

chicago foundation for women

2022 Spring Grant Making – North Shore Giving Circle Awards

CYN Counseling Center	North Shore Giving Circle Freedom from Violence	Award: \$7,500
<p>Project Name: Trauma Informed Counseling for Trauma Survivors in Lake County</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: For over 40 years CYN Counseling Center's mission has remained to preserve and strengthen families while protecting children from abusive or high-risk situations. CYN works to transform the lives of our most vulnerable and at-risk youth, families and adults and collaborate with schools, police, courts, DCFS and area organizations to address complicated issues and create lasting change. CYN began as a case coordination agency for the most complex cases of child abuse. Today, we are a comprehensive community based mental health center, accessible to all and serving over 1,400 individuals in need annually. CYN has a unique expertise in providing trauma informed therapy to adults and children impacted by issues like domestic violence and child abuse.</p> <p>Funds will provide 150 counseling sessions to 35 households of women and children recovering from the trauma of abuse or domestic violence. 75% of these clients are African American or LatinX. Last year CYN served over 500 of women and children recovering from trauma through n-home, office and school counseling and supportive services. From counseling to general assistance for things like housing, career, parenting and healthcare, CYN staff help families overcome the trauma of abuse and create happier, healthier and more successful futures.</p>		

Equal Hope	North Shore Giving Circle Health	Award: \$10,000
<p>Project Name: Equal Hope Access to Care Lake County</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Equal Hope (EH) is dedicated to eliminating racial, ethnic and class disparities in health outcomes, originally through the lens of breast cancer and recently expanded to health disparities more broadly. Historically, Metro Chicago has had high rates of racial mortality disparities for many diseases, including women's cancers. From 2005-2007, Black women were 62% more likely to die from breast cancer compared to White women, while other racially diverse cities such as New York had low disparities at this time. This temporal and geographic variation in the disparity suggests structural racism rather than biology as a key driver of this disparity. With that information, EH developed an evidence-based, multipronged approach to address this disparity. EH's approach involves quality measurement and improvement of healthcare quality, advocacy for system change and navigation to help uninsured, underinsured and publicly insured women overcome systemic barriers to better health outcomes.</p> <p>The program for which we seek funding for is an access to care program that assist Lake County residents through: 1) outreach and education, 2) social determinants of health screening with referral to emergency assistance, 3) patient navigation to breast and cervical cancer screens and follow-up when necessary, and 4) linkage to primary care.</p>		

Friends of the Highwood Public Library	North Shore Giving Circle Economic Security	Award: \$7,500
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Project Name: General Operating

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
The Highwood Public Library and Community Center (HPLCC) is an innovative anchor that enriches, empowers, educates, and embraces the community it serves. In 2019, HPLCC adopted a strategic plan focused on assessing and responding to the intersectional structural barriers impacting individuals and families. This has resulted in a complete transformation into a robust array of programs and services responding to the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Our programs have proven to be a doorway to progress and opportunity, increasing literacy, access to education, employment, and health, and combating the digital divide. These programs are equalizing access and empowering individuals to pursue and achieve their ultimate goals. In recognition of our work, in 2021 the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded us the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest honor given to museums and libraries that make significant contributions to their communities.

Women in our community desperately need living-wage jobs so that they are able to sustain their households. Our programming provides employment skills, digital skills, soft skills readiness, and adult basic education to help women gain higher levels of employment and attain economic security. This will cause a transformational shift in the community, allowing women to move from minimum wage earner to manager, from renter to home-owner, and from the voiceless to the unstoppable. This program has the power to alter generational cycles of poverty.

Planned Parenthood of Illinois	North Shore Giving Circle Health	Award: \$11,500
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Project Name: Waukegan Health Center Operations

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
PPIL strives to be a leader in providing and promoting compassionate, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care, education, and rights.

In May 2020, Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPIL) opened our Lake County health center in Waukegan. Lake County was selected for a new health center because it is the third largest county in Illinois, with the fifth highest uninsured rate of all counties in Illinois and rising rates of Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) diagnoses. Before PPIL opened the Waukegan Health Center, a large number of patients traveled from Lake County to access care at PPIL’s Chicago and west suburban health centers.

Since opening, the Waukegan Health Center has served over 4,300 patients with high quality, affordable reproductive and sexual health care services over the course of more than 6,700 visits. PPIL has provided 7,477 STI tests, 1,548 birth control visits (25% of which were for long acting reversible contraception, or LARCs), and 188 cancer screenings. Over one-third of patients relied on Medicaid, and 18% of patients utilized our internal sliding scale to access preventive care.

Support from the North Shore Giving Circle will help to ensure PPIL Waukegan is able to continue providing high-quality care to Lake County residents even as demand increases from out-of-state patients, ultimately improving access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care for all.

YWCA of Evanston/North Shore	North Shore Giving Circle Economic Security	Award: \$7,500
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Project Name: General Operating

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice and dignity for all. It is the oldest and largest multicultural women’s organization in the world.

Black and Brown women are grossly underrepresented in the tech field. Lack of access to higher education, insufficient mentorship and educational support services, the absence of professional networks, as well as a lack of childcare and transportation, all pose barriers to entry in the lucrative field. Similarly, Black and Brown entrepreneurs often lack access to the financial and social capital necessary for their business to thrive. YW Tech Lab is designed to mitigate these barriers and assist members of our community who seek to achieve greater financial autonomy and freedom for themselves and their families. To expand access to entry-level tech jobs for Black and Brown women, YWCA Evanston/North Shore launched YW Tech Lab in 2020 in partnership with Oakton Community College as a community-based on ramp to the tech sector. Black and Brown women engage in the 16-week coding and job readiness program to prepare them for employment in web design and development. Upon successful completion, each student receives 7 credit hours from Oakton and has developed a network of professionals in the industry to support their employment journey.