

The Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
Grants Awarded December 2007

Health & Well-Being for Women & Girls

Girls in the Game: *Game Day Girls' Health Fests (Game Days):* This pilot program aims to provide, in partnership with a Jewish day school or a Jewish Community Center in Chicago, 2 Game Days for Jewish girls. A Game Day is a program that uses participation in sports to teach healthy choices, positive body-image, and leadership development. The Game Day includes interactive workshops regarding eating choices, lessons on self-respect, as well as playing sports, and is tailored to the needs of the Jewish community. **Amount: \$5,000**

JCARES: *JCARES:* This is a group of more than 35 organizations in Chicago working to increase effective Jewish community-wide responses to domestic violence. This task force enables the service providers to work collaboratively, share best practices, work to respond to changing needs, and leverage support. JCARES represents a broad cross section of Jewish and secular social service agencies including SHALVA, the Response Center, Jewish Child and Family Services, and CJE Senior Life, and the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence. JCARES is a vital collaboration that creates initiatives and policies to prevent, address and respond to abuse in Chicagoland Jewish homes.

Renewal Grant Amount: \$10,000

Jewish Child and Family Services: *Responding to Eating Disorders in the Jewish Community:* This project will assist individuals in Chicago affected by eating disorders through counseling, support, and linkage to services. JCFS is the largest Jewish social service provider in the Chicagoland area and currently does not offer training regarding the treatment of eating disorders. This new education initiative will create an Eating Disorders Specialty Team that will train approximately 100 JCFS and Response Center service providers, and providers in the larger Jewish and general community, regarding prevention, support, and treatment of eating disorders. **Amount: \$15,000**

Kartemquin Films: *In the Family:* This film, completed in 2007, follows high-risk Jewish women and their families through the cycle of genetic testing for the BRCA gene mutations that can cause breast and ovarian cancers. *In the Family* will educate those who might be carrying the gene as well as present options for testing, treatment and prevention for those who are affected. Kartemquin will also use the documentary to promote the need for anti-discrimination legislation protecting people who have tested positive for genetic mutations, specifically the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act (GINA) currently pending in the Senate. Kartemquin will create a video module for young Jewish women. This grant will support screenings of the film or module in the Chicagoland area for Jewish women.

Renewal grant amount: \$10,000

Economic Security/Legal Reform for Women & Girls

Economic Empowerment for Women: *A Business of One's Own:* This grant supports EEW's Access to Market Program that trains Israeli women business owners in advanced marketing and production skills in order to reach new consumers and markets. This program will include 200-275 women who have existing micro-enterprises, helping them to grow their businesses to the next level and generate more income. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$5,000**

Hotline for Migrant Workers (HMW): Trafficking of Israeli Women: This project attempts to stop the trafficking of Israeli women as workers in the sex industry in Israel and abroad. HMW does the work the police do not by actively following leads to identify “agents” who traffic women. Additionally, the HMW offers trafficked women assistance when speaking with the police, and then follows-up with the police to ensure the agent is prosecuted. **Amount: \$10,000**

Isha L’Isha: LEAP Forward Project: This project provides economic empowerment workshops for Israeli women from the lowest economic strata, preparing them to take control of their finances and break out of the cycle of poverty. The 12-16 week workshops offer real economic training such as understanding basic finances, managing a home budget, interviewing skills, and “how to-s” for accessing national and municipal services. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$5,000**

Itach-Women Lawyers for Social Justice: Turn up the Volume: Continued support of this project, which works for social justice for 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: \$13,500**

Mavoi Satum: The Alternative Beit Din Campaign: The goal of this Israeli project is two fold: 1.) To establish a beit din (religious court) that is an alternative to the State backed beit din or 2.) To place enough pressure on the current beit din that they will be more sensitive to the needs of women seeking a religious divorce (a “get”). The beit din in Israel has jurisdiction over family law, and therefore there is generally no such thing as civil divorce. The current male dominated ultra-Orthodox courts refuse to address the plight of *agunot* and *mesuravot get* (women whose husbands refuse to give them a “get”). **Amount: \$10,000**

Miklat: The Israeli Center for Family Justice (ICFJ) – Northern Legal Initiative: This grant supports a “circuit-riding attorney” who will travel to meet with victims of domestic violence in the North of Israel near their homes and represent them in religious and civil courts. This is a new model for providing access to legal services in Israel. The ICFJ offers comprehensive legal representation on a wide range of issues including restraining orders, divorce agreements, custody agreements, visitation rights, and alimony. **Amount: \$10,000**

Project Keshet: Building a Jewish Legacy: Supporting a Process for Addressing the Needs of Women in the Commonwealth of Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (CIS): This grant will provide opportunities for grassroots activists, regional experts, religious leaders and government officials who work on domestic violence, trafficking, and women’s health issues across the 8 times zones of the CIS. There will be 3 meetings focused on identifying strategies to maximize the impact of Project Keshet’s work. Among other things, the planning group will determine how they can advocate for legislation to further Project Keshet’s program priorities. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$7,500**

Women’s Business Development Center: WBDC Advocacy: The advocacy done by the WBDC is focused on the singular goal of increasing economic opportunities for Illinois’ women business owners. Continued funding for this program supports WBDC’s work to expand business opportunities for women by: 1) increasing access to business training and support 2) increasing funding for women’s

business assistance programs 3) developing relationships with equity investment firms committed to investment in women-owned businesses 4) conducting disparity studies to identify women's business program goals in the City of Chicago and State of Illinois 5) working with major corporations to implement best practices in diversity. **Renewal Grant Amount: \$10,000**

Yad L'Isha: The Yad L'Isha Legal Aid Center and Hotline: The Yad L'Isha Legal Aid Center advocates aim to free as many destitute Israeli agunot as possible by providing them with expert legal representation in the rabbinic courts. The women served are secular, orthodox and traditional and more than 50% are seeking divorce as a result of violence or sexual abuse. The advocates also fight for agunot's rights in the Knesset (i.e. lobbying for legislation) and with rabbis in the Diaspora (not allowing communities abroad to become a haven for recalcitrant husbands).

Renewal Grant Amount: \$10,000

Education/Leadership Development for Women & Girls

Agunah Project: Women Unchained: This is a one-hour documentary, from an American-Jewish perspective, depicting the stories of six Jewish women, including two Chicagoans, who struggled or continue to struggle to obtain a *get* (Jewish divorce). The film intends to raise awareness, stimulate dialogue, and lead the American Jewish community to pay more attention to the issue.

Amount: \$10,000

Ida Crown Jewish Academy: Girl Speak Up: The mission of this new program is to build resilience in Chicago's Jewish girls (grades 6-9) through establishment and reinforcement of positive attitudes and beliefs. Issues to be covered were determined through a series of focus groups with girls and shaped into a curriculum by a committee of leaders in the Jewish and non-Jewish community. Topics include: peer relationships, personal boundaries, body image, leadership, and respecting others. Participants will come mostly from Chicago's Orthodox community, but the program is open to all girls. Each of the approximately 7 groups will consist of 8-12 girls and will meet two evenings per month over the course of 3-4 months. This program will serve approximately 72 girls in 2008. **Amount: \$20,000**

Moving Traditions: Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing! Leadership Stage Training Academy: This program (to be held in Chicago and then launched nationally) is the second stage of Moving Traditions' current successful *Rosh Hodesh* program. This stage meets the developmental needs of older girls (14 to 17 years old). The Leadership Stage will train girls in group process, risk-taking, and other dynamic and nuanced leadership skills. The monthly activities will draw on Jewish teachings and focus on issues pertinent to high school girls including: social justice, sexuality, healthy relationships, and body image. Adult leaders will learn how to empower and encourage the girls to increase their sense of ownership of their lives, to become leaders, and when and why to take risks. **Amount: \$20,000**