



News Release

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The Women's Foundation of Colorado Awards \$5,000 Dropout Prevention Grant to Parent Pathways

DENVER – March 6, 2009 – The Women's Foundation of Colorado's new *Girls' Grantmaking Group* has awarded a \$5,000 grant to Parent Pathways, a non-profit organization that helps teen parents raise healthy families, for dropout prevention programming at the Florence Crittenton School, Parent Pathways President and Chief Executive Officer Noreen Keleshian announced.

The mission of The Women's Foundation of Colorado is to identify needs, build resources and lead change so that every woman in Colorado is economically self-sufficient, and every girl is on the path to economic self-sufficiency in adulthood. Its Dottie Lamm Award, which recognizes young women and their commitment to community service, was expanded in 2008 to include the Girls' Grantmaking Program, which allows for ten geographically, ethnically and economically diverse young women to become leaders and primary stakeholders in their communities. The girls participate in eight training retreats, make site visits to potential grantees and are offered the opportunity to grant \$20,000 to nonprofit organizations in their communities that are working to ensure that girls do not drop out of school.

The Girls Grantmaking Program awarded \$5,000 to Parent Pathways after the girls read and reviewed the organization's proposal and conducted a site visit to the Florence Crittenton School.

"I was so impressed by the organization and the facilities at Parent Pathways," said one of the participants, Laura Pape, 17, of Fort Collins. "It is refreshing to know that an organization exists to give people a second chance. I am glad that we could be part of their success!"

Helping teens finish high school is a priority at Parent Pathways because the median income for a female high school dropout is 41% less than a high school graduate. Having a high school diploma lowers the probability of public assistance by 40%, and over the course of a lifetime, a high school dropout costs society about \$260,000 in lost earnings, taxes and productivity alone.

About Parent Pathways

Parent Pathways is a Denver-based non-profit that empowers struggling teen families to be productive members of the community. Using a holistic and proven approach, Parent Pathways offers a spectrum of wrap-around services for the entire teen family, including education, career guidance and parenting training for pregnant and parenting teen mothers at the Florence Crittenton School; early childhood education for their babies and toddlers at the Qualistar-rated Early Learning Center; and counseling, education and parenting support for teen fathers through the Young Fathers Program. Learn more at www.parentpathways.org.

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