

Daughters of Wisdom Award 2014 Mission Fund Grants

The Daughters of Wisdom, USA Province recently announced the recipients of its 2014 Daughters of Wisdom Mission Fund Grants. This year, six grants were awarded to local, national and international organizations in an effort to keep the mission of the congregation thriving by funding projects that are consistent with the mission of the Daughters of Wisdom. Such are those that address injustice, violence, poverty and oppression, especially among women and children. The Daughters of Wisdom Mission Fund, established in 2012, awards grants up to \$15,000 on a yearly basis, and allows for two consecutive years of funding.

Grants awarded locally in New York went to the Long Island Congregations Associations and Neighborhoods, (LI-CAN), Martin De Porres School, and Gateway Youth Outreach, Inc., all in Elmont. Elsewhere grants were awarded for missions as far away as El Salvador, Maine and Chicago, Illinois.

[LI-CAN, Elmont, NY](#) will use the grant money to continue in its Home Health Care Initiative in partnership with Visiting Nurse Service of New York and Partners in Care. Their mission has been to organize and enhance the knowledge base and skill level of immigrant women of color primarily from Jamaica, Haiti, and Nigeria who serve as home health aides and link them to positions to provide quality and dignified care for Long Island seniors in their own homes. The continuing plan aims to attract potential home health aides from member congregations by offering outstanding training and supervision through Partners in Care; and an opportunity for employment with living wage jobs, benefits, subsidized transportation, and a career path through Visiting Nurse Service of New York.

[The Martin De Porres School](#), Elmont, NY has a long history of educating students with special needs and will use the grant money to continue a program that raises awareness and educates adolescent girls who are often the targets of human trafficking from becoming victims. The grant money will help to provide programs that educate, develop self-esteem, interpersonal communication, and ways to identify and avoid being the victim of sexual harassment and victimization.

[Gateway Youth Outreach, Inc., Elmont, NY](#) will use the grant to launch a new program, "Together We Soar," a parent/child learning program that works with families experiencing difficult socio-economic situations. The program will provide a series of workshops and field trips designed for both parents and children that will promote family harmony, civic responsibility, and a quest for individual excellence. A major goal is to help families understand economic conditions and offer strategies to break the barriers that impede financial success and economic growth.

In the south of Maine, [The Center for Wisdom's Women](#), an organization originally established by the Daughters of Wisdom, is now in its 5th year of independent operation and is headed by Executive Director, Klara Tammany, also an Associate of Wisdom. The Center, a day drop-in center for women, located in Lewiston, is a sacred and safe place that supports and empowers women. It functions as a collaborative of women who work to build community for the purpose of bettering and enriching their lives. The Center offers warm hospitality, compassionate listening, personal and spiritual guidance that is respectful of all faith traditions, assistance in accessing local resources to meet needs, and encouragement toward healthy life choices. Through support groups, activities and programs, women have the chance to meet and network with others, build friendships, and support each other in their daily struggles. The grant money has enabled the Center to hire a Staff Assistant who will focus on volunteer support and assist with program and office needs.

In Chicago, Illinois, the [Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants](#), [ICDI] an organization that works for more just immigration policies, will get a boost from the awarded grant money to supplement the cost of meals for the over 100 immigrants that go through their program on a yearly basis. ICDI works with people who are caught in the detention and deportation system through its Post Accompaniment Detention Network, [PADN]. PADN provides for both short and long-term assistance, and for the immediate needs of food, clothing and transportation for released undocumented immigrants. ICDI also hosts the Marie Joseph Houses of hospitality, one for men, and one for women who are without shelter. Both homes have round the clock supervision and a manager of day to day operations. Residents receive counseling and extensive case management services. The ultimate goal is to provide preparation for a work permit, employment and a connection to the local community.

With its headquarters based in Silver Spring, Maryland, grant money awarded to [Salvadoran Enterprises for Women](#), [SEW] will continue to empower women as viable and important contributors to the economy in poor rural areas of El Salvador. The grant will help to seed the development of independent businesses started by women in an effort to work their way out of poverty, and ensure a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. Most businesses produce basic items needed in the surrounding communities to eliminate the dependence on export and foreign markets and to keep the money in the local economies. SEW, now in its tenth year, allows women to conceptualize a business, helps produce a business plan, and lends assistance in establishing the business in the marketplace. At present SEW has ten businesses operating at various stages of development on their way to self-sustainability. Businesses include bakeries, restaurants, farms, the production of cheese products, candles, shampoos, disinfectants, clothing and accessories, and those for tailoring, embroidery, sewing and indigo dyeing. SEW's involvement with a new business is a 3-5 year commitment and includes education, mentoring, broker trainings and leadership skills. SEW builds and manages the financial resources, community networks, solidarity efforts, and the U.S. and Salvadoran markets that facilitate new and help expand existing employment and development opportunities for women in El Salvador.

The 2015 Daughters of Wisdom Mission Fund Grant application process will begin in January 2015. Information will be posted here on the Daughters of Wisdom Website and Facebook page, Daughters of Wisdom, USA Province.