



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 – 2001

The Grants and Programs Committee reviewed 36 applications and awarded \$16,090.

PC Maintenance and Repair – Computer in a Box - \$5000

The Pine Bluff School District Scoggins-May-Hall Gifted and Talented Center is sponsoring the program titled, "PC Maintenance and Repair," an extension of the "Computer-in-a Box" program WFA funded in 1999. The program targets 4th to 9th grade girls, who work in pairs.

From proposal: "The challenge is to involve more girls in the technical computer technology courses, rather than just general computer courses. I knew the project would need to be interesting, competitive, time-worthy, and fun for the girls to buy-in. This was accomplished through the first course, Computer in a Box. The girls learned the names and functions of all of the inner parts of a computer. They then used that knowledge to construct working computers from the case up."

"In PC Maintenance and Repair, the 4th to 9th grade girls will learn the basics of troubleshooting, maintenance, and upgrading computer systems. They will utilize Intel Motherboards, computer cooling fans, sticks of memory, video cards, and miscellaneous parts, boards, cords, and software. At the end of the project, all of the girls will be able to service most common computer systems in use today."

Math, Science, Computers...and Girls! – Hands on Technology (HOT) - \$1770

The Girl Scouts of Conifer Council is sponsoring the program titled, "Math, Science, Computers and Girls!" an extension of the "Hands on Technology" (HOT) Program funded by WFA in 2000. The program targets 14 counties in southwest Arkansas and will reach 100 to 125 girls in each county.

From the proposal: "The WFA grant we received in 2000 for Hands on Technology allowed us to equip 12 HOT tubs and conduct activities for girls in math and science. The new grant will allow more than 1000 girls to increase their computer skills and confidence and to explore the world of technology. It will encourage girls to consider college degrees in fields such as computer science and engineering. The 12 HOT tubs, laptop and tutorial will be shared throughout the 14-county southwest Arkansas area, including Texarkana, DeQueen, Nashville, Magnolia, Eldorado, and Camden."

Everyday Math & Technology – Every Day! - \$5000



The Sutton Elementary School, a Fort Smith Public School is sponsoring the program titled "Everyday Math & Technology – Every Day!"

From the proposal: "Students in my 6th grade class are from lower income homes with parents who are mostly blue collar workers. Only 20% have access to a computer. For this project, the 6th graders will be divided into groups of four students who will go to businesses in our community to interview women about how they use math and technology every day in their jobs."

"Students will prepare questions ahead of time and will utilize various forms of technology, including a digital camera, video recorder, computer, and tape recorder. They will return to the classroom to edit and work on a PowerPoint presentation incorporating digital video clips. The women who are interviewed, the students' parents and other classes will be invited to see the presentations in March during Women's History Month."

"Grant funds will be used to purchase computer equipment, a television, a digital camera and other items so students can prepare presentations after interviewing professional women in the community to find out how the women apply math and technology in their everyday work."

Musical Mentoring - \$4320

The Vilonia Public School Band Department is sponsoring the program titled "From College-to-Classroom, Students-Teaching-Students Musical Mentoring."

From the proposal: "The Vilonia School District is the eighth poorest school district in the state. We have no local industry, but our parents are very hard working. We may be rural, but we have the best interests of all of our students at heart. In our state much money is spent on sports, but it is important that the Women's Foundation of Arkansas is focusing on helping girls and will provide funds for meaningful and significant mentoring projects."

"In this Mentoring Project, female college band students from the University of Central Arkansas will be paired with female Vilonia high school and junior high band students for one-on-one coaching and teaching. Each participating female high school and junior high band student then will be assigned a middle school female band student to instruct, mentor, encourage and teach. The lessons will be highly structured, with individual goals of All Region Band and college music scholarships."

"This project will instill in girls a strong commitment to give back to their community by mentoring other girls, a commitment that may last all their lives."