

Main Street Community fund awards \$45K to 17 area nonprofits to improve lives of local women, girls

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BRISTOL – The Women & Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation has awarded \$45,000 in grants to 17 area nonprofits to improve the lives of local women and girls.

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship & program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation, said with these grants, combined with the 20th anniversary grants awarded in September, \$65,000 has been awarded this year from the Women & Girls Fund.

"This is a record amount and will have a tremendous effect on the communities we serve," Rajotte said.

Catherine Cassin, chair of the Women & Girls Fund's Advisory Board, said she is "thrilled" the fund is awarding a record number of grant funds this year.

"The first grants Main Street Community Foundation awarded from the Women & Girls Fund totaled about \$7,000," she said. "The fund has grown tremendously thanks to the generosity of the many donors who believe in its mission."

For the past 20 years, the Women & Girls Fund has helped to support programs that improve conditions and opportunities for women and girls in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

Jessica Pieri, chair of the Women & Girls Fund's Distribution Committee, said the 17 programs which were awarded grants were organizations that have a "longstanding relationship" with the fund and are providing "critical" programs to women and girls. All grants are for unrestricted support of women and girls programming.

"Based on the ongoing needs of the community, we knew the best way to support the nonprofits that are providing vital programs was through unrestricted support," Pieri said.

The following programs were awarded grants:

- . The Boys & Girls Club of Bristol - \$3,000
- . Bristol Youth & Community Services' Parent & Child Center - \$3,000
- . Burlington Food & Fuel Bank - \$2,000



Brian Johnson Staff Susan Sadecki, president and CEO of the Main Street Community Foundation speaks at the annual meeting of the Women & Girls Fund in a past year.

- . CT Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) - \$3,000
- . EdAdvance's Plymouth Family Resource Center - \$2,000
- . Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut - \$2,000
- . For Goodness Sake - \$2,500
- . Imagine Nation, A Museum Early Learning Center - \$3,000
- . Literacy Volunteers of Central CT - \$2,000
- . Plainville Community Food Pantry - \$1,000
- . Plymouth Community Food Pantry's Diaper Bank - \$2,000
- . Prudence Crandall Center - \$5,000
- . Shepard Meadows Equestrian Center - \$2,000
- . St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Bristol - \$3,000
- . The Agape House - \$2,500
- . The Children's Law Center, Inc. - \$5,000
- . Tunxis Community College's Launch Your Leadership Program - \$2,000

Grants were made possible with the proceeds from the annual Wonder of Women (WOW) event, the Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women and the John & Gloria DiFrancesco Fund for Women and Girls.

Since the Women & Girls Fund was established in 2001, more than \$665,000 in grants has been awarded to improve the lives of local women and girls.

For more information on the Women & Girls Fund, call the Main Street Community Foundation at 860-583-6363 or visit mainstreetfoundation.org.

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-973-1806 or bjohnson@bristolpress.com.