



Fact Sheet — 2013-2014 Grantees

What Is a Sheltering Arms Foundation Grantee?

In fiscal year 2013-2014, 36 nonprofit organizations across the state of Minnesota will use a total of \$455,000 in grant money awarded by the Sheltering Arms Foundation (SAF) for programs benefiting children and their families in Minnesota who are most vulnerable, have least access to resources, and are least likely to have a wide array of choices about their future. For more, visit <http://sheltering-arms.org/>.

Counties Served by Sheltering Arms Grantees in 2013-2014

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|
| Aitkin | Fillmore | Ramsey | Winona |
| Carlton | Hennepin | Renville | Yellow Medicine |
| Cass | Kandiyohi | Rice | |
| Crow Wing | McLeod | St. Louis | |
| Dakota | Meeker | Staples/Motley | |

Towns Served by or Headquartering Sheltering Arms Grantees

| | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Bemidji | Fergus Falls | Northfield | St. Charles |
| Brainerd | McGregor | Plymouth | St. Paul |
| Duluth | Minneapolis | Preston | Winona |
| Faribault | Moose Lake | Proctor | |

Ethnic Populations Served by 2013-2014 Programs

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------|
| African American | Latino | Oromo |
| Hmong | Native American | Somali |

The grantees and the programs supported by SAF

American Oromo Community in Minnesota (<http://www.oromoamericans.org>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports the American Champions League, an out-of-school-time program in St. Paul's Promise Neighborhood. A joint program of the American Oromo Community in Minnesota and the Ober Community Center, the American Champions League has a strong academic tutoring focus combined with athletics, service projects, and programs to help youth understand each other's cultures.

Appetite for Change (<http://www.appetiteforchangemn.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in north Minneapolis. Grant supports the new Fresh Start Garden, a pilot project in partnership with LaCreche Early Childhood Center designed to build community and serve preschoolers through a gardening and cooking program. It will use the Landscape Arboretum Peapods early childhood curriculum, and the U of MN will document results with community-based participatory research.

(more)

Center City Housing Corporation (<http://www.centercityhousing.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in Duluth. Grant supports the Children's Program Director position, the Tots of Tomorrow program, and childcare during the newly created Parent Councils. CCHC provides supportive housing to homeless families with children, providing 400 units at several locations in Duluth.

Centro, Inc. (<http://centromn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in south Minneapolis. Grant supports professional development and further training for two staff members of Siembra, Centro's dual-language Montessori early childhood program, to support Siembra's progress towards accreditation. Grant will also support setting up the Siembra Family Garden, weekly education for parents, and design and implementation of the Siembra Nutrition Education Program.

Child Care Aware of Minnesota (<http://www.childcareawaremn.org/>)—\$20,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Grant support will enable more child care providers to participate in the statewide expansion of Parent Aware, will provide additional tools for parents to identify and select high-quality child care, and will help build the capacity of the system to better service parents and providers. Strong emphasis will be on tools to help immigrant and refugee communities (English language learners) access Parent Aware.

Children's Theatre Company (<http://www.childrenstheatre.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in South Minneapolis. Grant supports CTC's Early Bridges early childhood initiative, which brings high-quality theater arts learning experiences based on best practices in early education to early learners ages 2-6 from low-income families in the Twin Cities.

Emerge Community Development (<http://www.emerge-mn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in Minneapolis. Grant supports three partnerships developed in 2012 by EMERGE Link, a program to enhance the social and academic skills of over 100 mostly African American pre-K-12th grade youth who have experienced homelessness: The EDIT program, which uses photography as a vehicle for youth storytelling and raising awareness of homelessness issues within the broader community; a Literacy Council VISTA academic mentoring program; and a Summer Reads VISTA.

Family Housing Fund (<http://www.fhfund.org/>)—\$20,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Grant supports the Visible Child Initiative, a joint initiative between the Family Housing Fund and the Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota created to influence public policy on behalf of homeless children. Funds support development and implementation of a strategy to educate legislators on the status and needs of homeless children and to build a coalition of partners needed to create and implement a statewide comprehensive plan.

Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners (<http://www.iocp.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in Plymouth, serves eight suburban communities in west Hennepin. Grant supports the Caring for Kids Initiative to expand hours for a case manager who will create a coordinated point of entry for families and help to streamline provision of mental services for children ages 0-5 of low-income families in early childhood education programs. This position will also provide parent education and support.

Joyce Preschool (<http://www.joycespreschool.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in south Minneapolis. Grant supports expansion of this bilingual preschool's home visiting program with Latino families to better understand the needs of its families, help build relationships, and provide new learning opportunities. Goal is to improve the long-term educational outcomes for children well after they leave Joyce Preschool. Resources will be provided to families to help them navigate schools and provide learning support in the home.

Keystone Community Services (<http://www.keystonecommunityservices.org/>)—\$12,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports adding a tutoring component to Keystone’s Hmong Youth Program. The Winsor Learning system curriculum will be purchased and used to train Hmong high school students who will be paid to tutor 10 hours per week at the Hmong Youth Program. The St. Paul Public Schools Foundation is viewing this as a pilot that could expand to other out-of-school-time partners in St. Paul.

Kinship Partners, Inc. (<http://www.kinshippartners.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Brainerd, serving Crow Wing County, southern Cass County, and Staples/Motley. Grant supports expansion of Kinship’s rural outreach to provide mentors to at-risk children ages 5-12 in the Staples/Motley area through a program Kinship took over in 2012.

Montessori Training Center of Minnesota (<http://www.montessoricentermn.org/>)—\$12,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports addition of a part-time social worker to MTCM’s parent education initiative, which promotes early literacy development, positive parent-child interactions, family health and stability, and increased school readiness. The social worker will counsel on issues including mental health, child care, and medical care; counsel children whose behavior, school progress, or mental or physical impairment indicate a need for diagnosis; and work with the education coordinator to connect families to services in the community if they are needed.

Neighborhood House (<http://www.neighb.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports expansion of the Skills for Schools program, a part of its early childhood program. Funds will enable the program to increase class time with the current group and expand the number of children it serves, who are primarily from Latino, Hmong and Somali immigrant families. Skills for Schools promotes school readiness by developing social, emotional, language and literacy skills, particularly English language acquisition.

Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (<http://northfieldhci.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in Northfield. Grant supports expansion of PRIMETIME programming, which provides low-income at-risk children with free mentoring, tutoring, skill-building workshops, and cultural enrichment programming after school and during the summer. Northfield is seeing an influx of immigrant and refugee families (mostly Latino), and more than a quarter of the town’s children are eligible to receive free and reduced lunches.

Northland Foundation (<http://www.northlandfdn.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in Duluth, serves northeastern Minnesota. Grant supports continuation of the Reading Pals Pilot Project within Northland’s innovative intergenerational Age To Age initiative. Older adults from the Age To Age programs in McGregor, Moose Lake, and Proctor will work with children ages 3 to third grade to develop literacy skills. All of these communities have a very high proportion of low-income youth.

Northside Achievement Zone (<http://northsideachievement.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in north Minneapolis. Grant supports piloting an additional Family Academy program called “Ready to Succeed,” to prepare 4- and 5-year-olds and their families for kindergarten. Funding will support two field trials of a 12-week program based on the Incredible Years curriculum, customized by NAZ engagement staff and U of MN CEED for the demographics of their families in order to be culturally relevant.

PACT for Families Collaborative (<http://www.pact4.org/>)—\$17,000 grant

Based in Willmar, serving Kandiyohi, Meeker, McLeod, Renville and Yellow Medicine counties and the Upper Sioux Community. Grant supports expanding the number of Incredible Years trained educators to teach parenting classes in the five-county area and expanding the offering of the classes. This “train the trainers” program has been delivered in Spanish and Somali to serve those growing populations, so new trainers from these communities will have priority to attend the training.

Patchwork Quilt (<http://patchworkquilt.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in north Minneapolis. Grant supports the establishment of an eight-week summer program for children in first through sixth grades, with older children playing a mentor role. With academic programming in the morning and enrichment clubs in the afternoon, it will use elements of the Freedom School program at Kwanzaa Church, where Patchwork Quilt is located, such as the Harambe Circles.

Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota (<http://www.pcamn.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Grant funding will help provide information and training to Minnesota childcare providers about national research around adverse childhood experiences, which reveals the detrimental impact of exposure to stressful experiences on the developing brain of a young child, particularly children ages 0-3. Current child care curricula will be enhanced, trauma-informed methods of teaching will be introduced, and providers will be taught culturally competent approaches.

Project FINE (<http://www.projectfine.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Based in Winona, serving Winona and surrounding area. Grant supports the Learning Together Program, a coalition effort focused on introducing refugee and immigrant parents and their young children to opportunities available in the area in early childhood programs. Many of these families come from cultures that do not include early childhood education, so parents must learn about the need for a child to be prepared before they come to kindergarten. The Learning Together Program consists of a year of programming with large group sessions for parents, parent mentoring sessions, and site visits to early childhood programs in the community.

Project Get Outdoors (<http://www.mnprojectgo.com/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Preston, serves statewide. Grant supports taking the program statewide, helping fund the development of a statewide program coordinator position and a Community Mapping & Outreach AmeriCorps member position. These staff members will develop partnerships and work closely with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota, U of MN Extension Service, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to develop training programs, evaluation tools, and strong after-school programming.

Resource, Inc. (<http://www.resource-mn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Grant supports expanding the initiative Building Resilient Families, which works with 50 children aged 0-5 whose parents are seeking treatment for chemical dependence. The program uses the HighReach learning curriculum with the children and their families, building parenting skills and family cohesiveness and helping kids deal with trauma and master skills needed to be ready for school.

Sabathani Community Center (<http://www.sabathani.org/>)—\$12,000 grant

Located in south Minneapolis. Grant supports expanding the Horizons program by adding STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) to its offerings. Sabathani is working on this with assistance from SELF International, a local group based at the Bakken Museum, and is partnering with the U of MN and the Science Museum.

So How Are the Children? (<http://www.shac4youth.org/>)—\$14,000 grant

Located in Faribault. Grant supports expanding the summer programming for low-income youth and integrating it with other local offerings for youth in Faribault. The programming will focus on refugee and immigrant youth, a rapidly expanding population in this town. Programming for 200 children will be held at Roosevelt Elementary School and will use a curriculum focused on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math). Mentoring for the students will be provided by interns from St. Olaf and Carleton colleges.

St. Anne's Place (<http://www.ascensionplace.org/stannesplace.html>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in Minneapolis. Grant supports an early childhood education component to meet the needs of young mothers and their preschool children who are housed at the emergency shelter. The program will consist of weekly parenting support groups, parent child interaction groups, and optional weekly private consultations.

St. Paul Area Council of Churches (<http://www.spacc.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in St. Paul. Grant supports expanding SPACC's offerings to older children and reaching out to Hmong youth in its service area. Its Freedom School, a summer program providing for low-income children in St. Paul, has been focused on African-American culture, and SPACC plans to expand the cultural focus to make it more appealing to the large Hmong community in the area..

St. Stephen's Human Services, Inc. (<http://ststephensmpls.org/>)—\$13,000 grant

Located in central Minneapolis. Grant supports building the capacity of this agency to more directly address the needs of homeless children and to build capacity within its staff. Includes sending a newly hired early childhood specialist and a case manager to Seattle to be trained in the Incredible Years curriculum, as well as purchasing materials to train other staff.

Urban Strategies (<http://www.urbanstrategiesinc.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in St. Louis, MO, serving the Heritage Park affordable housing in near north Minneapolis. Grant supports a new summer program, Chefs In Motion, which will offer an experiential and education program for 75 children ages 5-12. The program includes food science, biology, visual and performing arts, community garden, health career exploration and dinner nights. There will be field trips to select related destinations and an opportunity for participants to present at the state fair.

Village of Hope (<http://www.villageofhopebemidji.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Located in Bemidji. Grant helps this shelter incorporate PEACH (Physical and Emotional Awareness for Children who are Homeless), a nation-wide curriculum adopted by many shelters around the country that teaches children and parents about good nutrition, physical activity and dealing with the stress of being homeless. The shelter houses up to 50 children a year, 90% of whom are Native American.

Way to Grow (<http://mplswtg.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. Grant supports expanding the pilot program Great By 8, which helps children continue the gains in literacy made in pre-school through 1st grade. Great By 8 was launched in 2010 in response to growing research that confirms that academic achievement by third grade often predicts a child's future social, academic, and economic success. Designed to reach 175 kindergarten-3rd graders, this program is a partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools and serves very vulnerable families in north and south Minneapolis.

West Central Initiative (<http://www.wcif.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Fergus Falls, serves the counties of Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin. Grant supports curriculum and trainings to help the region's child care providers overcome barriers to meeting Minnesota's Parent Aware standards. Helping improve rural child care providers' quality and getting them Parent Aware rated is a critical element in ensuring that new scholarships (MinneMinds) are available to rural families.

YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities (<http://www.ymcatwincities.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. Grant supports hiring a part-time Native American staff person to help bridge the gap between the numbers of Native students at Anishinaabe Academy and the number who participate in Anne Sullivan Elementary School's after-school Beacons program. The school serves the large East African community in the Seward Towers as well as American Indian students from Anishinaabe, which relocated to Sullivan several years ago.

Youth Farm (formerly Youth Farm & Market Project) (<http://youthfarmmn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant

Based in Minneapolis, serves Lyndale and Powderhorn neighborhoods in Minneapolis, and Frogtown and the West Side in St. Paul. Grant supports creation of a Family Engagement Program that interacts with direct youth programming. Will include a focus on improving best practices to increase and strengthen parent engagement with the goal of doubling or tripling parent/family involvement over the next year.

YWCA of Duluth (<http://www.kintera.org/site/c.ahKPI3MKIhIWE/b.8513003/k.BCF5/Home.htm>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in Duluth. Grant supports training all teachers at the YWCA's Spirit Valley's early childhood center in the Circles of Security method, a method in which parents of children six weeks to five years old learn to recognize cues and meet needs to help their children improve their social emotional outcomes. Spirit Valley provides supportive housing to very low-income young mothers and their children. Circles of Security is a good resiliency builder for children who have been impacted by numerous adverse childhood experiences (ACES).

YWCA of Minneapolis (<https://www.ywcampls.org/>)—\$15,000 grant

Located in Minneapolis. Grant supports hiring a community organizer to train parents and caregivers at YWCA sites, with the goal of adding 20 or more parents and caregivers to the speakers bureau, which already has 72 trained speakers. These speakers have been very helpful with legislative efforts, bringing their personal stories to the legislative process to advocate on early childhood public policy issues.