



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Past Community Foundation of Burke County grant recipients are pictured.

Grants to focus on children's self-esteem

Special to The News Herald

Each year the Burke Women's Fund (BWF) provides funding for innovative and on-going community projects that benefit women and families. There are two granting opportunities:

- » Funding of new or on-going projects that benefit the community

- » Funding of up to \$5,000 for a special "focus grant"

The focus of the 2014 grant will be building children's self-esteem. Programs impacting children younger than 18 and community collaborations should be addressed in this grant. The emphasis of the grant is on young women and girls; however it encourages programmatic activities that reach young men and boys within the same age range.

BWF looks for new and novel ideas, strategies and partnerships in this focus grant.

Funded opportunities could include a one-time event (such as an art camp or cooking classes that teach a particular skill) or the development of a program (such as steps to the safe use of social media, student-taught strategies to combat bullying and activities focusing on grade level transitions). Applicants are encouraged to design a structure for their proposal that can be sustained beyond the grant cycle and ensure maximum impact on young people.

In 2012, the BWF funded its first focus grants. Two grants were funded and designed to teach a marketable skill to young women. Burke United Christian Ministries (BUCM) received a \$5,000 grant for Project Independence. This grant was a collaborative effort between BUCM, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and St. Matthews United Methodist

Church. Young women who attend St. Charles Catholic Church are being taught how to establish a bakery business as well as learning the art of baking. Foothills Service Project received the second focus grant and was awarded \$2,640 for Women Building for Women.

This funding opportunity taught the art of wood construction and the importance of community service.

The grant cycle will open August 2 and will close at 5 p.m. on September 13. One must be a 501(c)(3) organization or sponsored by a 501(c)(3) organization. The grant proposal must have measurable impact and benefit people living in Burke County.

For more information, call the Community Foundation of Burke County at 828-437-7105 or visit the website at www.cfburkecounty.org and click on the Women's Fund.