

The New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc. Provides Two Grants

By Annie M. Ugurlayan

The New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc. is pleased to announce its approval of two very worthy grant proposals by the Center for Anti-Violence Education and Housing + Solutions, each in the amount of \$2,500.

The grant to the Center for Anti-Violence Education is for their new Pre-Teen Empowerment Project, focusing on at-risk girls aged 10 through 13, during their crucial transformation from childhood to adolescence.

The rise in bullying and ongoing risks of sex trafficking makes the need for this project particularly critical. While 40 percent of girls aged 10-12 have friends who are in verbally abusive relationships, few can spot the warning signs of such abuse, and parents are often unaware of teen dating violence. The project will help these girls strengthen their voices and bodies; identify healthy and unhealthy behavior; provide self-care and access support; and develop leadership and advocacy skills.

Founded in 1974, the Center for Anti-Violence Education has been providing transformative programs that empower women, girls and LGBTQ communities through a unique combination of discussion, role-play and physical activity. In 1994, the Center for Anti-Violence Education teamed up with Girls, Inc. to start the Action for Safety™, a national violence prevention program that has helped over 21,000 girls at over 40 sites, and materials from this successful curriculum will be adapted to the new Pre-Teen Empowerment Project.

The grant for Housing + Solutions would fund an expansion of the Drew House Program, which is a family alternative to incarceration, a concept originally designed by the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. Housing + Solutions has worked with the DA's office on the project since early in 2008. The Drew House Family Alternative to Incarceration program serves women who have committed a non-violent felony and face significant prison time, and will assist five families at a time. Drew House is

the first ATI program in which mothers are allowed to serve court-mandated alternative sentences while living with their children. The women live in apartments at Drew House with their children while they fulfill the Courts' mandates for periods ranging from eighteen months to two years, allowing them to avoid incarceration.

Since 2002, Housing + Solutions, Inc. has been providing permanent and transitional housing with supportive services for formerly homeless women and families at eight locations in Brooklyn. All tenants must have a disability, and many have been involved with the criminal justice system. Housing + Solutions, Inc. has been awarded three Housing Urban Development (HUD) grants for single women and families since 2004. The long-term goals for each woman and family are to achieve and maintain housing stability, financial stability, independent living, and family stability. Last year, Housing + Solutions, Inc. served a total of 68 households, with many tenants eventually moving into permanent housing.

The New York Women's Bar Association Foundation is proud to assist these exemplary organizations to advance these two worthy projects. Information about Foundation grant guidelines and applications can be found at www.nywbaf.org/grants.htm.

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The New York Women's Bar Association Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity that funds charitable, philanthropic and educational programs to aid women and children. Its mission is to eliminate gender bias and other forms of discrimination from the legal system and legal profession; to promote the social and economic equality, safety and well being of women and children; and to address the unmet legal needs of women and children. For more info, visit the Foundation website at www.nywbaf.org.