

Women's Foundation awards \$405,000 in grants to end the sex trafficking of Minnesota girls

(Apr. 4, Minneapolis) —The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded 13 grants totaling \$405,000 and extended two grants from last year's cohort through its MN Girls Are Not For Sale Fund. 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 educate and lobby for policies that support sex trafficked youth, implement sustainable housing and services, and implement protocols and practices for law enforcement and the judicial system.

Grantees:

180 Degrees (St. Paul) | **\$50,000** – To hire a housing and services director to supervise programming at the new 12-bed therapeutic housing facility for trafficked youth, scheduled to open August 2014.

The Advocates for Human Rights (Statewide) | **\$15,000** – To develop and disseminate core educational resources for community and social service providers about sex trafficking in Minnesota, best practices for victim identification and primary prevention, and referral resources now available through Minnesota's Safe Harbor laws.

Breaking Free (St. Paul) | **\$50,000** – To ensure access to housing and holistic services for survivors of sex trafficking, to open a dedicated shelter for trafficked girls ages 16-17 through Safe Harbor funding, and continue criminal justice advocacy and ongoing training of the judicial system.

Casa de Esperanza (St. Paul, Statewide) | **\$10,000** – To ensure the impact of trafficked Latinas is better understood and addressed; to build organizational capacity and the capacity of others; and to provide culturally specific resources and training that are relevant for Latina victims.

Cornerstone Advocacy Services (Statewide) | **\$15,000** – To create a coordinated response to support the state's No Wrong Door model for sexually exploited youth, and to enhance the Day One Domestic Violence Crisis Line to be the centralized point of contact for trafficked youth and those working with youth survivors.

The Family Partnership (Statewide) | **\$40,000** – To provide policy and advocacy leadership toward full funding and implementation of Minnesota's Safe Harbor model, and to steward relationships with Minnesota's congressional delegation and local policymakers to draw upon federal resources and effectively implement the model.

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Heartland Girls' Ranch (Benson) | **\$50,000** – To expand housing and evidenced-based culturally specific services to trafficked girls through the Hearts for Freedom program; to incorporate survivor voices into core programming and services; and to expand outreach to increase victim identification and referrals of sexually exploited youth for creation of a referral network to ensure a system of coordinated care in their region.

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (Hennepin County) | **\$40,000** – To formalize law enforcement's relationships across Hennepin County; train law enforcement; adopt a standard approach to prosecuting perpetrators; implement practices that impact penalties for traffickers and perpetrators; and support a Crime Information Sharing Analyst to share data with localities and match it with local investigations.

Life House (Duluth) | **\$15,000** – To build infrastructure and increase the capacity of the community collaborative, Safe Harbor Shelter Project-Duluth. To create a new response for sexually exploited girls with case management, systems advocacy, and shelter advocate, who will work across agencies to accomplish this continuum of services and housing.

The Link (Minneapolis) | **\$50,000** – To develop shelter, housing, and trauma-based therapy; survivor mentoring; educational services; case management; health care; and youth development activities. To provide six beds for youth in emergency shelter and five units of transitional housing.

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (Minneapolis) | **\$15,000** – To conduct significant public awareness outreach to advocate for the needs of trafficked girls, and support replicable community-based initiatives to empower the urban American Indian community to address issues that leave girls disproportionately vulnerable to sex trafficking.

Program to Aid Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA) (Duluth) | **\$15,000** – To develop and implement formalized protocols within the Duluth Police Department, the St. Louis County prosecutor's office, and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, and to use the model developed by the trafficking task force to ensure appropriate intervention, services, and referrals support sex trafficked children.

Ramsey County Attorney's Office (Ramsey County, Statewide) | **\$40,000** – To develop a statewide protocol for law enforcement, prosecutors, and county attorneys who encounter trafficked youth; to disseminate investigative best practices to identify sex trafficked victims and traffickers; and to develop and conduct statewide training for law enforcement and prosecutors on model protocol and Safe Harbor Law.

Extended Grants

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

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St. Paul Police Department (St. 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.

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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 makes grants, conducts and reports research, advocates public policy, builds women's philanthropy, and educates the public about the successes and challenges of Minnesota's women and girls. Founded in 1983, it is the oldest statewide women's foundation in the country. More at wfmn.org.