



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 - 2003

The 2003 Mini-grant Committee reviewed 70 proposals requesting a total of \$281,000. This first round of evaluations yielded positive reviews of 25 applicants, representing funding requests totaling \$99,000. The committee then discussed the merits of each proposal in relation to WFA’s mission and goals, the number of women and girls potentially served by the project, the program’s geographic scope, budget, and capacity for change-making within the community. *The group also decided that the funding emphasis would be on programs for women and girls that inspire personal, educational, and economic development, rather than projects that were strictly human/social service efforts designed to meet basic needs of food, shelter, health, and safety.* Thirteen grants were awarded for a total of \$15,557.

- GROW Project (\$1,000): The Junior League of Little Rock’s GROW Project encourages girls to participate in bimonthly seminars, summer camp, mentoring, arts enrichment, and field trips focusing on improving self esteem and leadership potential. Focus: Self Esteem. Geographic Scope: Central Arkansas, Little Rock.
- Circle of Givers Project (\$1,000): The League of Women Voters – Arkansas’s Circle of Givers Project will promote philanthropy among women, between 35 and 75 years of age, who are working professionals in 5 counties in central Arkansas. Focus: Philanthropy. Geographic Scope: Central Arkansas, 5 County area around Little Rock.
- NASA Project (\$600): Wonderview High School’s NASA Project - A female astronaut will visit female students at the high school to inspire them to reach high expectations in their future careers and in their lives. Focus: Mentoring. Geographic Scope: Northwest Arkansas, Hattiesville
- College and Career Day Project (\$857): The University of the Ozarks College and Career Day Project, for 8th grade girls, will encourage them to make plans to excel in high school and in college and it will expand their vision and interest in various careers available to them in the future. Focus: Education & Economic Development. Geographic Scope: Northwest Arkansas, Clarksville
- Career Development Project (\$1,000): The Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Washington County’s Career Development Project will help women who are single parents to consider career options and create a smooth transition to the business world after college. Women professionals will mentor participants in workshop seminars. Focus: Mentoring. Geographic Scope: Northwest Arkansas, Springdale
- LEAP Project (\$2,000): The Literacy Council of Jefferson County’s LEAP Project will reach low-literate women and girls and teach work readiness, personal hygiene, communication skills,



computer skills, and a strong work ethic. Participants will learn through classroom instruction and mentoring. Focus: Skills Development. Geographic Scope: Southeast Arkansas, Pine Bluff.

- Girls + Science = Success Project (\$2,500): The Girls Scouts of Conifer Council's Girls + Science = Success Project will raise the level of expectations for higher education and careers, of older girls in 12 counties in southwest Arkansas. The project will provide an innovative approach to motivate girls to continue their education and pursue careers specifically in medicine, physics, biology, and engineering. This is WFA's third grant to the Girls Scouts of Conifer Council. Previous grants supported HOT- Hands on Technology, computers, math-science workshops, job-site visits. Focus: Education & Economic Development. Geographic Scope: Southwest Arkansas, 12 Counties.
- She's On the Money! Project (\$2,500): The Women's Project "She's On the Money!" Project will provide girls the skills needed to make smart decisions about their financial futures and to contribute to the economy. They will learn how to budget, save, and take informed financial risks. Participants will also discuss issues affecting women such as childcare, welfare, and equal pay for equal work. Focus: Financial Education. Geographic Scope: Central Arkansas, Pulaski & Garland Counties.
- Sowing Seeds of Fire Oral History Project (\$1,000): The Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center's Sowing Seeds of Fire Oral History Project will build on an earlier grant from the Women's Foundation to the "Delta Women and Youth Achieving Goals" project that documented Delta African American women's struggles and successes. This new project will provide intergenerational mentoring, skills building, an introduction to technology careers, and sharing stories promoting social action and justice. Focus: Mentoring. Geographic Scope: Southeast Arkansas, Marvel.
- Women in Our Lives Project (\$1,500): Vilonia Primary School's Women in Our Lives Project is an ongoing weekly project that introduces K through 4th grade girls to professional careers and career opportunities in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. The project also includes mother/daughter meetings in the library and classroom visits. This is the third grant to the Vilonis School District: Previous grants supported a Music Mentoring project, and a section of Library Books on Successful Women. Focus: Mentoring. Geographic Scope: Central Arkansas, Vilonia.
- Delta Scholarship Project (\$500): The Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund's Delta Scholarship Project is a public awareness and marketing project to increase awareness in 10 rural counties in the Delta, to promote education and career opportunities for women who are single parents, and to encourage them to apply for scholarships for college classes for career preparation. This is WFA's fourth grant to the Single Parent Scholarship Fund. Previous grants supported Pulaski. Co. Computers on Loan for Women, and Student Mentoring project, as well as this year's Washington Co. Career Development project. Focus: Education & Economic Development. Geographic Scope: Eastern Arkansas; 10 Delta Counties.
- Ready to Read Project (\$100): The Community Action Program for Central Arkansas's Ready to Read Project will provide funds for non-prescription reading eyeglasses for women who are incarcerated in Faulkner County so they can improve their reading skills and plan for re-entry into the workforce. Focus: Education & Economic Development. Geographic Scope: Central Arkansas, Faulkner County.



- Positive Power Project (\$1,000): The Girl Scouts of Crowley's Ridge "Positive Power Project" will work to eliminate bullying and to build self-esteem for girls residing in housing authority residences, who will learn anti-bullying techniques, decision-making, and leadership techniques, resulting in more successful educational and career paths. This is WFA's third grant to the Girl Scouts of Crowley's Ridge. Previous grants supported a project for Hispanic girls, mothers, and grandmothers, intergenerational mentoring through scouting; and Science Kits. Focus: Self-esteem. Geographic Scope: Northeast Arkansas, Jonesboro.