology, and self-promotion and etiquette. Character development and life skills training supplement the academic program.

OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling - \$75,000 to support the Women’s Financial Empowerment Center (WFEC) that helps women achieve their money goals through education, group support, counseling, coaching and follow-up with their clients; as well as expand an age appropriate program to serve girls. Counties served by the operational support portion of the grant are Haywood, Jackson, Yancey and Henderson. Counties proposed for the girls program are Buncombe, Transylvania and Madison counties.

2013 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$263,000
Grant Focus Area – economic security for financially-disadvantaged women and girls

Blue Ridge Community Action awarded \$48,000 over two years to support the Burke County Circles Initiative. The local program is a customized version of the national Circle Initiative. Grant funds will expand existing services by offering Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to women who've completed or are participating in the 15-week course. IDAs are savings accounts that can be used only for purchasing a first home, basic transportation, capitalizing a small business, or education or job training expenses. Contributions by participants will be matched 3:1 using grant funds.

Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County awarded \$20,000 for one year to expand its existing educational and character development program, SMART girls, serving all female members. SMART Girls is a nationally-recognized and locally-customized program under the umbrella of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's evidence-based Project Learn. These gender-specific programs have proved effective at helping at-risk girls achieve academic success, avoid premature sexual activity, develop a positive self-image, pursue post-secondary education and practice positive decision-making.

Homeward Bound awarded \$50,000 over two years to create an advocacy campaign to educate the community about how homelessness affects women and children in Buncombe and Henderson counties. With a campaign targeting faith communities and female-owned businesses, Homeward Bound hopes to eradicate the stereotype that the homeless are mostly adult men and to shed light on the often unseen homeless population of women and children.

Mayland Community College Foundation awarded \$75,000 over two years to offer women in the Avery-Mitchell-Yancey area a one-stop facility for entrepreneurial success by providing a health-certified, equipped kitchen and technical assistance for processing and selling agricultural products, baked goods, jams, herbs, sauces, catered meals, etc. – products in high demand due to these counties' strong tourism industry.

Our VOICE awarded \$20,000 over two years to develop and present a middle and high school Teen Tech Safety Project to educate Buncombe County teens regarding the short-term and long-term consequences of sexting/posting sexually explicit photos on social media sites. The project also seeks to increase girls' self-esteem so that they can resist peer pressure and avoid risky behavior while discouraging other girls from engaging in similar behavior.

YWCA of Asheville and WNC awarded \$50,000 over two years to support its New Choices Program. New Choices helps hard-to-employ women in Buncombe County, who currently lack the skills and education required to obtain living wage jobs, by providing job-seeking and employment training. The program uses case management to establish rapport, set and track goals that target personal gaps, and link participants to community resources.

2012 Women for Women grants totaling \$252,000
Grant Focus Area – economic security for financially-disadvantaged women and girls

Burke County Public Schools/Family Connections awarded \$47,000 for an 18-month direct service project, ***Step Up for Teens***, to hire an additional staff member to expand an existing program called Family Connections. The proposed project would focus mainly on 12th grade pregnant or parenting students and continue for six months after high school to help these teens to pursue education and/or job placement.

Centro de Enlace awarded \$55,000 for a two-year project entitled ***¡Educate!*** to serve Latina women in Burnsville, Yancey County, a designated Tier 1 (highest need) area. The direct service program is designed to improve economic security for Latina teens and mothers through a multi-generational model. The program will improve economic security for Latina teens and mothers through a multi-generational model including weekly tutoring sessions, mentoring, financial planning, empowerment and relationship coaching, meetings with parents and overnight visits to colleges. *¡Educate!* is a new program that will help young women to move from the cycle of early marriage/motherhood to delaying pregnancy, becoming high school or college graduates and financially secure.

Just Economics awarded \$50,000 for two years to hire a community organizer for an existing advocacy program in Buncombe County and expansion into Transylvania County. ***Voices for Economic Justice*** trains low-income women to become advocates on their own behalf, particularly for "living wage" jobs. These women develop leadership skills and confidence, which impacts their own lives. The goal is for all workers to make at least a living wage. Low-income people are empowered to advocate for themselves and their neighbors.

Mountain Area Child and Family Center awarded \$50,000 for two years for the ***Mothers on the Move*** (MOM's) program, which serves Buncombe County. This project provides comprehensive support, case management and free or low-cost child care to allow low-income mothers to pursue educational goals and to raise their families out of poverty.

Mountain BizWorks awarded \$50,000 for one year to expand ***Empowering Latinas through Business and Credit Building***, its direct service pilot program for low-income Latina entrepreneurs. Participants are drawn from 4 counties: 40% from Buncombe; 40% from Henderson; 20% from Polk & Transylvania. The program will provide customized business coaching and loans to start or grow businesses. It will also help these women to build credit. The businesses will create living wage jobs.

2011 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$270,000
Grant Focus Area – Economic Self-Sufficiency

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College Foundation (AB Tech)

\$100,000 over two years to significantly increase the retention and graduation rates of low income women students. This program would expand an existing program at AB Tech and be replicated at Blue Ridge and Haywood Community Colleges. The project, Building Support and Opportunities (BSO), provides “intensive advising”—ongoing academic and career coaching, as well as limited financial support to scholarship students at each institution.

Center for Participatory Change

\$20,000 for one year for the Immigrant (Latina) Women’s Worker-Owned Business Project to expand and provide intensive support for 3 existing worker-owned cooperative businesses (two housekeeping; one “cut and sew” business). They also plan to support two new businesses. They will also create tools to support replication of the worker-owner model, including a workbook that outlines start-up "how-to's" for new cooperative businesses. Replication of this model has potential to serve a large number of women.

Children First/Communities in Schools in Buncombe County

\$50,000 over two years to support advocacy and community engagement that includes public policy advocacy around issues such as child care, paid sick leave, NC tax modernization and a poverty reduction initiative. In the past 3 years, with help from a WFW grant, Children First has saved key state services in education, health and human services from drastic budget cuts. They have increased the advocacy capacity, support, and networking among local nonprofits and have involved low income families in developing strategies.

Pisgah Legal Services

\$100,000 over two years awarded to establish the Rutherford Women’s Economic Empowerment Project in partnership with Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Rutherford County (CCCS). The grant will provide free legal aid, financial education, and counseling services to remove barriers to economic self-sufficiency for women.

2010 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$235,000
Grant Focus Area – Economic Self-Sufficiency

Children and Family Resource Center of Henderson County

\$15,000 for one year to advocate for an increase in the number of subsidized childcare spaces and the affordability of childcare. Additionally, they aim to raise the quality of early childhood education in Henderson County by promoting an increase in education standards for childcare providers and reducing their turnover rates.

On Track Financial Education and Counseling

\$100,000 over a two year period for the development of a new project, the Women’s Financial Empowerment Center (WFEC) to empower women with knowledge and skills to take charge of their finances. The program will use the steps of “Crisis/Stability/Self-Sufficiency/Asset Building” to help women achieve financial literacy.

Task Force on Family Violence: REACH, Inc.

\$100,000 awarded over two years to expand and enhance an existing Women’s Resource Center’s (WRC) successful part-time program that is presently limited to displaced homemakers. The project targets women who do not fall under the definition of displaced homemakers in 3 of the identified highest need counties in WNC. Partnering with Tri -County Community College (TCCC) and local businesses, the women served will obtain assessment, counseling, educational training and job placements through the efforts of a paid staff person coordinating services with the highly successful Job Now Program at TCCC.

YWCA

\$20,000 for 1 year for a new advocacy program to develop a community strategy to educate and train women for living wage jobs in the merging green economy. YWCA will develop a working group of stakeholders in Buncombe County and a Directory of Green Jobs and career pathways for women.

2009 Women for Women grants totaling \$264,000
Grant Focus Area – Economic Self-Sufficiency

Blue Ridge Literacy Council

\$15,000 for one year for operating support to continue providing low-income women the English communication and literacy skills they need to gain employment, better their income, and reach a higher level of independence.

The Center for Participatory Change (CPC)

\$35,000 for one year to continue to provide intensive services to four emerging Latina worker-owned small businesses across WNC.

MANNA FoodBank

\$50,000 for one year to expand the Teach One, Reach One (TORO) food stamp outreach program from five WNC counties into Graham, Haywood and Mitchell counties.

Mountain BizWorks (MBW)

\$50,000 for one year to continue the Women's Business Center (WBC) to provide business planning programs, coaching and support services to assist economically disadvantaged women to start small businesses.

Pisgah Legal Services

\$50,000 for one year to sustain core, critical legal services in Madison, Buncombe, Henderson, Rutherford, Polk, and Transylvania counties at a time when women are more vulnerable than ever to economic crises.

YWCA of Asheville

\$64,000 over two years to continue its Drop-In Child Care service for low-income women participating in the YWCA's New Choices Program. In existence for ten years, the New Choices Program is designed for displaced homemakers who are in financial crisis and desire to become economically self-sufficient.

2008 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$280,321
Grant Focus Area – Basic Needs

Children First

\$95,000 over a two year period to support a full time Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement who will effectively address emerging issues, integrate resources with strategic advocacy campaigns and broaden the voice for change in our community.

Planned Parenthood Health Systems, Inc. (PPHS)

\$96,781 over a two year period to implement a program called Teens Taking Action (TTA).

The Western North Carolina AIDS Project (WNCAP)

\$88,540 over a two year period to hire a full-time Project Coordinator and two more part-time Facilitators for their program Sisters Informing Sisters on Topics about AIDS (SISTA).

2007 *Women for Women* grants totaling \$270,000
Grant Focus Area – Basic Needs

Consumer Credit Counseling Services of WNC (CCCS)

\$35,000 for one year for “Financial Literacy for Women Who Shape Future Generations.”

Henderson County Public Schools/Coalition For Family Literacy (CFL)

\$66,667 over two years for the Coalition for “Family Literacy: Developing Sustainable Service for Women At-Risk.”

Homeward Bound of Asheville (formerly Hospitality House)

\$40,000 over two years for the “New Horizons for RITI Women” Program.

REACH of Macon County

\$54,810 over two years for the “New Choices Program” and “The Empowerment Project” to assist women affected by domestic violence or sexual assault.

Transylvania Christian Ministries (TCM)

\$73,523 over two years for the “Intensive Case Management/Transitional Housing Program.”

2006 *Women for Women* Grants totaling \$213,000
Grant Focus Area – Basic Needs

REACH of Jackson County

\$41,604 for one year for the Employment Life Skills Training Program (ELSTP).

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice (WCCJ)

\$100,000 over two years for the Women at Risk Intensive Outpatient Program.

Pisgah Legal Services (PLS)

\$71,396 over two years for the Health Education and Legal Support (HEALS) project.