



## THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR RELEASE June 18, 2008**

**\*\*\* Media Welcome \*\*\***

**Who:** Rochester Women's Giving Circle

**What:** Celebration Breakfast and Formal  
Presentation of Grants

**Date:** Wednesday, June 18

**Time:** 8:00 a.m.

**Place:** American Association of University Women,  
494 East Avenue

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### **Rochester Women's Giving Circle Announces Inaugural Grants**

ROCHESTER, NY, June 18, 2008 -- The Rochester Women's Giving Circle, whose mission is to help women and girls achieve economic independence, today announced grants totaling \$37,500 to six agencies in the Rochester area. Recipients are Ausangate Creations, Hope Hall, Rochester Childfirst Network, Sojourner House, Volunteers of America, and Wilson Commencement Park. The grants will be presented at a Celebration Breakfast on June 18. *(Detailed grant list below.)*

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The RWGC follows a dollar-in/dollar-out philosophy, with donations received in any one year available for that year's grant process. Formed in 2007, the RWGC is the first giving circle of its kind in Rochester and is under the umbrella of the Rochester Area Community Foundation. Jennifer Leonard, president and executive director of the Community Foundation, says, "The Rochester Women's Giving Circle fills an essential niche in this city's philanthropic framework. We are proud to include RWGC in our family of funds and delighted with the thoughtfulness of its first year's grants."

The following organizations received the inaugural grants:

<b>Ausangate Creations</b>	<b>The Coffee Connection</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
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Ausangate, a social-purpose enterprise, provides paid, pre-employment job training for eight + women a year who are in drug/alcohol recovery and on welfare. The women work 2-4 hours a day in the storefront coffee shop and learn retail sales skills, customer service, and inventory management, as well as personal management skills. The training includes life skills, coaching, substance abuse counseling, case management, budgeting, and Medicaid education. They also emphasize the importance of education and assist the women in completing high school and/or college. Forty-nine percent of their graduates are living independent of service providers. The grant covers the wage stipend for trainees.

<b>Hope Hall</b>	<b>Susan B. Anthony Project</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>
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Established in 1994, Hope Hall serves high-need, "at-risk" or "educationally stranded" children in grades two through nine from 19 school districts in the Greater Rochester Area. The Young Women's Club for 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade girls, meets regularly and addresses conflict management, personal hygiene, manners/etiquette, and employment opportunities. Susan B. Anthony Project for the Young Women's Club is a two-session workshop, designed by the Susan B. Anthony House for twenty-one 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade girls and their mothers, most of whom are from families at or below poverty. This session addresses women's history, the need to be self-supporting, and abusive relationships. Our grant covers all costs.

<b>Rochester Childfirst Network</b>	<b>Pilot Program –Day Care Licensing</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
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RCN has provided quality early childhood education and care since 1857. They also provide health and safety training to potential in-home day care operators, enabling them to become economically independent. This pilot program will assist 32 women complete the process of filling out applications and going through all the steps to obtain state licensing. Peer mentors will be trained and assigned to applicants to help with the licensing process. They will also visit homes, helping to make them "child ready". A \$125 stipend will go to each woman for initial supplies. Our grant covers over 80% of the program.

