



### **Women's Giving Circle Announces Funding Availability**

Are you part of an organization in Emmet and Charlevoix seeking funding for projects that help local women and girls? The Hestia Women's Giving Circle is welcoming applications for its sixth grant cycle. Applications are due February 1, and grants will be announced in May and awarded in mid-June. Organizations applying for grants must have 501 (c) 3 non-profit status or be a school or government agency, or have a fiscal agent with non-profit status.

The Giving Circle is a donor-advised fund of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (CCCF) which also assists the Giving Circle in grant making and distribution. Applications will be available on the Foundation's website at [www.c3f.org](http://www.c3f.org). Click on "All About Grants" and follow the Hestia link. Potential applications should call Maureen Radke at CCCF at (231) 536-2440 prior to filling out an application.

The Hestia Women's Giving Circle formed in 2005 by women in Emmet and Charlevoix counties. Its mission is to promote the economic self-sufficiency and well-being of women and girls in Emmet and Charlevoix counties. The circle is named for the Greek goddess Hestia, who expresses her love and concern for others through thoughtful acts. The Giving Circle provides an opportunity for women to pool their donations to make a significant impact and to educate themselves about issues facing women and girls in our community.

Last year, the Hestia Women's Giving Circle awarded nearly \$36,000 in support of nine local programs that serve women and girls. Programs funded were the Planned Parenthood – Cervical Cancer Prevention and sexuality education programs; Child & Family Services of Northwest Michigan pregnancy counseling program; Inland Seas Education Association scholarships for girls; Northwest Michigan Community Health Agency healthy relationship program for girls; Petoskey Montessori Children's House

childcare tuition for single mothers; Voices Without Borders youth choir scholarships for girls; Women's Resource Center employment services and Children's Learning Center; and YMCA of Northern Michigan scholarships for girls to attend summer day camp.

The Hestia Women's Giving Circle currently has 36 memberships which are shared by 46 women, and the group is actively seeking new members. The annual membership fee is \$1,000, which can be shared by two women. All of the funds received are distributed directly to local organizations serving women and girls. The Giving Circle is especially interested in supporting smaller organizations that may have limited access to other sources of funding.

For more information about the Giving Circle, contact Christine Carpenter, chairwoman, at (231) 348-0736, Diane Neal, secretary, at (231) 242-0298, or send an email to [INFO@hestiacircle.org](mailto:INFO@hestiacircle.org).