

An UPDATE on ONYA Grantees during the Pandemic

ONYA's mission is to inspire and advance philanthropy to foster personal growth and economic self-sufficiency among women and girls in Ontario and Yates counties. Each year ONYA awards grants to non-profit groups that support this mission. The seven recipients selected for 2020 were chosen from a group of twelve submissions. As ONYA marks its 20th year of service, our Board of Directors is pleased to provide our donors with a six-month review/update on our 2020 Grant recipients during this devastating pandemic.

\$3,000 Family Hope Center will offer a program called Courageous Beauty, a weekly support group for girls aged 11 to 18. It will teach them about healthy relationships, sexual risk avoidance and self-worth. Its goal is to reduce or eliminate risky behaviors.

REVIEW: Forced to stop in-person meetings when schools shut down but have been meeting on-line by Zoom. As of 6/12/2020 Courageous Beauty had 174 visits – one completed 4-week session, 2 individuals who completed more than one 4-week session, and 25 who attended multiple weeks but did not complete a full 4-week cycle.

TESTIMONIALS:

- “One thing I learned today is that sex can be good and bad and can affect your future, and can hurt in the long run.”
- “I learned that lies are all around us and even though it might not seem like it, they are there and we need to pay attention.” (In context of distortions of sex and relationships in the media.)
- “One thing I learned is I have the power to inspire change.”
- “I learned how to tell the difference between lust and love. It was all good to learn especially for when I'm in a relationship.”

\$3,000 Geneva Reads: Like Mother Like Daughter will provide books and establish book clubs and other programs to introduce Latina women and their daughters to the importance and pleasure of reading. The goal of this program is to increase bilingual home libraries and reading proficiency in the Hispanic community.

REVIEW: Not able to move forward on ONYA grant to establish mother-daughter book clubs because people have not been allowed to gather.

\$5,000 Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes will incorporate a “Trauma-Informed Yoga for Youth” program into its support groups. This will help abused teen girls improve their focus, reduce stress and self-regulate their behavior.

REVIEW: Eight staff members completed the on-line class training from Yoga Ed, Trauma-Informed Yoga for Youth”. Components of the curriculum were introduced to 5 girls groups, with between 5-10 girls per group. Since the groups met in school during the day, groups ended without completing the curricula due to the closing of schools. In this group setting before schools closed, youth reported an increase in interpersonal competence, personal power, self-esteem, sense of purpose and positive view of their personal future.

Each staff member has been able to start to introduce mindfulness or yoga techniques to at least 2 youth clients who are seen through individual counseling. Staff have noticed growth in the following areas – useful roles in the community, safety, positive peer influence, peaceful conflict resolution, and support from adults other than parents.

\$4,500 Child and Family Resource Center will provide trauma-based parenting classes to incarcerated mothers and mothers-to-be and will support grandmothers taking care of their children.

REVIEW: Two group sessions were held early but only one could be completed due to the “shut-down”. Extensive marketing was done for the grandmother group but a group could not be put together before the pandemic hit.

TESTIMONIALS:

- “I thought the teacher was very personable and effective at relating our life & family with what she was teaching”
- Really great program and it works and helps out with young adults”

\$3,000 Habitat for Humanity will use its grant to support the “Women Build” program which recruits, educates and empowers women to build and advocate for affordable housing while increasing their own skills and self-sufficiency.

REVIEW: Due to the “pause” the program has not been able to engage women and girls in these volunteer activities. Depending on how long the state is on pause we may need an extension to achieve all the original goals of our grant proposal. We have launched our Home Together Fund to support a number of critical initiatives during this time including deploying our ReStore trucks to help distribute food, providing mortgage relief to our homeowners, and providing additional resources, information and assistance to families in our community

\$5,000 Big Brothers Big Sisters will recruit, train and match female mentors with at-risk, under-served girls to help support their educational success and personal growth through one-on-one relationships.

REVIEW: Continuing to support, enroll youth and volunteers in a virtual manner; supporting volunteers to think outside the box to include a variety of ways they can meet in a virtual manner; holding orientations and interviews virtually.

\$1,500 The Living Well will provide back to school bags that include personal hygiene supplies to help young women be healthier and more self-confident.

REVIEW: The project has not begun because it is for the 2020 school year. Purchase was made of personal care items at a good price when BJ’s in Geneva closed.