

Women and Girls Fund awards record grant money

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BRISTOL- The Women and Girls Fund awarded a record high amount of \$55,227 to 19 organizations in 2018, representatives of which attended the fund's annual meeting Wednesday at DoubleTree by Hilton to receive their checks and discuss what the money would support.

The fund, now in its 18th year, raised \$52,180 at their Wonder of Women event last year and received additional support from the Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women and the John & Gloria DiFrancesco Fund for Women and Girls.



Brian Johnson | Staff Group shot of awardees.

“2018 was a stellar year,” said Julia Weston, chair of the advisory board for the fund. “We hit a record number of grant money we were able to award and we had a record number of applications. There were more than 400 people in attendance at our Wonder of Women fundraiser event. This continued success gives me a lot of hope for the future of women and girls in the communities we serve.”

The Main Street Community Foundation supports Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, Plymouth, Southington and Wolcott.

Susan Sadecki, president and CEO of the Main Street Community Foundation, welcomed the guests and thanked them for helping the Foundation achieve its mission.

“I want to offer my sincere congratulations to all of our grantee organizations,” she said. “We are thrilled to be able to partner with you to provide programs and resources that build a strong community and provide more opportunities for women and girls going forward. This would not be possible without the incredibly committed donor base we’ve built over 18 years. What started as living room conversations between a few local women is now recognized as as a significant source of local funding.”

The following is a breakdown of the grants:

.\$3,300 was awarded to the Bristol Family Resource Center to help the “Best Self” program, which helps girls transitioning from middle school to high school with self-image, self-esteem and leadership skills.

.\$2,495 went to Bristol Youth Services’ “Skills to Pay the Bills” program which provides social, family, life education and independent living skills to teenage girls.

.\$2,400 was given to Community Counseling Centers of Central Connecticut for “Self: A Workshop to Improve Esteem” which teaches young women to cope with negative thoughts, social pressure and low self-esteem.

- . \$2,500 was awarded to the Early Childhood Collaborative of Southington for their “Reducing the Stress of Childcare Providers” program that teaches techniques to improve mental health and managing stress.
- . Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut received \$2,500 for camperships for girls.
- . For Goodness Sake was awarded \$4,052 for their “Sweet Dreams” program, which provides mattresses and bedding sheets.
- . Girl Scouts of Connecticut received \$3,000 for 2019 summer camperships.
- . \$2,630 went to Girls Inc. of Western Connecticut for “Changing the Conversation”, an after school program at Tyrell Middle School in Wolcott.
- . \$2,000 was awarded to Jane Doe No More, for the “Safe Student Initiative” and “Escape Alive” which provide survival skills for self-defense at St. Paul Catholic High School.
- . The John J. Driscoll United Labor Agency received \$5,000 for its “Building Pathways CT” program, which provides individual supports for women training for careers in the building trades.
- . Literacy Volunteers of Central Connecticut were granted \$3,700 for their “Family Sustainability through Literacy Plus”, program which helps women increase their reading, writing, math skills and financial literacy.
- . \$4,050 went to Oak Hill Chapter 126 to provide one-on-one health and fitness training for women with disabilities and health challenges.
- . The Plymouth Community Food Pantry received \$1,250 to purchase supplies for its diaper bank.
- . \$4,500 went to the Rushford Center for its “Building Resiliency through Alternative Therapies” program, which provides women in behavioral outpatient treatment programs with alternative therapies like yoga and meditation.
- . Shepard Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. received \$1,800 for its “Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies” program for women and girls.
- . Southington Middle School Athletic Association was granted \$2,000 to support middle school girls’ sports programs.
- . \$800 was given to St. Casimir Rotary Society for replacement mixers for preparing food for fundraisers.
- . St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Bristol received \$5,000 for housing support for women and girls.
- . The Children’s Law Center, Inc. was awarded \$2,250 for legal representation for female children in family court.”

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