



## The Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago Grants Awarded December 2001

### Economic/Security Advocacy

**Jewish Communal Professionals of Chicago (JCPC) *Sulam: A Ladder for Women in Jewish Communal Service*** - This project seeks to enhance women's professional advancement in the field of Jewish communal service in Chicago. The project will offer professional development workshops for women focusing on skills such as financial management and negotiating. In addition, the project will gather and share successful strategies used by Jewish communal organizations, for-profit corporations, and other employers for addressing issues such as work/life balance. **Amount \$7,250**

### Education/Spirituality/The Arts

**Community Foundation for Jewish Education of Metro Chicago *Miriam's Path: The Project for Jewish Women's Education and Leadership***: Continued support for development of centralized, user-friendly resources in the field of Jewish Education and leadership development for women and girls in the Chicago area. The project will also develop and distribute age appropriate and cutting edge curricula on Jewish women and girls' issues. Two pilot projects based on the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College's Kolot Program, "Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing", are being offered through the Response Center/Skokie and the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$12,000**

**Jewish Women's Archive *Women of Valor Project***: To support this project, which educates women and girls about the lives and accomplishments of Jewish women, the WOV project encourages them to identify with and emulate these Jewish role models and to see themselves in the larger context of Jewish history. JWA will also conduct professional development seminars for Jewish educators in Chicago, encouraging them to incorporate the teaching of Jewish women's history into their regular curricula. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$7,500**

**Levine Hillel Center at University of Illinois at Chicago *Jewish Women's Programming: Continuation & Expansion***: To support the continuation of monthly Rosh Chodesh programming, bringing a Jewish woman scholar to campus on a monthly basis to explore some element of Jewish life, continuation of the *Women's Third Night Seder*, support of the *Women's Heritage Month Jewish Artist in Residence*, and a new initiative: the *Undergraduate Women/Galileo School Girls Mentor Program* **Renewal Grant Amount: \$5,000**

**Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies *"The Mikvah Project"***: The Mikvah Project, a special exhibition on view at Spertus Museum from April-October 2002, will explore the modern observance of an ancient Jewish custom that celebrates womanhood and spiritual renewal. In addition to the artistic quality of the photographs on display, accompanying text panels will include interviews conducted with Jewish women from a broad spectrum of religious tradition, including those who reject the practice of using the mikvah. The exhibit uses focus on a particular custom to explore the larger issue of the changing role of women in modern Judaism. **Amount: \$7,500**

### Girls/Special Target Populations

**Congregation Or Chadash *Women's Outreach and Programming***: To support improved and expanded programming to attract and support lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered Jewish women. This includes outreach to unaffiliated LGBT Jewish women and improvement of leadership development. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$5,250**

**Response Center *Medical Unit Northwest***: On average, 53% of the young women participants in the Skokie Medical Unit program disclose histories of sexual assault and sexual abuse. This grant will support continued sexual assault programming in Skokie, while training new staff and providing similar service to young women in the Response Center's new Buffalo Grove location. Funding will provide sexual assault resources for the medical unit

library, specific training related to date rape drugs, consultation and conferences on sexual abuse and trauma, and a group for survivors of sexual assault.

**Renewal Grant Amount: \$10,000**

**Union of American Hebrew Congregations Litapayach Tikvah/To Nourish Hope:** This project will educate and raise awareness in girls ages 9 to 15, their families and the synagogue community about issues of body image, eating disorders and self-esteem. The project will offer training and workshops to educators, parents, synagogue professionals, camp counselors, religious school students and campers in Chicago Reform congregations and at Olin-Sang Camp. The workshops are designed to provide tools to intervene appropriately and connect girls who need them to supportive services as well as to reduce the risk of eating disorders among girls. **Amount: \$15,000**

## **Health & Violence Prevention**

**Mount Sinai Hospital with Sinai Medical Group Breast Care Initiative for Jewish Women Immigrants:** To bring breast cancer screening and education to a target group of 80 Jewish women immigrants who have been processed through the Touhy Health Center, which is associated with Mount Sinai Hospital. The project calls for mammography, clinical breast examinations, and person-to-person instruction in breast care. This is an important health need for this group, many of whom come from the FSU, Bosnia, and parts of Eastern Europe where concepts of breast care and the danger of breast cancer are not discussed. **Amount: \$10,000**

**Shalva Outreach and Education Program Enhancement:** To support an outreach and prevention initiative by funding a new staff position to design and build a comprehensive program. The outreach coordinator will establish relationships with synagogues and professional organizations to market SHALVA's programs and services and create speaking opportunities to increase awareness around the key issues of domestic abuse in the Jewish community, including strategies for preventing domestic violence. **Amount: \$12,000**

## **International**

**Marianne's Early Childhood and Family Center MATANA:** An early -intervention and support project for new mothers, including Ethiopian and Russian immigrants, single mothers, new mothers experiencing domestic violence and other high-risk populations in Kiryat Gat, Israel. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$5,000**

**New Israel Fund Shatil's Project to Empower Ethiopian Women:** Although Ethiopian leadership in Israel is beginning to flourish, women are conspicuously absent from the pool of dedicated activists working to improve conditions for Ethiopian immigrants. Shatil's Project to Empower Ethiopian Women, launched 1999, was designed to cultivate a female leadership cadre, involve Ethiopian women in grassroots activism, and help these women take on active leadership roles in a traditional community. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$7,500**

**Nisan Young Women Leaders Leadership Development Program:** Nisan's two-year Leadership Development Program empowers young women 15-25 with knowledge, tools, and experience fundamental for effective leadership and increases their familiarity with peers from the diverse ethnic and cultural populations in Israel. The Nisan LDP curriculum model is implemented in locations throughout Israel. The program works with equal numbers of Arab and Jewish girls and is one of the few organizations in Israel focusing exclusively on leadership development for girls. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$7,500**

**Shilo Choices: Sexual Health Resource Center & Hotline:** "Choices" uses the Internet to inform young women and girls of their reproductive rights and choices and to promote healthy and responsible sexual behavior. In September 2000, SHILO launched a web site to serve both as a resource center on the most recent developments in the reproductive health field and reproductive rights in Israel, and also as a "Dear Abby" hotline through which young people can anonymously access their confidential online counseling service. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$3,500**

**Tel-Aviv Rape Crisis Center:** To support the general programs of the center, including a 24-hour Hotline and personal meetings with victims for in-depth counseling and support offered by a corps of specially-trained volunteers. The grant will also support educational series for teenagers in high -schools around the Greater Tel Aviv region and other activities such as workshops and seminars for professionals and the public on sexual assault issues. **Amount: \$5,000**