

# 2011 WWF Grant Making Report

The Power of Collective Giving



Through WWF's flagship pooled fund grant curriculum, the **Grant Committee** researches and nominates organizations for the entire membership to vote on in June. The **Impact Assessment Committee** monitors the progress of these Pooled Fund grants, communicates the impact of these grants to the membership, provides feedback to the Grant Committee, and strengthens relationships with our grantees.

In 2011, **7 previous Pooled Fund winners** finished their funding cycles. Below are highlights of the impact of our grants in each of these terrific organizations.

This year, we also launched **3 new Partner Grant Initiatives**, and awarded grants to 3 nonprofits in the categories of International, Diversity, and Innovation. Read about the projects these grants funded, as well as the winners of this year's **5 Pooled Fund grants** and **5 Merit Awards**.

*Our members and their contributions make our impact possible - thank you!*

## **ARTIST TRUST** *Grants & fellowships for artists*

**Arts & Culture (2008)**  
**\$100,000 / 3 years**  
**[www.artisttrust.org](http://www.artisttrust.org)**

The mission of Artist Trust (AT) is to support and encourage individual artists working in all disciplines in order to enrich community life throughout Washington State. AT provides artists with funds, time, and resources so they can generate new works. The program serves as a clearinghouse for artist opportunities, legal resources, health care information, and emergency assistance programs.

Washington Women's Foundation's grant provided funds for Artist Fellowships and Scholarships that went directly to individual artists creating art. In the three years of the grant, there were 10 Fellowships of \$7,500 each that went to artists as diverse as a Native American weaver, a painter, and an Eastern European folk singer. In addition, WWF supported 10 GAP awards of \$1,500 each to support a film maker, a glass artist, and others. An additional \$10,000 also supported AT's EDGE professional development program and other free workshops to help artists gain the skills to achieve their personal career goals.



Photos courtesy of Artist Trust. Artwork by Jan Hopkins and Scott Schuldt, recipients of WWF-funded GAP awards.

## CASCADE LAND CONSERVANCY *Community Stewards program*

**Environment (2009)**  
**\$87,500 / 2 years**  
**[www.cascadeland.org](http://www.cascadeland.org)**

Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) acts with immediacy to protect and steward our region's most precious resource - the land. CLC created The Cascade Agenda, a 100-year vision and action plan to conserve more than one million acres of farms, forests, shorelines and urban parks.

Having successfully established the Land Stewards and Forest Stewards programs to advocate on behalf of the environment, CLC requested WWF funds to launch a Community Stewards program to empower residents to advocate for smart growth strategies in local cities that promote urban density and livability.

While CLC initially had the ambitious plan to recruit and train teams of volunteers in nine cities over two

years, they soon realized that the scope of the project needed to be re-tooled. The strategies that were successful with lands and forests didn't translate as well to the city context, and recruiting people to take on the responsibilities of Community Stewards was more difficult. They learned that while many volunteers were willing to do the work of a Community Steward, taking on the mantle of a Steward of a city seemed too daunting. CLC has therefore adjusted and customized their approach to five cities: Tacoma, Issaquah, Tukwila, Kirkland, and Edmonds. Through its organizing, curriculum development, and 25 training sessions, CLC has met their goal of recruiting 100 volunteers, and have several people acting in teams to accomplish the work of Community Stewards.

CLC feels that WWF's support of this strong, focused start in these fewer cities will allow them to grow to other cities as other funding becomes available.

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## COLLEGE ACCESS NOW *General program expansion*

**Education (2009)**  
**\$100,000 / 2 years**  
**[www.collegeaccessnow.org](http://www.collegeaccessnow.org)**

Established in 2005, College Access Now (CAN) makes college admission possible for motivated, talented, and economically disadvantaged students. CAN students are 94% students of color, 88% are free/reduced lunch, and 92% are the first in their families to go to college.

The CAN program helps their students to understand the process of college admissions, complete their applications,

prepare for SAT tests, conduct college tours, and apply for financial aid. CAN also promotes a 'college-going culture' in the schools in which it operates by highlighting college-bound activities and by being available to other students with college assistance on an ad-hoc basis. There is typically one college counselor for every 400 students in Seattle public high schools. CAN initially began at Garfield and Franklin High Schools, and the WWF grant has supported the expansion of the program to West Seattle High School as well. CAN hired one more staff person, increasing the number of students served directly from 120 at two schools to 210 students at three schools.



*Photos courtesy of Cascade Land Conservancy and Kristi Dranginis.*

**(College Access Now, continued)**

In its short existence, CAN has had 100% success in getting all of their students admitted to college or community college, and has helped to access \$3 million in tuition assistance in the last two years alone. CAN is now piloting a 'College Persistence' program to help their students transition successfully so they stay in college.

In the words of the Executive Director: *"Far more than just enabling an expansion, this grant helped CAN begin to grow internal capacity so it could form a real foundation for expanding its services in the future. We are very grateful for the many ways that WWF has supported CAN as an organization and as individual members."*

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## **FIRST PLACE** *Expansion of mental health services*

### **Health (2008)**

**\$100,000 / 3 years**

**[www.firstplaceschool.org](http://www.firstplaceschool.org)**

First Place is a free, privately-funded school (Pre-K to 6th grade) in Central Seattle serving families struggling with the risks and realities of homelessness. Their mission is to educate, nurture and advocate for the children, while empowering families to achieve permanent stability through housing and support services.

Children's academic success is dependent on their mental health. The WWF grant has enabled First Place (FP) to expand on-site mental health services for all its students, who are children who have been exposed to traumatic events and may struggle with trauma-related disorders. Despite staffing changes and a difficult economy, achievements include:

1. Formal assessments to evaluate, for the first time, the educational and mental health strengths and challenges of all students.
2. Integration of strategies between the mental health staff and instructional staff.
3. Help for classroom teachers who identify behavioral issues and concerns.

4. Greater parental involvement and support for families seeking help for their children.
5. Connection to community mental health resources when students and their families leave First Place.

FP also set up innovative partnerships with Antioch and City Universities, to engage Masters-level Education students in hands-on assessment and in-class engagement with students. All 58 students were evaluated last year, and 46% were referred for further mental health counseling, either at First Place or with community partners such as Sound Mental Health. (The national average is 22%, pointing to the vulnerability of this population of children.) During the course of the program, follow-up assessments have shown strong signs of improvement in areas of emotional functioning, self-esteem, and self-management skills. FP was also able to identify gifted students that have gone on to higher-level programs at public and private schools.

An important aspect of the service model is the stronger inclusion of parent input and participation, resulting in better integration of the family with the child's academic and counseling goals. Grant funds also allowed for the purchase of standardized assessments and intervention tools, creating a wrap-around service model.



Photos courtesy of College Access Now.

## GIRL SCOUTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON *Fostering a Future program*

**Human Services (2008)**  
**\$100,000 / 3 years**  
**[www.girlscoutsww.org](http://www.girlscoutsww.org)**

Girls Scouts of Western Washington (GSWW) develops young women to be leaders who value diversity, inclusion, and collaboration, and are committed to improving neighborhoods, communities, and the world. Its programming engages 26,000 girls aged 5 – 18 years in fun and challenging activities that empower them to discover the world and themselves, connect with others, and take action.

GSWW operates a unique Fostering a Future scouting program in King, Pierce, and Thurston counties that focuses exclusively on girls living in foster care. Using trained staff in addition to volunteers, GSWW gives these girls the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts activities with their peers and to create a stable friendship base, providing continuity even when living arrangements change. Barriers to participation, such as transportation and costs, are covered by the program.

In the three years of this grant, GSWW successfully developed four Fostering a Future troops in Lynnwood and Everett involving 35 girls. The program had to be flexible and adaptive enough to suit the particular needs of Snohomish County; for example, late afternoon traffic made it unfeasible for multiple weekday meetings, so the troops shifted to longer Saturday meetings. Other Fostering a Future troops in King County also adopted this model, since it worked so well. The Snohomish County program is also fostering a new relationship with the Tulalip Tribe with the hope of starting a troop on the Tulalip reservation in the future. A 'Scouting Together' troop has also been created, whereby eight girls who were formerly in foster care participate in troop activities with their biological parents after being reunified.

While the program has enrolled fewer girls than originally anticipated (35 vs. 45 girls), GSWW has shown flexibility and a sharp focus on how best to serve these girls, with very high retention rates and engaged, active scouts.

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## KING CO. SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER *Dando Voz*

**Health (2009)**  
**\$100,000 / 2 years**  
**[www.kcsarc.org](http://www.kcsarc.org)**

For 35 years, KCSARC has provided victims of sexual abuse with intervention, treatment, prevention and advocacy services. The WWF grant supported the expansion of their Dando Voz (Giving Voice) program that focuses on intervention and support for those children and families among South King County's Spanish-speaking population that have experienced childhood sexual abuse.

The Dando Voz program initially had problems with staffing, but in time found the right person with the bilingual and bicultural skills necessary to effectively lead this program. Every Spanish-speaking family that comes for help is matched with therapists and Family Services Specialists so that therapeutic intervention for the abused child is melded with parent counseling. KCSARC found that these families needed more case management than anticipated, to handle basic needs, unemployment and housing crises often brought on by having to split from the perpetrator/bread winner. KCSARC and Consejo Counseling Services worked together to stabilize these families and connect them to the necessary resources so that they could also engage in therapy and parent



*Photos courtesy of Girl Scouts of Western Washington.*

(KCSARC, continued)

education. Before the WWF grant, KCSARC had been able to serve 35 children and parents through Dando Voz, with the goal to reach 90 children and parents with WWF's support. In two years, KCSARC has successfully served a total of 141 new Spanish-speaking children and their parents. The program has a trustworthy reputation among the Spanish-speaking community and non-profits, prompting former clients to refer other families to the

program.

In their own words: *The generous 2-year grant from the Washington Women's Foundation helped KCSARC establish an infrastructure that can continue to grow in the future to meet the needs of Spanish-speaking families with children who have been sexually abused. Thank you for your tremendous commitment to this important work.*

## THE MOCKINGBIRD SOCIETY

**Human Services (2009)**

**\$100,000 / 2 years**

**[www.mockingbirdsociety.org](http://www.mockingbirdsociety.org)**

The Mockingbird Society (TMS) works toward "building a world class foster care system through collaboration, innovation and advocacy." They operate two programs:

- The Mockingbird Family Model, a service delivery model whose goal is to increase the safety of children and reduce the number of foster home changes. It allows siblings to remain together or in close proximity and provides critical support to help retain and recruit high quality foster parents.
- The Mockingbird Network is an expansion of the Youth LEAD program which addresses foster youth, their community and system reform. The goal is to change the perspective of foster youth to a new role as advocate and leader in their community.

The WWF grant provided general operating support of their programs and for organizational growth and development. Key among TMS's accomplishments is the completion of a new Strategic Plan that is energizing their work as they grow and expand in a thoughtful way. TMS has created a Public Policy and Communications department so they can continue to advocate successfully on state child welfare issues. Legislatively, they

### *General support*

advocated in Olympia on behalf of foster children so that funding for key programs was preserved. For example, they worked to extend "Foster Care to 21," allowing those working for their high school diploma or GED to remain in foster care until age 21, and the Independent Youth Housing program for youth exiting foster care.

The Mockingbird Family Model has expanded from 12 'constellations' of foster homes to 16 constellations that continue to be strengthened, tested and proven. The groundwork has been laid for future expansion and replication, pending further funding that would allow them to scale up as partners are identified.

TMS has also created a truly statewide network of youth engaged in leadership development and advocacy work, with six network chapters comprised of 345 youth working together on policy and advocacy for all foster youth in Washington. A foster youth active as a Mockingbird Network Representative was appointed by Governor Gregoire as the first official foster youth member to serve on the state's Transformation Design Committee, which is studying the re-design of the state's foster care system. He writes:

*"I am grateful that Mockingbird saw something in me that was worth developing, worth cultivating. I am grateful that Mockingbird gave me the opportunity to do real work...to help create change in the foster care system...I am grateful that Mockingbird has made a seat for me at the table!"*



Photos courtesy of the Mockingbird Society, photos by Jerry Davis.

## 2011 Pooled Fund Grant Awards.....\$475,000

On June 15, we awarded grants to five local nonprofit organizations, bringing total Foundation giving since 1995 to over \$11 million, both through individual grants of up to \$1,000 each and through Pooled Fund Grants of \$50,000-\$100,000.

### ARTS & CULTURE: Seattle Shakespeare Company.....\$85,000

To create a new program model to meet schools' need state-wide for Shakespeare education by creating regional hubs: geographically-based alliances that work together to support affordable, sustainable, and quality Shakespeare programming for Washington students. [www.seattleshakespeare.org](http://www.seattleshakespeare.org)

### EDUCATION: Seattle Education Access.....\$100,000

To fund scholarships in the form of bus passes, textbooks, computers, testing fees, child care, and sometimes even rent and groceries, for motivated, low-income young adults to stay in school as they work toward attaining two- or four-year college degrees. [www.seattleeducationaccess.org](http://www.seattleeducationaccess.org)

### ENVIRONMENT: Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network.....\$90,000

To support the Fresh Food in Schools program, which seeks to reverse farmland loss and epidemic childhood obesity. Using grassroots organizing, advocacy and education, they will support the purchase and serving of more Washington-grown fruits and vegetables in school cafeterias across the state while helping Washington farms to be sustainable. [www.wsffn.org](http://www.wsffn.org)

### HEALTH: Sound Mental Health.....\$100,000

To sustain the Children's Domestic Violence Response Team, which provides comprehensive, intensive support -- including safety planning, advocacy, and evidence-based, recovery-oriented mental health treatment -- for children and their families who have been traumatized by domestic violence. [www.smh.org](http://www.smh.org)

### HUMAN SERVICES: Family Law CASA of King County.....\$100,000

To expand services by adding an additional advocate supervisor to work on behalf of children in some of King County's most contentious custody cases so these children have the best chance possible for a safer, more secure home life. [www.familylawcasa.org](http://www.familylawcasa.org)



WWF members and guests at 2011 Grant Award Celebration. Photos by Jerry Davis

## 2011 WWF Merit Awards.....\$10,000

Introduced as part of our 2010-2013 Strategic Plan, the Washington Women's Foundation presents a WWF Merit Award to the five finalists who were not awarded the Pooled Fund Grants. The Merit Award is in recognition of the Grant Committee's strong endorsement of these organizations and includes a \$2,000 grant in appreciation for the time and effort invested in WWF's rigorous grant process.

**Burke Museum Association's** Burkemobile is a statewide outreach program that brings hands-on, inquiry-based museum experiences to rural, underserved schools in Washington State. [www.burkemuseum.org](http://www.burkemuseum.org)

**Little Red School House** advances the quality of life for all children, focusing primarily on children ages birth to three years with, or at risk of developmental delays and disabilities. [www.littlered.org](http://www.littlered.org)

**Seattle Audubon Society** cultivates and leads a community that values and protects birds and the natural environment. [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org)

**Kindering Center** provides individualized, family-centered services for children who are disabled, medically fragile, or vulnerable because of abuse or neglect. [www.kindering.org](http://www.kindering.org)

**Cocoon House** is an all-encompassing continuum of services that strengthens families while helping teens to reclaim their youth and discover their values, strengths and talents in Snohomish County. [www.cocoonhouse.org](http://www.cocoonhouse.org)

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## TOTALS:

1996 - 2011 Total Pooled Fund Grants.....	\$5,695,000
1996 - 2010 Total Individual Grants.....	\$5,263,553
2010 - 2011 Merit Awards.....	\$20,000
2010 - 2011 Partner Grant Awards.....	\$44,000
<b>Total granted by WWF since 1996.....</b>	<b>\$11,022,553</b>



WWF members and guests at 2011 Grant Award Celebration. Photos by Jerry Davis.

# 2011 Partner Grant Awards

Three new Partner Grant awards were introduced in our 2010-2013 Strategic Plan to provide the opportunity for hands-on learning through an advanced curriculum of grant making, and to enable WWF to make grants in new funding areas: International, Diversity, and Innovation. Thanks to all the members who served on these new committees and contributed to these pilot granting efforts!

## **INTERNATIONAL: PeaceTrees Vietnam.....\$14,000**

### **Partner Organization: Seattle International Foundation**

PeaceTrees Vietnam (PTV) works in Central Vietnam to assist those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by the explosive remnants of war. PTV sponsors demining and mine risk education, victim assistance, and community building projects, such as libraries and kindergartens, in partnership with the people of Quang Tri Province to promote a safe, healthy future for children and families.

The WWF Grant will fund Healthful Gardens for Healthy Children, located in Da Krong District, one of the poorest regions in Vietnam in part because of the lingering consequences of war. PTV, working in partnership with the Quang Tri Province Women’s Union, will address this problem by removing landmines and unexploded ordinance from family garden plots, and teaching 132 women in one commune how to grow nutritious foods for their children. Once this pilot project is proven, PTV will be able to replicate this model in other areas across the province. [www.peacetreesvietnam.org](http://www.peacetreesvietnam.org)

## **DIVERSITY: Native American Women’s Dialogue on Infant Mortality.....\$15,000**

### **Partner Organization: The Potlach Fund**

NAWDIM seeks to combat the disproportionately high rate of SIDS and infant mortality among Native American babies. They propose to do this through cradleboard classes – day-long events where expectant and new Native mothers gather together to create these traditional carriers for babies that keep them safe, while also sharing traditional stories and building community to combat the stress and social isolation of these new mothers. The making of cradleboards is a sacred, creative way to both connect moms to their cultural roots and to promote safe sleep practices to keep their babies healthy.

This project has an additional dimension of gathering personal and traditional stories digitally at these cradleboard classes. NAWDIM facilitators would digitally record stories told by the expectant/new mothers, grandmothers and other family members to tell stories of past traditions and to share their own experiences. [www.nwsids.org](http://www.nwsids.org)

## **INNOVATION: Kenyan Women’s Association.....\$15,000**

### **Partner Organization: The Seattle Foundation**

The Kenyan Women’s Association mission is to foster a thriving African community in the Pacific Northwest through support programs and advocacy for women and their families so that they will lead connected, empowered lives and in turn support others.

The WWF Innovation Grant will support a Project Coordinator for the Community Based Fund Development Project for entrepreneurship development among a group of African immigrant women. Using a peer-to-peer savings model, they will build together the collateral necessary to access small business loans, link with outside educational and business resources, and gain the skills and confidence to expand their markets and increase their self-sufficiency. [kenya-wa.org](http://kenya-wa.org)



Photo courtesy of PeaceTrees Vietnam.



Diversity Grant Award Winner NAWDIM, and partner organization Potlach Fund.