

**The Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
Grants Awarded December 2006**

Economic Security & Advocacy

Economic Empowerment for Women A Business of One's Own: This project offers life skills, empowerment training, business development training, small loans and ongoing consultation and network building to help Jewish and Arab women across Israel establish micro enterprises (cottage industries). **Amount: \$10,000**

Isha L'Isha LEAP Forward Project: Continued support for this project will teach low-income, unemployed and immigrant Israeli women how to re-enter the job force and minimize debt during the current economic crisis. It also will advocate for their government unemployment and child support benefits. Each participant will develop a pragmatic action plan and receive individual follow-up counseling, as well as vocational counseling. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$7,500**

Itach-Women Lawyers for Social Justice Turn up the Volume: Continued support for this project will enable Itach to advocate for social change on behalf of low-income Israeli women through case-law advocacy. Itach represents women in court cases addressing issues such as employment benefits, childcare protection, and proper housing, targeting cases where a victory will lead to significant change in government policy. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$13,200**

Women's Business Development Center (WBDC) WBDC Advocacy: Continued support for this project will enable senior staff at the WBDC to meet regularly with government officials in Cook County and the City of Chicago to press for women-owned businesses to get their fair share of millions of government contracting dollars. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$10,000**

Education/Spirituality/The Arts

Kartemquin Films In the Family: This documentary film follows high-risk Jewish women and their families through the cycle of genetic testing for the BRCA gene mutation that causes breast and ovarian cancer. The film confronts the resulting familial, physical, and emotional difficulties of living with genetic information. In tandem with targeted screenings and national and international broadcasts, Kartemquin Films will work with the Chicago Jewish community and national organizations to develop an outreach campaign and advocacy strategy to protect these women from employment or health insurance discrimination. **Amount: \$10,000**

Kolot The Jewish Day for Justice: Kolot will partner with the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston to transform the pre-Purim spiritual fast day into a focus for Jewish social action on behalf of oppressed women. Each program will include a presentation, distribution of educational materials, the collection of tzedakah, and the initiation of a social action project. **Amount: \$6,600**

Girls & Special Target Populations

Israel Association of Community Centers The Youth Coordinator Training Program for Empowering Adolescent Girls: Continued support for this project will train female youth coordinators working in community centers throughout Israel how to form empowerment groups for adolescent girls from the most marginalized sectors of society. The program consists of a theoretical course examining the status of women in Israel, and a practicum, in which the teenage girls create and run small business projects in their communities.

Renewal Grant Amount: \$10,000

SHILO Choices: Healthy Relationships for High Risk Adolescent Girls and Young Women:

Continued support for this Jerusalem-based project will target disadvantaged adolescent girls, including North Africans, Russian immigrants and Ethiopians. Multi-session workshops focus on self-image, decision-making skills, assertiveness and taking responsibility for one's sexual health.

Renewal Grant Amount: \$5,000

Health Promotion & Violence Prevention

Jewish Child and Family Services Project Shield: Continued support for this project will respond to the issues of child sexual abuse and molestation in Chicago's Jewish community. Project Shield will provide training at four Jewish day schools and six Jewish camps in identifying and addressing child sexual abuse. Project Shield staff will expand their training to parents in the community and will teach 100 camp and school administrators how to train their own staff.

Renewal Grant Amount: \$7,000

Jewish Women International Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaign: Continued JWF funding will support the staffing of the JWI led task force on domestic abuse in the Chicago Jewish community. The newly named JCARES is a group comprising more than 35 organizations working to increase awareness of domestic abuse and craft quality responses to it.

Renewal Grant Amount: \$6,000

SHALVA Organizational Strategic Plan: SHALVA brings safety to Chicago Jewish homes and relationships through the prevention and alleviation of domestic abuse in the Jewish community. SHALVA is approaching its 20th year of operation and will undertake a comprehensive strategic plan to evaluate current services and plan for the future. It will review its mission, identify priorities, set new goals and action plans, and focus on long-term growth.

Amount: \$13,000

International

Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel ARCCI's Legal Department Project: Promoting legislation towards the eradication and prevention of sexual assault in Israel: Continued JWF funding will enable ARCCI to expand its legal department into an information center. The center will be run by a legal advisor and full-time intern who will answer the legal questions of the Rape Crisis Centers, promote rape reform legislation, train law enforcement professionals to handle sex crimes cases in a victim-sensitive manner and keep current regarding sex crimes case law.

Renewal Grant Amount: \$8,000

Counseling Center for Women Working It Through: CCW will partner with the Israel Defense Force to give female soldiers the emotional preparedness they need to manage the challenges of working in male-dominated professions. Workshops will include assertiveness training, strengthening self-image, negotiation skills, and conflict resolution. Approximately 200 young women, who train as civilians in these male-dominated careers before serving in the military, will participate and design the program according to their needs. These groups will be conducted in Haifa, Beer Sheva and Tel Aviv.

Amount: \$10,000

Jerusalem Rape Crisis Center Supporting Abused Women with Disabilities: Continued support for this program will educate Israeli professionals working with women with disabilities about sexual violence. This population often is overlooked in addressing sexual violence. The program includes training for professionals run by JRCC staff on identifying and responding to sexual assault.

Renewal Grant Amount: \$5,250

MaTaN Women's Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies: Allied Health Professionals Program:

Continued support for this program will provide Israeli female immigrants from Ethiopia and Northern India with vocational training in direct patient care. The program, run in conjunction with Sarah Herzog Hospital, will offer these women professional vocational skills, cultural training, and auxiliary support to fill much needed positions in nursing homes, hospitals, and clinics.

Renewal Grant Amount: \$9,600

Yad L'Isha Legal Aid Center and Hotline: Continued support for this project will provide Israeli agunot with legal representation in the religious courts. Yad L'Isha also will raise public awareness by lobbying the Knesset and placing pressure on the Rabbinical Courts to find solutions to the problem of the "chained women."

Renewal Grant Amount: \$12,000

Emergency Grant

Economic Empowerment for Women Emergency Support for Mentoring and Consultation

Sessions for Micro-enterprises in the North: Emergency support will provide 200 hours of one-on-one and group empowerment and business consultation sessions for Israeli women whose businesses have been affected by the Israel/Lebanon war. This is a new program developed in response to the war and the strain the attacks have put on small women-owned businesses. The emergency grant will keep afloat businesses that are in danger of going under.

Emergency Grant Amount: \$7,000

TOTAL GRANTS = \$150,150