

April 26th, 2002

\$1 Million in Grants Going to NYC's Community Groups Helping Low-Income Women and Girls

NEW YORK, NY, April 26 – For the first time in its 15-year history, The New York Women's Foundation (NYWF), will give a total of \$1 million in grants to neighborhood non-profit groups helping the City's low-income women and girls. In front of over 2,000 women supporters, 35 women-run organizations will receive financial support at the Foundation's annual "Celebrating Women" breakfast at the Hilton Hotel at 7:30 am on May 7, 2002.

An average of \$20,000 to \$35,000 will be presented to groups such as InMotion, Inc., a citywide organization providing free legal services to low-income Latina survivors of domestic violence; the Bronx's Mercy Center, Inc., which helps women achieve financial independence through job training and placement services; and Brooklyn's Sista Il Sista, which helps promote positive development for the borough's low-income young women of color through their Freedom School and other community-organizing activities.

"The Foundation has built itself and raised money one woman, one donation at a time for more than a decade now. Therefore our \$1 million in grants this year is quite a milestone for us, as well as immense support to the City's grass-roots groups helping women of all ages and ethnicities make better lives for themselves," said Miriam Buhl, Executive Director of NYWF. "It also speaks volumes about what is important to the women of New York who are supporting us and therefore helping women in need. Just look at the major issues our groups address: childcare, safe homes, real job training for real jobs, education and self-esteem for low-income women and girls."

"As the City faces budget cuts from which our groups usually get hit the hardest, our funding will go a long way to keep these groups viable and the support to these women continuous," added Buhl.

From its beginnings in 1986 – 10 women soliciting contributions from their friends to use for helping other women -- the non-profit New York Women's Foundation has raised and granted over \$7 million to over 130 start-up, women-run community groups since then. But more than the grants, the Foundation further provides

technical, administrative and leadership training to help these organizations become and remain viable non-profits.

This year's annual breakfast -- the Foundation's major fundraising event -- features Liz Smith as emcee and Barbara Ehrenreich, best-selling author and supporter of women's causes, as the main speaker. In addition, philanthropist Joan Weill will receive NYWF's "Vision Award" for her support in improving the lives of low-income women.

The audience of over 2,000 women includes women executives of major corporations such as AOL/Time Warner and Ernst & Young, women in all types of work and well-known women philanthropists including Abigail E. Disney, Agnes Gund, Fiona Druckenmiller and Marge Magner. "It is through the compassion of these companies, through the generosity of the women in our audience and our volunteers, and the courage of the women we support -- and will hear from at the breakfast -- that we continue to help and that the difficult issues women face are heard and addressed," Buhl said.

For more information about NYWF's "Celebrating Women" Breakfast at the Hilton Hotel on May 7, 2002 at 7:30 -- 9:30 am, and/or about the Foundation itself, phone (212) 414-4342, extension xx, or visit our website at www.nywf.org.