

## Daughters of Wisdom Award \$99,238 in Mission Grants

Three organizations will receive a second year of funding and five others will receive grant money totaling \$99,238 this year through the annual awarding of the Daughters of Wisdom Mission Grants. The Mission Fund, established in 2012, awards grants up to \$15,000 on a yearly basis, and allows for two consecutive years of funding. The fund was established to keep the congregation thriving through 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 Center for Wisdom's Women, Lewiston, Maine, Martin de Porres School, Elmont, NY and Salvadoran Enterprises for Women, Silver Spring, MD will receive funding for the second year. First time grant recipients include: Catholic Charities Mobile Services, Dover, Florida; Haitian Apostolate, Inc., Brooklyn, NY; Bon Secours Maryview Foundation, Norfolk, VA; Mary and Elizabeth Center, Oceanside, NY, and The De La Salle School, Freeport, NY.

The **Center for Wisdom's Women** will use this year's grant money to expand from being a weekday drop-in center to include long-term transitional housing for women in crisis. Envisioned as an interfaith community house, this two-year transitional residency will include wrap-around services for survivors of prostitution, addiction, prison and abuse. The Center will partner with local agencies to provide services for trauma and



addiction therapy, GED work and job training. This project is modeled after the Thistle Farms in Nashville, TN and will make way for a core, permanent resident community that is income producing and sustains the costs of the housing. To learn more about The Center for Wisdom's Women, visit [www.wisdomswomen.org](http://www.wisdomswomen.org)

The **Martin de Porres School** will use the grant money to continue staff education in sensitivity and awareness training to learn about, implement strategies, and develop interventions to address adverse childhood experiences. The goal is to become a model for trauma informed education. The need was realized as an off-shoot of efforts through a program to prevent human trafficking among its student population, the purpose of last year's grant money. Students with a higher than average amount of



childhood trauma are at risk for both physical pathology and psychopathology. This program will focus on reversing the impact it has on their day to day functioning, education, health and life spans. The school serves children 7-21 years of age with severe emotional and behavioral disorders who are referred from New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties. To learn more about Martin de Porres School, visit [www.mdp.org](http://www.mdp.org)



**Salvadoran Enterprises for Women, (SEW)** headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland has a geographic location of San Salvador, El Salvador for its business operations. For the past twelve years the organization has served to support economic and social justice through small business development, all in an effort to help women work their way out of poverty in this poor rural area. SEW has given women a chance for financial success that they otherwise would not have by helping them to develop businesses close to their homes, so that they can maintain their roles in the family. Without this

opportunity, they would have to travel great distances to San Salvador or other municipalities, and be away from their families for long stretches of time just for employment.

In 2015 five SEW businesses achieved self- sustainability. The women operating these businesses now have developed the skill, business acumen and marketing proficiency to continue on their own and SEW is proud of their achievement. Over the years SEW has provided training for more than 250 women. With the new grant money, SEW will extend its geographical reach to an island community in great need of work- Espiritu Santo Island. The new business, The Conservas Espiritu Santo will produce and market sweet milk and preserved coconut products. To learn more about SEW, visit [www.sewinc.org](http://www.sewinc.org)



**Catholic Charities Mobile Medical Unit** provides a variety of free medical services to the uninsured and underinsured residents of rural Hillsborough County, Florida. For over 15 years the service has worked in partnership with volunteer physicians, nurses, intake staff, students from the University of South Florida and other agencies in the area. In addition to providing primary medical care, specialties include GYN, dermatology, ophthalmology, colonoscopy, lab services, testing supplies for diabetic patients, and over the counter medications. Another component is confidential on-site services for adolescents, women and families facing the issues of pregnancy, including pregnancy

tests, ultrasound, counseling, and medical and community services referrals. A patient can even attend nutrition classes to learn to cook healthy foods and read food labels; or salsa classes to help with weight problems. Medical assessments are also provided to those looking to enter the workforce.

Grant money will be used to expand services to the southern part of the county and to pay for ultrasound equipment and a 3-D probe. In a recent data analysis of services provided by the Mobile Medical Unit (done in collaboration with St. Joseph Hospital, Tampa, Florida) it was estimated that over \$100,000/year was saved by the public health system. Recently, with the addition of ultrasound services, and the volunteer doctor providing them, two hospital admissions were averted and an additional \$20,000 was saved. To learn more about the Catholic Charities Mobile Medical Unit, visit [www.ccdosp.org](http://www.ccdosp.org)



The **Haitian Apostolate Inc.** in Brooklyn, NY works towards the evangelization of Haitian immigrants and has operated a Creole school of Evangelization in Brooklyn, NY for 27 years. The grant money will be used for the continued funding of a new broadcast program to promote the bible to Haitians and other Creole speaking populations- here in the US and in West India, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Martinique and Guadeloupe. The goal is to complete the production of videos of books of the bible, narrated in Creole by Bishop Guy Sansaricq, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn and founder of the Haitian Apostolate. These 10 minute videos will be provided to TV stations, Catholic high schools and colleges. To get a sense of some of the work that has been

produced by Bishop Guy Sansaricq and his team, visit his YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi3LCoGhSjsl1wH5a46FJVQ>



The **Bon Secours Maryview Foundation Healthcare Center** of Portsmouth, Virginia will be using grant money to improve the lives of 100 low-income, uninsured, or underinsured individuals suffering with diabetes. Many diabetics have visual problems as a consequence of the disease and these individuals will receive eye exams and eyewear to prevent blindness.

The center will also provide transportation for the patients to the clinic, and to the vision center. The doctors at Bon Secours will team up with professionals in the local Wal-Mart's Vision Center as partners in this endeavor.

Bon Secours Maryview Foundation Healthcare Center serves area residents, 18 years of age or older with income levels less than 200% above the Federal Poverty level. The center sees about 600 patients a month and is the primary care medical group for nearly 4,000 patients. In the past year of those

served, 450 had diabetes. Without comprehensive care their quality of life can be greatly impacted and lead to comorbidities such as diabetic retinopathy which is the most common diabetic eye disease and primary cause of blindness in adults. Annual eye exams can help to prevent this. To find out more about Bon Secours Maryview Foundation Healthcare Center, visit [www.bsvaf.com](http://www.bsvaf.com)



The **Mary and Elizabeth Center**, an outreach program of Tabor Retreat Center in Oceanside, NY, a program that supports, educates and empowers women, will use the grant money to fund a Servant Leadership project that is designed to train women who are eager to serve and provide them with the skills to assume leadership positions in their families, communities or within groups at the Center. Using Jesus' example of the leader being servant of all, the servant leadership model circumvents the issue of dominance. The program will be available in both English and Spanish and will serve Latina women from

Hempstead, Westbury and Farmingdale.

It is expected that as a result of undergoing this training new servant leaders will be empowered and educated in ways to assess the needs of Center members and direct them to resources for crisis management, economic difficulties, immigration needs, health issues, physical, emotional and spiritual abuse, childcare and parenting, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, racism, ageism and language skills. The Center reaches out to women of every race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, level of physical, mental or emotional ability, age, socio-economic status, language and country of origin with the hope of enabling them to work through their troubles toward a stable, fulfilling life with the support of companions who care. To find out more about the Mary and Elizabeth Center, visit [http://www.taborretreatcenter.org/tabor\\_retreat\\_center\\_outreach.html](http://www.taborretreatcenter.org/tabor_retreat_center_outreach.html)

The **De LaSalle School** of Freeport, NY a Catholic scholarship school shares in the Lasallian heritage and provides education to 60 economically disadvantaged young men, grades 5-8, many of whom are



immigrants or sons of immigrants. The school will use grant money to fund a program for its eight-graders to cultivate compassion among its student body through an interdisciplinary approach involving social studies, English language arts and religion teachers. Students will be exposed to the historic oppression of immigrants, the denigration of individual

dignity and the use of propaganda by contrasting past and contemporary events. Among the anticipated outcomes of this program is for the students to become informed advocates for justice and vigilance against oppression. To find out more about the De La Salle School visit [www.delasalleschool.org](http://www.delasalleschool.org)

Applications for the submission of grant proposals are announced annually in the spring and grants are awarded in the fall after a review by the Provincial Council. Grants up to \$15,000 are available to organizations that share the values and emphasis of the Sisters' mission. Organizations may apply for two consecutive years of funding. The application process is multi-phased, including a pre-application and review, followed by the submission of a final application. The second phase begins with a grant application being sent to those determined to meet the mission criteria in the pre-application process. Organizations must be working in ministry with a Sister or have the endorsement of a Daughter of Wisdom.

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