

***** Media Welcome*****

Who: Rochester Women's Giving Circle
What: Celebration Breakfast and
Presentation of Grants
Date: 8 a.m., Wednesday, June 21, 2017
Place: Holiday Inn, 70 State Street, Rochester



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rochester Women's Giving Circle Awards \$175,300
in Grants to Support Women and Girls**

The Rochester Women's Giving Circle will award \$175,300 in grants to 10 local nonprofits at the group's annual grant breakfast.

Since 2007 the Giving Circle has grown from five founders to 161 active members and has distributed more than \$1.1 million to nonprofit organizations in Monroe County that help women and girls on their journey to economic independence.

This year's grant recipients were chosen from 21 proposals, which collectively requested more than \$346,000. The 10 awards range between \$6,000 and \$25,000. Grants were awarded to the following nonprofits:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Rochester: The Little Sisters – Big Futures! program recruits, screens and trains mentors to help at-risk girls stay in school, avoid risky behaviors and develop positive attitudes about their futures through one-on-one mentoring relationships. **\$10,000**

Cameron Community Ministries: The Respect & Responsibility for Girls after-school support group helps girls ages 10 to 15 by fostering self-esteem, financial literacy, knowledge of career opportunities, and improved academic performance. **\$15,000**

Center for Teen Empowerment: The Young Women's Leadership and Employment Project prepares and places young women in high-profile and role-model positions as they seek to address social change in the community while gaining career-based skills and meaningful employment. **\$25,000**

Center for Youth Services: The Learn2Earn project provides job-readiness skills through occupational skills training, credentialing programs and work experience internships. **\$6,000**

Empire Justice Center: The C.A.S.H. (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Coach program provides financial literacy training and one-to-one financial coaching to help low-income working women learn how to reduce debt, increase savings and develop improved money management habits. **\$15,000**

Judicial Process Commission: The Women's Legal Action Project & Support Services helps women who are ex-offenders overcome barriers to employment by offering legal services and support to correct Record of Arrests and Prosecutions (RAP) sheets and achieve a Certificate of Relief and by assisting in the job search, application, and interview process. **\$25,000**

Mary's Place Refugee Outreach Center: The Job Skills Class prepares refugees for the workforce by teaching American cultural norms, English language skills for the workplace, computer literacy, and assisting with resume writing, mock interviewing, application completion, job search and transportation to interviews. **\$17,800**

Society for the Protection and Care of Children: The Teen Age Parent Support Services program helps reduce repeat teen pregnancies and improve employability of young mothers through home-based case management and counseling, employment preparation activities, and subsidized work experiences and job coaching. **\$25,000**

Spiritus Christi Prison Outreach: The Women's Empowerment Program of Jennifer House provides case management, counseling, mentoring and support services to homeless women discharged from Monroe County Jail who are stable and focused on pursuing their educational and vocational goals to become self-sustaining and avoid re-incarceration. **\$11,500**

Unity Hospital of Rochester: Project Independence at Healthy Moms is a job training and placement program customized for each participant that leads directly to employment and increased self-sufficiency by tackling the obstacles that keep employment out of reach for low-income mothers with a child under age two. **\$25,000**

The Women's Giving Circle is a community of philanthropic women where every member makes an annual donation of at least \$1,000 and has the opportunity to participate in the grantmaking process. The money donated each calendar year is granted out the following year. The Giving Circle is an advised fund of Rochester Area Community Foundation.

Agencies interested in applying for a future grant can get more information about criteria and the application process at therwgc.org.

Women interested in becoming members may contact Melinda Andolina at helpingwomen@therwgc.org.