



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Women's Foundation Awards \$237,500 in Grants to End Sex Trafficking in Minnesota

(June 29, Minneapolis) — The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded five grants totaling \$237,500 through its MN Girls Are Not For Sale Fund. The Foundation has invested more than \$5 million through MN Girls, a campaign to end sex trafficking in Minnesota through grantmaking, research, and public education.

Over the next year, grantees will focus on the following priorities:

1. Research and advocacy efforts to increase resources for shelter, housing, and services for victims of sex trafficking and training for law enforcement. *Due to these efforts, the Foundation is pleased to announce that the State recently adopted a \$3 million funding increase (for a total investment of \$11 million) for the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Act for fiscal year 2018-19, raised the upper age limit to 24 years old, and provided additional training dollars for law enforcement.*
2. Decrease demand by educating and mobilizing public support and activism through strategies aimed at youth, men and boys, and the broader community to prevent sex trafficking in Minnesota.

Grantees:

**The Family Partnership** (Statewide) | **\$50,000** – To address remaining gaps and raise the upper age limit for Safe Harbor services, shelter, and housing eligibility. Continue work towards the \$13.3 million statewide funding goal to provide trauma-informed, culturally specific services, statewide outreach, and law enforcement training.

**The Link** (Minneapolis) | **\$50,000** – To develop a prevention marketing campaign specifically targeted to youth and to develop a prevention curriculum that can be utilized within schools. The Link will deliver continued employment and enrichment programming for Youth Participatory Action Research members and a marketing and public awareness campaign for the community. This grant supports collaboration between the Link, University of MN UROC, City Attorney's office, and KNOCK.

**Men As Peacemakers** (Northeastern MN) | **\$50,000** – To complete the creation of resources and support the kickoff and dissemination of the "Don't Buy It Project", a project to engage, educate, and mobilize men and boys to reduce the commercial sexual exploitation of young women and girls. Grant funds will support an outside evaluator, testing of an online training module, and publishing a program guide and outreach campaign.

**Regents of the University of Minnesota, Urban Research & Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC)** (Minneapolis) | **\$37,500** – To provide background and secondary research on sex trafficking and sporting events in advance of the 2018 Super Bowl in Minneapolis and continue research to develop a high-level picture of the demand for victims of sex trafficking in Minnesota.

**TrueChild** (Statewide) | **\$50,000** – To continue second phase of project to create a demand-reduction social marketing and public education program and expand on formative research—including message development, working with media partners, and conducting public messaging testing and creating evaluation metrics.

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#### About the Women's Foundation of Minnesota

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota is a statewide community foundation investing in innovation to drive gender equity. Learn more at [WFMN.ORG](http://WFMN.ORG).