



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 – 2002

The Grants Committee reviewed 60 grant applications and selected 7 for funding, for a total of \$14,000.

- Second Genesis: \$2500 for a mentoring program serving women who as a result of poverty, domestic violence, drug addiction, or poor coping skills, have been incarcerated. Once they are released from jail, this program provides help with housing, life skills, counseling, and mentor support so women can gain employment and be reunited with family. (Central Arkansas)
- Girl Scouts Conifer Council: \$2500 for a mentoring program for 7th to 12th grade girls to develop leadership skills, explore career paths in law, medicine, business, communication, and government and learn about financial management and philanthropy. Girls will shadow women mentors in their community and will volunteer for 12 hours of community service. (12 counties in southwest Arkansas)
- Boys and Girls Club of Arkansas River Valley: \$2500 for a mentoring program for girls, ages 13 to 18 to explore careers, develop skills necessary for obtaining and holding jobs, increase decision making skills, and develop goals using a computer generated plan. The program also includes small group discussion, guest speakers, field trips, and job shadowing. (Russellville, northwest Arkansas)
- Girl Scouts of Crowley's Ridge: \$2500 for a targeted mentoring program for Hispanic girls and their mothers and Hispanic business and community leaders to provide an intergenerational program encouraging decision making, assertiveness, and leadership skills among young girls and teens. (Paragould, northeast Arkansas)
- Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Pulaski County: \$2500 for a mentoring program for adult women who are single parents and are seeking a college degree. The program pairs current college scholarship recipients with mentors on five college campuses to encourage them in selecting courses, career paths, and to navigate and solve any problems so they will complete their degrees and their goals for jobs, community activities, and providing guidance for their own children. (Central Arkansas)
- Newton County Library: \$800 to create a base collection of books featuring women who are leaders, who work in unusual occupations, and who provide strong role models. (North central Arkansas)
- Women and Children First: \$550 to provide mentoring by 25 community volunteers for 400 women who are victims of domestic violence. The program includes learning basic computer skills, writing letters and resumes, and studying for the GED to improve employment prospects. (Central Arkansas)
- Dress for Success: \$150 to provide some funds to purchase plus size clothing and large size shoes for women who need business clothes to interview for jobs. The Women's Foundation also will encourage board members and friends to donate gently used clothes for this project.