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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Gircott” Girls Announce First-Ever Grants to Area Teens

WGF’s Girls as Grantmakers Empowers Girls with Resources to Enact Change

PITTSBURGH (August 26, 2006) – Allegheny County Girls as Grantmakers, a groundbreaking program of the Women and Girls Foundation (WGF) that makes grants for girls by girls, officially announced their first-ever funding decisions at 3PM on Saturday, August 26, at a press conference at the Woodlands Foundation (www.woodlandsfoundation.org) in Wexford, PA.

Members of Girls as Grantmakers, ages 13-18, were entrusted with \$10,000 to grant away to other girls to run programs that will benefit girls in Allegheny County – specifically, projects related to getting more girls involved in politics, science and technology, achieving sports equity and breaking down stereotypes.

After considering a very competitive application pool, the girls have awarded seven grants. All are innovative, exciting projects that will improve the lives of girls in Allegheny County. The projects that are receiving grants include:

Can Girls Play with Boys? – A project managed by a group from Highland Park that will investigate girl participation on male sports teams.

Career Forum – A project managed by a group from the Bethel Park School District that will encourage girls to pursue careers in the math and science fields by introducing them to successful women leaders in those areas.

Diversity Conference – A project managed by a group from The Ellis School, which includes the organization and promotion of a local conference to discuss diversity issues.

Girls Empowering Girls – A project managed by a group from Perry Traditional Academy that will consist of weekly sessions to educate female students about goal setting and achievement, stress management, work place social skills, time management, money management, striving for personal success and knowing one’s rights as a woman.

GOLD: Girls Only Leadership Development – A project managed by a group from the North Allegheny School District that will help 8th grade girls learn about safe decision-making in terms of eating disorders and drug and alcohol abuse through testimonies. This project also aims to teach girls skills to become successful leaders, arming them with this important information before they make the move to high school.

IMAGE: Investing, Motivating, Assisting, Girls’ Education – A project managed by a group from George Westinghouse High School that will provide middle school girls with mentors from the Westinghouse girls’ basketball team. The goals of this project are to improve physical fitness, increase involvement in school activities, and raise the self-esteem and confidence of the students prior to them entering high school.

M-Powerment – A project managed by a group from the Shaler Area School District that will distribute “m-powering” armbands and t-shirts to raise rape awareness, convene a conference with girls from other

school districts, organize an in-house coed workshop, and develop a gender equity mural for their high school.

Allegheny County Girls as Grantmakers is a diverse group of 24 girls representing different neighborhoods, schools, religions, races, ages, and sexual orientations with a common desire to make their community a better place for girls to thrive. The program is run by The Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania with additional support provided by the FISA Foundation, the Eden Hall Foundation and the Jewish Women's Foundation.

www.girl2girlgrants.org

www.wgfsdpa.org

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