

## Main Street grants for women & girls programs

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BRISTOL — The Women & Girls Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation will award \$60,000 in grants to 14 organizations and programs working to improve the lives of women and girls in the area.

The grant distribution will be held at

5:30 p.m. Jan. 23 at the DoubleTree by Hilton at 42 Century St. Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer with the Main Street Community Foundation, said a majority of recipients will speak about the impact of the grants.

The Women & Girls Fund has awarded a total of \$850,000 in the past 24 years. Grants from the fund are made pos-

sible with the proceeds from the annual Wonder of Women (WOW) event as well as two other named funds: the Barbara Hackman Franklin Fund for Women and the John & Gloria DiFrancesco Fund for Women and Girls.

The grant recipients are:

— Boys & Girls Club of Bristol - \$5,000 for the  
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FILE

The Women & Girls Fund grant recipients at the Fund's Annual Meeting & Grant Reception in January 2024.

# Foundation to award \$50,000 to 14 local groups improving lives of women and girls

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**SMART Girls:** Giving Girls Confidence program for girls ages 8-12 to teach responsibility and to develop a healthy attitude and lifestyle by engaging in discussions and activities that reinforce positive behavior.

- Bristol Family Resource Centers - \$5,000 for the expansion of the Girl Up! program, a targeted small-group intervention to build leadership skills in girls ages 6-12 in three Bristol Public Schools: Greene-Hills School, South Side School and West Bristol School.

- BristolWORKS! - \$3,400 for the Women's Workforce Empowerment Series program, a series of workshops to empower women to be confident, successful, and healthy within the workplace and develop skills for both in and out of the workplace.

- Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut - \$1,200 Women's Outdoor Adventure Day at Indian Rock Nature Preserve, a full-day program to empower women and girls, ages 10 through adult, by providing opportunities to connect with nature and engage in a variety of outdoor activities.

- Girl Scouts of Connecticut - \$5,000 supporting Girl Scout memberships and camperships to provide access to programs and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience by removing financial barriers for members and new troop leaders.

- Memorial Military Museum - \$1,500 for the Bristol Women in the Military program, honoring over 120 Bristol women who have contributed to local and national military heritage.

- Plainville Youth Services - \$3,000 for the "A Space to Shine" program which will empower young girls to reach their fullest potential and develop confidence, leadership and coping skills using arts and humanities workshops.

- Plymouth Community Food Pantry - \$3,000 for the Access to Personal Care Items for Senior Women (APCISW) program to provide senior women with personal care products falling into four categories: hygiene, incontinence, dental, and other, which SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase.

- Prudence Crandall Center, Inc. - \$7,000 for Domestic Violence Counseling and Support Groups for Women and Girls program offering counseling services focused on women's mental health and well-being, providing emotional support and practical assistance to address the complex impact of domestic violence on their lives. \$1,000 will be earmarked for diapers and hygiene products for the women.

- Shepard Meadows Equestrian Center, Inc. - \$6,125 for the Women's Equine Gestalt Group, an on-going program to strengthen mental health, well-being, and self-es-

teem for mature women.

- St. Vincent De Paul Mission of Bristol - \$3,805 in unrestricted support for women and girls.

- The Agape House - \$4,000 to establish a fund for clothing for women and girls that will allow the purchase of items that are properly sized, as well as specific types of clothing such as scrubs, non-slip shoes, etc. to meet individual personal needs.

- Wolcott Youth Services/ Kelly's Kids - \$1,970 for the Girls on the Run program for middle school aged girls focusing on the physical element of running, emotional well-being, and learning life skills to build strength and resilience. Additional funding to be used to cover the total program cost for wages.

- YWCA of New Britain - \$10,000 for The Sexual Assault Crisis Service program for women and girls provides free and confidential services to survivors of sexual violence. Services include: 24-hour crisis hotlines, individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, accompaniments and advocacy to medical, police, and court proceedings, campus services, information and referrals, state certification training for Counselor Advocates, prevention education for all ages/groups, and outreach events in the community.

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