

Central Minnesota Community Foundation

Engaging People, Building Community

NEWS RELEASE

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Funds Aim to Empower Women and Girls

Grant Applications Due April 6

St. Cloud, Minn. – The Central Minnesota Community Foundation (CMCF) announced Friday that the Women’s Fund and the Julianne Williams Fund are currently accepting grant applications to support programs that empower girls and women in the region.

The Women’s Fund is targeting three priority areas within a 30-mile radius of St. Cloud: girls ages 10-18, women in transition and elder women. The fund seeks to leverage the efforts and dollars from other local nonprofits to provide resources that will make a difference to single individuals or systems. The average grant size will be \$3,000 - \$8,000.

The Julianne Williams Fund will support programs that promote the building of self-esteem, safety, confidence and overall empowerment of girls and young women through the use of physical activities, especially outdoor activities. The Fund is also committed to supporting youth activities that enhance mutual respect between girls and boys.

The Julianne Williams Fund was started to honor the life of Julianne Williams who died in 1996. Julianne, the daughter of Tom Williams and Patsy Williams Payette, grew up in St. Cloud and was a 1990 graduate of Cathedral High School. The fund aims to reflect the essence of who she was and what she valued.

The Women's Fund conducts a significant fundraiser during the year to generate support for local programs. The Women on Stage event draws nearly 1,000 people and has raised more than \$100,000 in recent years.

Nonprofit agencies may apply for the about \$30,000 in grant funds by submitting an application by April 6. Grant guidelines and applications are available at www.CommunityGiving.org. At the website, click on the Community Initiatives tab and then the Women’s Fund. The grant applications are on the left side. Applications must be submitted on-line. Please call CMCF at (320) 253-4380 with any questions.

CMCF, based in St. Cloud, is a public charity that attracts and administers charitable funds for the benefit of the residents of various Central Minnesota counties. It is one of more than 700 community foundations nationwide.