



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Women's Foundation of Minnesota awards \$350,000 in grants to end the prostitution of Minnesota girls

(April 12, Minneapolis) –The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded \$350,000 in grants to nine organizations through MN Girls Are Not For Sale. Launched by the Women's Foundation in November 2011, MN Girls Are Not For Sale is a five year, \$5 million campaign to end the sex trafficking of Minnesota girls through grantmaking, research, and public education.

Over the next year, grantees will drive legislative action to change state laws to recognize girls under age 18 who have been trafficked for sex are victims of a crime, not criminals; pursue sustainable housing and comprehensive treatment for sex-trafficked girls; and decrease the demand through effective law enforcement and policies.

Grantees:

Advocacy

The Advocates for Human Rights (Statewide) | **\$40,000** –To lead advocacy efforts through the Project to Combat Sex Trafficking to pass legislation to include 16-17 year old girls (and boys) identified as victims under the Safe Harbor Act and to deliver training for frontline professionals on education and awareness of child sex trafficking.

The Family Partnership/Polaris Project (Statewide) | **\$50,000** – For advocacy efforts focused on implementation of the Safe Harbor provisions to ensure publicly-funded housing and services for sexually trafficked girls. Their project will also include federal advocacy activities to pass and enact Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act to position Minnesota as an applicant for federal support.

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (Minneapolis) | **\$30,000** – To conduct statewide public awareness about the needs of sexually-exploited victims; and complete development and field testing of core training curriculum for professionals to recognize, intervene, and prosecute sexual exploitation crimes perpetrated against American Indian girls.

Program to Aid Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA) (Duluth) | **\$30,000** – To organize a multi-jurisdictional response between law enforcement and advocates by designing effective treatment interventions, implement new police protocols, and provide advocacy response to victims of trafficking.

Housing

Breaking Free (Saint Paul) | **\$50,000** – To expand housing, educational programming, and trauma-informed and culturally-specific services for sex-trafficked girls, and develop model protocols for victim-centered services among law enforcement, courts, and service providers.

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Minneapolis Police Department (Minneapolis) | **\$47,500** – To expand ongoing work in investigations of sex-trafficking cases; increase partnerships with City of Minneapolis; and develop protocols that are victim-partnered, cross-disciplinary, and rapid response.

Ramsey County Attorney's Office (Saint Paul) | **\$50,000** – To transform police and prosecution practices to address juvenile sexual exploitation throughout the state; develop and analyze research database of sexual exploitation cases; and improve cross-department referral protocols.

Saint Paul Police Department (Saint Paul) | **\$47,500** – To transform police and prosecution practices to address juvenile sexual exploitation across Minnesota and develop a toolkit that consists of protocols, investigative tools, internal training resources, and community outreach materials to share with police and prosecutors, statewide.

Planning Grant

Kwanzaa Community Church/Northside Women's Space (Minneapolis) | **\$5,000** – To decrease the sex trafficking of girls by increasing the number of girls served through holistic partnerships and referral systems, and by increasing their access to supportive services.

Extended Grant

Heartland Girls' Ranch (Benson) - To develop a comprehensive, culturally specific housing model program based on survivor leadership, in order to meet the safety and healing needs of domestically sex-trafficked girls, ages 13 to 18.

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About the Women's Foundation of Minnesota

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota is a statewide community foundation that invests in social change to achieve equality for all women and girls in Minnesota. The Foundation funds innovative social change programs, builds women's philanthropy, conducts and reports research, advocates public policy, and educates the public about the successes and challenges of Minnesota's women and girls. It is the oldest women's foundation in the country. More at www.wfmn.org.

About the MN Girls Are Not For Sale campaign

MN Girls Are Not for Sale is a five-year, \$5 million campaign of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota to galvanize resources to end the sex trafficking of Minnesota girls. More at www.MNGirlsNotForSale.org.