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A Fund for Women Announces \$105,000 in Grants to 6 Nonprofits

MADISON, Wis., [December 14, 2021] – A Fund for Women awarded \$105,000 in grants to six area nonprofits that support the economic empowerment of women and girls in its fall 2021 grantmaking round. These grants join the \$30,000 in proactive grants the Fund awarded earlier this year.

One of this year's grants went to support The Road Home Women's Employment and Training Fund. The Road Home works to address housing inequities and provide lasting solutions. Employment is critical to a family's success in securing and sustaining housing. The Women's Employment and Training Fund makes extra funds available for women in The Road Home's housing programs who are struggling to make ends meet and cannot afford to pay for expenses related to work or job training programs. Teenagers seeking employment also benefit from this fund.

"This generous grant to The Road Home from A Fund for Women empowers women and their families to obtain work, maintain their current employment, and participate in job training programs that move them toward higher-paying jobs," says Kristin Rucinski, The Road Home's executive director. "With this assistance, women participating in our programs can avoid a return to homelessness and reach their potential to earn, save and invest."

"A lot of stuff started coming together when I found stable housing," says RaShanna, a mother, student and most recently, a business owner of 3B Healing Valley, who benefitted from employment and training funds through The Road Home. "Prior to that, all my energy was focused on 'How do I get an apartment? How do I feed the kids?' So now, being stable, and having the support has been transformational."

The complete list of 2021 grant recipients includes:

Centro Hispano: A \$20,000 grant to Centro's CAMINOS Career Pathways program will help provide employment training for Latinas in finance and nursing, and to overcome barriers to advancing their careers through the Progreso program.

Latino Academy: A \$15,000 grant to the Latina Workforce Advancement Project will help providing individualized mentoring, education, and career support for at least 95 Dane County Latinas in 2022. The program includes bilingual career training, Spanish GED classes, and a Women in the Workplace Mentorship Program.

Omega School: This \$20,000 grant for the BIPOC Mothers Virtual/Blended Program will help provide educational support for young BIPOC mothers looking to pursue their GED or HSED, by providing support, technology, and connections to wrap-around services through their choice of either a virtual or in-person program.

The Road Home: A \$10,000 grant to the Women's Employment and Training Fund will help women and their teenage daughters in The Road Home's housing programs cover expenses such as childcare, car

repair, testing fees, professional clothing, and bus tickets that otherwise might stand in the way of their ability to work.

UW Odyssey Project: This \$20,000 grant will help provide wrap-around support to Odyssey families who have been hard-hit by the pandemic – both economically and emotionally. To help ensure their academic success, the Odyssey Project Success Coach helps students and alumni take care of their other needs by connecting them with rent assistance, organizations helping alleviate food insecurity, and other resources they need.

YWCA Madison: This \$20,000 grant will help support the YWCA Madison’s Empower Home program, which provides a safe transitional environment for people who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness due to domestic violence or sexual assault. By providing “housing first” support and resources, the Empower Home program helps participants transition into permanent housing and economic stability.

These grants join the three proactive grants of \$10,000 each that were awarded earlier this year to:

Centro Hispano: To help provide services to undocumented and immigrant members of Madison’s Latino community.

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS): To provide direct aid to women facing financial hurdles to leaving a domestic violence situation. This will help cover everything from housing stabilization and relocation expenses, lock changes, legal expenses, prescriptions and transportation.

Freedom, Inc.: To continue to provide culturally specific healing spaces and community building and strengthening work in the LGBTQI+, Black and Southeast Asian communities in Dane County.

This grant cycle follows a year in which AFFW shifted to proactive unrestricted grants designed to provide immediate relief to grantee agencies during the pandemic. We were able to provide emergency relief funds to six Dane County agencies responding to urgent community needs affecting women and girls.

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About A Fund for Women: A Fund for Women was founded in 1993 with gifts of \$1,000 from 100 original donors who raised \$100,000 to start an endowment fund, which is invested and grows over time. Today the fund, managed by Madison Community Foundation, is valued at over \$3 million and awards approximately \$100,000 in grants annually. In the last 28 years, AFFW has awarded more than 140 grants totaling more than \$1.5 million to area organizations working to empower women.

About Madison Community Foundation: Madison Community Foundation’s mission is to enhance the common good through philanthropy. Established as a community trust in 1942, Madison Community Foundation, together with donors, has distributed more than \$250 million to strengthen causes and communities in Dane County and around the world. Learn more at madisongives.org.