



**Women's Fund of the
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation**
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<http://Women.OshkoshAreaCF.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Women's Fund Launches Girls Granting Initiative

OSHKOSH, WI — The Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation has launched its inaugural Girls Granting Initiative, a unique program dedicated to the education and empowerment of young women in our community.

The initiative brings together 12 girls ages 15 to 18 from public and private schools in Oshkosh and charges them with awarding a \$7,500 grant to a local nonprofit that will help their peers.

The girls' discussion at the group's first meeting in October was intense and touched on many serious issues facing teens, including bullying, negative self-image, depression and causing self-harm.

"What we're asking of these girls is for them to dig deeper into the community, to get a greater understanding of women's issues and learn that through knowledge and participation, they can make a difference," said Karlene Graber, Women's Fund director.

"It's important for us to give these young women a voice because they don't get that opportunity. We value their perspective, and we think they're going to help the Women's Fund improve the lives of girls in our community."

The panel of young women will meet seven times before awarding the grant in February 2012. Local business women and philanthropic experts will meet with the girls to provide information and insight as they discuss their challenges and what kind of program is deserving of the grant.

The Girls Granting Initiative is funded in part by a \$5,000 matching grant from the J.J. Keller Foundation.

(continued)

What would she say?



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Empowering girls and young women is one of three areas the Women's Fund has refocused its granting since the launch of its Power of 10 granting initiative in 2008. The other two issues are dental care and the isolation of elderly women.

Power of 10 assembled 10 groups of women from different segments of the community to award a \$10,000 grant to a nonprofit agency with programming to meet the needs of their peers. So far \$90,000 of \$100,000 has been granted locally.

Since 1998, the Women's Fund has provided more than \$400,000 in grants to make resources available for causes of interest to women; foster among women a sense of empowerment and philanthropy; and increase awareness of women's issues. For more information, please call 920-426-3993 or visit <http://Women.OshkoshAreaCF.org>.

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