



**United Way of Central New Mexico
Women in Philanthropy**

2009 - 2010 Women's Self-Sufficiency Final Funding Report

October 6, 2010

The 2007 Women in Philanthropy's self-sufficiency survey resulted in the development and implementation of an action plan addressing the barriers identified as the root causes of poverty for women. Committed to creating sustainable, measurable change for women in our community, during 2009 the Women in Philanthropy Council focused on supporting programs that enhance women's employability.

2009 - 2010 designated grants for Women in Philanthropy were recommended based on the following criteria:

1. Support existing programs that enhance women's employability, to include:
 - Programs that improve high school graduation rates and/or assist with GED completion rates,
 - Programs that provide quality childcare, and
 - Programs that enable women to secure full time-employment or pursue education.
2. Ability to demonstrate success using measurable outcomes of existing programs.
3. Use of partnering relationships to achieve success.
4. Programs were eligible for funding only if they were not already receiving a 2009 UWCNM Community Fund grant.

Based on their alignment with the criteria, as described in their written application and supported by evidence presented at site visits conducted by Women in Philanthropy volunteers, during 2009 – 2010, five nonprofit organizations were selected to receive program funding from Women in Philanthropy.

ACCION New Mexico * Arizona * Colorado – \$19,698 grant to support financial literacy training and business support services for women entrepreneurs to include ongoing loan support, leadership development and financial literacy training.

Rio Grande Educational Collaborative – \$25,389 grant to provide quality, safe after-school care focused on literacy and drama for 320 elementary and middle school children in the Rio Grande High School cluster.

Ser de New Mexico – \$19,912 grant to support the *United for Women* program that provides employment training and life skills workshops focused on communication skills, personal hygiene, goal setting, conflict resolution, mock interviews, budgeting, alcohol & substance abuse awareness, media literacy, and independent living skills.

Southwest Creations Collaborative – \$20,000 grant to support the *Creating Family Assets* (CFA) program. Participation in CFA enables women working at Southwest Creations Collaborative to develop the skills, knowledge, confidence and leadership capacities to succeed in the workplace and in the labor market, support the educational achievement of their children, and to engage in their communities and the larger society.

WESST – \$25,000 grant to support operating costs associated with the *Individual Development Account* program. Program participants completed a 10-week financial literacy training curriculum and attend ongoing monthly workshops.

Here is a summation of the year-end allocation outcomes from July 1, 2009 – July 1, 2010.

ACCION New Mexico * Arizona * Colorado

Program Name: Financial Literacy and Self-Sufficiency to Central New Mexico Women Entrepreneurs

Award Amount for 2009-2010: \$19,698

Program Summary: The mission of ACCION New Mexico is to increase access to business credit, make loans, and provide training, which enable emerging entrepreneurs to realize their dreams and be catalysts for positive economic and social change.

Grant Goals and Year-to-Date Outcomes

Goal One: To increase the financial literacy skills of underserved women populations to foster an environment that promotes innovative and entrepreneurial growth in Greater Albuquerque.

- 75 Central New Mexico women entrepreneurs who apply for ACCION credit will receive a one-on-one business and personal development consultation with ACCION staff on issues such as cash flow, budgeting, and credit reporting.

Outcome: During the grant period, ACCION worked with at least 138 Albuquerque area female loan applicants. Each received one-on-one training and technical assistance. Fifty of the applicants became loan recipients. Seventy percent of the female loan recipients were minorities and sixty-eight percent were considered low-income.

- Continue to measure changes in repeat borrowers' credit score to support them achieving higher personal credit scores over the course of 2010.

Outcome: Of the 12 repeat borrowers served; five showed a positive change, two had a negative change, two did not have scores at intake but now have scores, one had a score at intake but does not have a score now and two were unable to be evaluated because of lack of information in the client file.

Goal Two: To extend micro lending services to women entrepreneurs in the greater Albuquerque area, thereby providing opportunities for the innovative education program. By year end 2010, ACCION will accomplish:

- The project will provide financing for the start-up and/or growth of 75 owned small owned businesses in the Central New Mexico area through 2010.

Outcome: 51 loans were issued during the grant period. Examples of businesses served include bookkeepers, an artisan, a mechanic shop, pet groomers, an auto parts store, retail stores, a beauty shop, a child care business, a film producer, among many others.*

- The project will issue 80 loans totaling \$1,000,000 to these businesses. The women owned businesses will create and/or support an estimated 120 jobs.

Outcome: 51 loans totaling \$250,476 were issued that resulted in creating/sustaining a total of 81 jobs.*

** Fewer loans and at smaller sizes were issued, in part due to the present economic situation. Many of the entrepreneurs seeking loans were overleveraged with debt burdens; applicants who were not in a good position to assume more debt were provided with resources to get them to the point where they could use a loan for capacity building in the future.*

Total Participants Served by Women's Self-Sufficiency 2009 - 2010 Funding:

	# of women	# of children	# of families
Mid-Year Report	70	n/a	n/a
Year –End Report	138	n/a	n/a

Success Story

In October 2009, ACCION issued a \$4,240 loan to a pet groomer in Bernalillo. Jamie has been running the business from her home for a little over three years. She came to ACCION to get funding for renovations, advertising, and equipment – areas of great need for small business owners and at an amount that would not be provided by a bank.

Rio Grande Educational Collaborative

Program Name: Rio Grande Educational Collaborative After School Drama & Literacy Program

Award Amount for 2009-2010: \$25,389

Program Summary: The mission of the Rio Grande Educational Collaborative (RGEC) is to leverage resources and opportunities to create a continuum of services to support the social and academic dreams of children, their families, and their communities.

Grant Goals and Year-to-Date Outcomes*

Goal One: Provide academic-based, high-quality, safe after school programming.

Outcome: High quality literacy-based drama/acting classes took place after school during first semester 2009. Staff were trained and processes were in place to ensure the children's safety. Parents were surveyed for their responses to quality of programming and safety of their children.

Goal Two: Continue to expand RGEC's Drama & Literacy program to eight elementary schools: Armijo, Atrisco, Barcelona, Kit Carson, los Padilla's, Navajo, Pajarito and Valle Vista.

Outcome: Programming expanded from 5 schools to 6 schools during first semester 2009; programming is expected to expand to 8 schools during the second semester.

Goal Three: Increase learning opportunities for approximately 320 children, operating 14 weeks during the school year and 4 weeks in June.

Outcome: 171 children participated in additional learning opportunities, which took place after school at their school for a period of 12 – 16 weeks.

Goal Four: Over the course of the program, children in each class will:

- Read age-appropriate, standards-based non-fiction books and/or scripts
- Create a state production from one of those books or script, to include set design and decoration
- Produce and perform that production at the end of the session for parents, teachers and community members

Outcome: 171 children, under the direction and support of highly-qualified and trained instructors, used age-appropriate non-fiction books or children modified or wrote original scripts for a life production. Children from each school site presented a life performance during the period of December 8 – 16, 2009 to audiences of parents, family members, teachers, RGEC staff and community members. 100% of families were represented in the audiences. Children designed and decorated the sets, created props and costumes for the performances. A reception was held for each performance.

Total Participants served by Women's Self-Sufficiency 2009 - 2010 Funding:

	# of women	# of children	# of families
Mid-Year Report	141	171	129
Year –End Report *	Unavailable	Unavailable	Unavailable

Success Story

The improvement in behavior of children from when the classes started to the live performance is startling. They go from being very active, and noisy to calm and focused, as if they have discovered their "calling" – acting, reading, writing (or rewriting/editing). When we surveyed them at the end of the class, they themselves admitted to an improvement in behavior. The after school class seems to have given them a purpose.

* Year end results unavailable as agency did not submit nor respond to request for end of year report.

SER de New Mexico

Program Name: *United for Women*

Award Amount for 2009-2010: \$19,912

Program Summary: The mission of SER is to link organizations and resources together to strengthen the fight against poverty and encourage family self-sufficiency throughout New Mexico.

Grant Goals and Year-to-Date Outcomes:

Goal One: Twenty-women will complete the *Employment Training and Life Skills Workshops* that focus on communication skills, personal hygiene, goal setting, conflict resolution, mock interviews, budgeting, alcohol & substance abuse awareness, media literacy, and independent living skills.

Outcome: Twenty three women have completed 50 hours of SER de New Mexico's Employment Training and Life Skills Workshops.

Goal Two: Upon completion of *Employment Training and Life Skills Workshops*, participants will begin their GED training with Adult Basic Education/GED.

Outcome: Of the twenty-three women who completed 50 hours of Ser de New Mexico's Employment Training and Life Skills Workshops, twenty women have completed all 5 tests of the GED exam. Nineteen women passed all five sections of the GED exam.

Total Participants Served by Women's Self-Sufficiency 2009 - 2010 Funding:

	# of women	# of children	# of families
Mid-Year Report	17	n/a	n/a
Year –End Report	23	n/a	n/a

Success Story

Ashley is a twenty-two year-old single mom. Ashley passed her GED exam in late January 2010 and dedicated herself to her employment and life skills classes. She is extremely motivated and sought employment and was successful. She was hired at Arby's and has since been promoted to assistant manager. After learning about the Legislative Lottery Scholarship program from the Program Director at *United for Women*, Ashley applied and was accepted at CNM. Ashley began classes at CNM in August, and continues to maintain her employment.

Southwest Creations Collaborative

Program Name: Creating Family Assets

Award Amount for 2009-2010: \$20,000

Program Summary: The mission of Southwest Creations Collaborative (SCC) is to create dignified living wage jobs for women in New Mexico through a sustainable manufacturing social enterprise that engages its employees, customers and the community in building strong families.

Grant Goals and Year-to Date Outcomes:

- SCC will work to improve high school graduation rates through the *Buena FE* program.

Outcome: Throughout the year twenty-one SCC employees participated in the Buena FE Parent Involvement program. These parents have engaged with their children's teachers in 11 APS schools, setting achievement goals and volunteering in the classrooms in addition to advocating for their children and actively engaging in their education. 100% of SCC students made improvements in academics and behavior, with 29% making "extreme" progress in academics and 60% making "extreme" progress in behavior. In addition, a total of four SCC youth have graduated from high school, for a graduation rate of 100% this year.

- SCC will assist with GED completion through the *Nuevos Caminos* program.

Outcome: Six SCC employees and five additional non-SCC community members participated in the Nuevos Caminos program. In this group, two individuals passed all portions of the exam and successfully attained their GED. The remaining students passed all portions of the exam except for the math section and continue to study. They all will begin an intensive math regimen that will prepare them to retest in December.

Currently six SCC employees that attained their GED through the Nuevos Caminos program have enrolled in college-level classes at CNM.

- SCC will provide quality childcare during work and/or after school care through the *Los Niños Childcare* and SCC will enable mothers to secure full-time employment or pursue education through employment and programs at SCC.

Outcome: 100% of child care requests were met. Twenty-two children are receiving onsite childcare for \$0.25 per hour during work hours and free of charge after hours. This allows women to earn a living and advance their education without having to worry about care for their children, while also allowing them to invest a larger portion of their earnings into their families. In addition, SCC also worked with several aunts and grandmothers who are the primary caregivers.

Through *Los Niños* mothers received assistance in enrolling their children in Headstart and engaged them in parent skills building discussions around nutrition, child rearing, and school-parental involvement. In the fall of 2010, two 2SCC children will begin in Kindergarten.

Total Participants Served by Women's Self-Sufficiency 2009 - 2010 Funding:

	# of women	# of children	# of families
Mid-Year Report	31	43	31
Year -End Report	29*	45	35

*Original goal was to provide ¾ to full-time employment to 35 employees, but economic conditions only allowed for 29 employees.

Success Story

"My name is Nidia. I have been working at Southwest Creations for a little over two years. Before I started working here, I didn't have the chance to be in the workforce because my daughters were four years and seven months old and child care costs were very high, not that they are any cheaper now days. I wanted to do something more with my life, something in which I would grow as a person. Then I started working at Southwest Creations, bringing my two daughters with me every day to the onsite childcare. To have my daughters so close to me gives me peace of mind to concentrate on my work. Since I started working here, I have taken full advantage of all the programs. Every program is very important, none over the other. But there are several programs that have made a big impact in my life, like the GED program. I took GED classes for one year, then took the GED exam and passed it. I have also been taking English classes since I started working here and I feel that every day I make progress on my English Skills. By working at SCC, I am not only contributing to my family's financial well-being, but I am also growing as a person. I am getting a great opportunity to advance as a woman. I am no longer just the mother of two daughters, but also a woman that's working towards a better future for herself and her family.

Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Team

Program Name: Individual Development Account (IDA)

Award Amount: \$25,000

Program Summary: The mission of WESST is to alleviate poverty in New Mexico by assisting low-income women and minorities achieve financial self-sufficiency through sustained self-employment.

Grant Goals and Year-to-Date Outcomes:

Goal One: Sixty participants will be enrolled in the 10-week financial literacy training (15 per quarter).

Outcome: Sixty participants completed the 10-week financial literacy training.

Goal Two: Participants will improve average post test scores relative to average pre-test scores.

Outcome: Participants test scores improved from 67.9% to 89.45%.

Goal Three: Fifty new (IDA) savings accounts will be opened (12 per quarter).

Outcome: Sixty new (IDA) savings accounts were opened.

Goal Four: There will be twenty IDA account holders purchasing assets (5 per quarter)

Outcome: Thirty seven previous IDA account holders purchased assets. The sixty new IDA participants are currently in their savings period (minimum of six months); once their savings goals are met, they will be eligible for matched savings funds to purchase assets.

Total Participants Served by Women's Self-Sufficiency 2009 - 2010 Funding:

	# of women	# of children	# of families
Mid-Year Report	32	7 (youth IDA participants)	17
Year –End Report	37	13 (youth IDA participants)	21

Success Story:

One client has been receiving individual credit counseling and has raised her credit score from the low 400s to 620. She left her abusive partner and is staying current with house rental payments. She is using her IDA funds for tuition and fees to earn her degree, and will graduate in March 2010.