



Empower:
*Women United
in Philanthropy*

Co-Chairs
Karen Hilding
Colleen Thompson Michels

Steering Committee

Teresa Behm
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Lynn Johnson
Sarah Klaassen
Carol Main
Stacey Roberts
Julie Slette
Sandi Unger
Jodi Wambeke

Empower
Focusing women's leadership
To prepare our children for
kindergarten.

Empower
Working to have
80% of children prepared
for school by 2012.

**United Way of
West Central Minnesota**
PO Box 895
Willmar MN 56201
320-235-1050
www.liveunitedwcm.org



**United Way of
West Central Minnesota**

Empower: *Women United in Philanthropy* is focusing women's leadership to prepare our children for kindergarten.

Empower: *Women United in Philanthropy* was created in May 2007 with this mission: to focus women's leadership to effectively prepare our community's children for kindergarten.

Children who start behind stay behind. The lack of school readiness did not develop overnight. Addressing the problem requires focused, sustained efforts. This is why Empower is dedicated to investing all dollars to get tangible results that improve children's lives birth to age six.

Empower's goals and priority areas include:

- **Advocating for basic needs of children ages 0-6**
 - Health
 - Nutrition
 - English Language Skills
- **Supporting educational learning opportunities for children ages 0-6**
 - Childcare/Preschool
 - Parents/Caregivers
 - Creating Access to Resources
- **Promoting community progress towards school readiness**
 - Creating Awareness
 - Convening Partners
 - Measuring Results



United Way of West Central Minnesota Empower: *Women United in Philanthropy* Community Projects Grant- Application Form

Date Received _____

Amount Requested _____

Name of Agency _____

Name of Program _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Ext _____ Fax _____

E-mail Address _____ Web Site _____

Contact Person _____

Authorized Signature _____ Print Name _____ Title _____

Concise description of project or need (identify what the request is for, why you need the funds, and if it is a one-time need, start up, or emergency)

Project Goals and Objectives:

Which Empower goal does your project relate to (see cover)?

Target population served (age, gender, special interest, etc): _____

Total number of people: _____

Program service area: _____



Describe how this funding will help you achieve your goals and objectives?

How will this project help promote early learning and prepare children for Kindergarten?

How will you determine whether this project is successful? How will you measure its success?

Would you be willing to act as a resource/mentor for similar projects applying for funds? Yes No

Would you be willing to give a verbal report about your project to the Empower Steering Committee or at an Empower event? Yes No

What is the timeline for the funds requested? _____

Have you received an Empower: *Women United in Philanthropy* grant in the past? _____

If so, when and for what project: _____

Other organizations collaborating on this project: _____

Is this the only place people may participate in or receive this program or service? _____

If no, what other agencies are offering this program or service: _____

Please attach the following:

- Total Budget for the Project**
- Latest Financial Statement**
- 501 (C)3 or Government Organization Certificate (If applicable)**
- List of Board of Directors (If applicable)**
- Any other information you feel is pertinent to this request**

Please contact United Way of West Central Minnesota with questions: 320-235-1050 or julie@liveunitedwcm.org

Mail to: United Way of West Central Minnesota ATTN: Empower PO Box 895 Willmar MN 56201
All requests must be submitted by the first Friday of the month to be reviewed that month. Applications will not be reviewed in August or December as they are non meeting months. Maximum request for funding for the Community Project Grant is \$5000.



Application Criteria

Agencies/Programs & Items not eligible for funding include:

1. Agencies primarily political in nature
2. Agencies providing services limited to the members of a particular religious group and or religious support
3. Agencies existing solely for the presentation of cultural or artistic achievements
4. Educational programs that are mandated to be provided by the public school system
5. Programs that solely or mostly benefit populations outside of Kandiyohi County
6. Empower does not provide funding for shipping cost or tax
7. Empower does not provide funding for licensing fees

Programs must agree to:

1. Recognize Empower: *Women United in Philanthropy* in materials pertinent to the funding of this program
2. Return any grant dollars not used for the specified purposes to Empower: *Women United in Philanthropy*
3. Complete a "Project Report" when the project is completed

Programs Funded by Empower:

- Sensory Learning Equipment for Spicer Preschool
- Lullabye Quilters
- Willmar Public Schools S.M.A.R.T. Program
- New London Spicer ECFE Large Motor Skills Equipment
- Latino Child Care Outreach Program
- Curriculum Needs for Spicer Childcare



Empower: *Women United in Philanthropy* Community Project Grant End of Project Report

Please submit at least three photographs with signed release forms from your project with this report for use by Empower: *Women United in Philanthropy*. Return completed report to: Empower: *Women United in Philanthropy*, PO Box 895, Willmar, MN 56201 or julie@liveunitedwcm.org

Project Title:

1. Number of people involved in the planning for this project:
2. Number of people who attended/benefited from this project:
3. Describe the project.
4. What did you accomplish? Did you accomplish what you set out to accomplish? Do you consider this project a success? Example.
5. What would you have done differently?
6. How did this project help early education for children ages birth to 6 in our county?
7. What changes happened as a result of this project?
8. Did this project provide parent education? If so what
10. How do you intend to continue this project, or similar projects, in the future?
11. How did you give recognition to Empower: *Women United in Philanthropy* for funding your project?
12. Name and Number of Contact Person.