

Daughters of Wisdom Mission Grants Awarded

We are proud to announce the recipients of this year's Mission Grant Awards. The funding of Mission Grants was established through a decision of the US Provincial Chapter in 2012 to keep the mission of the congregation alive by funding projects that are consistent with the ministries of the Daughters of Wisdom. Organizations that address injustice, violence, poverty, and oppression, especially among women and children, are candidates for annual grants. The fund awards annual grants up to \$15,000 and allows for two consecutive years of funding.

Since 2014 over \$370,000 has been awarded through Mission Grants. The committee is chaired by Sr. Lucy Clynes, and members include Sr. Ann Gray, Sr. Patricia Pelletier, Sr. Marie Sopr and Sr. Edith Menegus, O.S.U. This year the Provincial Council granted eight organizations a total of \$99,528. They include The Center for Wisdom's Women, Lewiston, Maine, Salvadoran Enterprises for Women (S.E.W.), Silver Spring, Maryland, Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer, New York, NY, Long Island Federally Qualified Health Center, Westbury, NY, New Opportunities, Inc., Torrington, Connecticut, St. Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy, Ozone Park, NY, The Book Fairies, Freeport, NY and the De La Salle School, Freeport, NY.

Here's how grant recipients will put their money to use:

The Center for Wisdom's Women, Lewiston, Maine

In 1999 the Daughters of Wisdom opened Wisdom's Center in Lewiston, Maine. Nine years later, in the spirit of Louis de Montfort and Marie Louise Trichet, they handed the program over to local leadership. It has been operated privately since then as The Center for Wisdom's Women, under the fiscal sponsorship of Trinity Episcopal Church. In April 2017 it received independent non-profit status from the IRS. Klara Tammany, the Center's Executive Director, is an Associate of Wisdom.



The Center for Wisdom's Women continues to build upon the foundations established by the Daughters of Wisdom and in recent years has greatly expanded on them. The movement from "a drop in center" in 1999 to the current project of Sophia's House, a two-year residential community and recovery program for women survivors of prostitution, prison and addiction; and Herban Works, a work readiness training program providing a small income, are indicative of such growth.



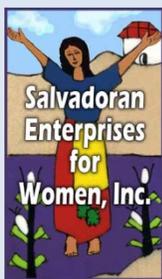
It is a time of great transition and growth for CWW which logs in over 400 visits monthly and registers 1200 women. CWW will use the grant money to continue work on Sophia House, a 2-year housing program for women survivors of trauma. The program is modeled on other successful programs such as Magdalene Houses and Thistle Farms. CWW's proposal addresses the need for a project manager, operational

expenses, and renovations.

Identifying one root cause of why so many women are homeless or sex trafficked in Maine, Klara Tammany traces its source to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). With a shortage of recovery houses and programs in Maine, and the recovery needs of women being distinct from those of men, more comprehensive services for women are needed which the grant money will help to address.

The targeted date for residency at Sophia's House is late fall 2019. It will be a grand celebration as that is also the 20 year anniversary of the founding of the Center by the Daughters of Wisdom. For more information on The Center, Herban Works, and Sophia's House see www.wisdomswomen.org

Salvadoran Enterprises for Women (SEW), Silver Spring, Maryland



Since 2003, Sew has been engaged in microenterprise development in El Salvador to enable women to start businesses, earn a little money, and care for their

children with dignity.

And those fifteen years of empowerment of women through education in business practices and marketing has resulted in many women working their way out of poverty in rural El Salvador. SEW will use grant money for the expansion of this project into the future through articulating, formulating and



systematizing training procedures, thus completing with pride the cycle from empowerment to entrepreneurship. SEW's Executive Director, Sr. Anne Marie Gardiner, SSND and Sr. Marie Chido, DW have been working in a collaborative ministry over the years to support the future independence of SEW. To find out more about Salvadoran Enterprises for Women visit www.sewinc.org

Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer, New York, NY



The Mission of the Oblate Sisters is to work with women caught in the web of human trafficking. They currently serve immigrants from Africa and Latin America in the age ranges of 18-40. This grant, now in its second year, has assisted in discovering the appropriate interventions that meet the needs of women victims of Human Trafficking. Sr Emily Baylon, OSR, case manager, declares that the best outcome is to take every means possible to uphold the dignity and self-worth of the women who come to their mission and to encourage in them a sense of self-care bringing them eventually to healing and recovery. To learn more about the Oblate Sisters of the Most Holy Redeemer visit www.oblatesistersnewyork.org

Long Island Federally Qualified Health Center, Nassau County, NY

The mission of LIFQHC is to improve the health status of the community and to increase access to comprehensive primary and preventive health care in a financially responsible manner, especially for the underserved and vulnerable. This Grant will address measures needed to be taken to improve the quality of health in underserved communities in Nassau



County. *"Cooking Made Simple,"* a project for learning how to budget and create simple, nutritious meals, while helping to combat obesity, will be offered to young women in the community. In an eight week series of cooking demonstrations, young mothers will amass useful recipes developed by cooking experts. To learn more about LIFQHC visit www.lifqhc.org

New Opportunities, Inc.

Offering a variety of social services programs designed to eliminate poverty and assist people in need by providing necessary resources, New Opportunities Inc. is a Connecticut community action agency serving Waterbury, Meriden, Torrington and 27 surrounding communities.



The Director, Maria Gonzales, has two goals in mind for the grant money. One is to work for the advancement of Latina women through programs designed to promote learning leadership and life skills. And the other is to serve as a mentor to oversee culturally appropriate dance instruction for middle and high school Latina girls. The grant now in its second year, “provides a network of

support and encourages my Latina girls to stick with finishing high school, and with confidence go on for higher education,” affirms Ms. Gonzales. To learn more about New Opportunities Inc. visit www.newoppinc.org

St. Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy, Ozone Park, NY



Founded in 1904 by the Daughters of Wisdom and Montfort Fathers, Ozone Park, NY’s St. Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy is home to 249 students of diverse ethnic backgrounds ranging from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. Known for its strong reputation among Catholic and public schools, the school will use the grant to supplement the cost of educating students who are economically

disadvantaged and who without tuition assistance would not be able to attend this school. To learn more about St. Mary Gate of Heaven Catholic Academy visit www.smgh.org

The Book Fairies, Freeport, NY



The Book Fairies was founded by Amy Zaslansky, a busy mom, who wanted to share her love of books as well as her overflowing home library with less fortunate children. She discovered that it was difficult to place her used books with the

children who would most benefit from them. Fueled by her desire to make a difference in her community, she created The Book Fairies, a Long Island-based non-profit organization. The organization accepts donations of new and gently used books and connects them with libraries, schools, and organizations in need throughout the New York metropolitan area.



Zaslansky's organization has provided over 500,000 upcycled materials to people in homeless shelters, correctional facilities, and in high poverty areas of Long Island. The grant money will be used to reach out to people with low literacy levels in the Roosevelt Union Free School District through a program called *Roosevelt Reads*. To learn more about The Book Fairies visit www.thebookfairies.org

The De La Salle School, Freeport, NY



"Education breaks the cycle of poverty," declares Jeanne Mulry, Director of Development for whom

the desired outcome of this grant would be to transform economically disadvantaged students into academically and socially advantaged youth ready to experience the American Dream.

This non-tuition driven Catholic middle school promotes a quality education for boys from economically disadvantaged situations. The school serves 64 young men in grades 5 thru 8 and their families. Almost all of the students are either immigrant, with Latinos comprising 75% of the population and African ancestry 20%. The young men have been transferred from area schools high in crime, drugs and gang activity. The Grant will support resources and materials for SAT preparation. The emphasis on the future is noteworthy with many graduates attending Catholic High Schools, continuing the high caliber of education. To learn more about The De La Salle School visit www.DeLaSalleSchool.org