



Great Grants and Initiatives

Grantor: Rose Community Foundation

Grantee or Initiative: Work Options for Women – workoptions.org

Amount: \$10,000

Period of Grant Award: 2004

Rose Community Foundation granted \$10,000 to Work Options for Women (WOW) for an organizational assessment. WOW teaches low-income women job skills so they can become self-sufficient.

When they start the program, the majority of the female students at WOW have never successfully held a job. Most have dropped out of school, others have been abused by parents or spouses, and many became mothers while in their teens. At WOW, the women get hands-on culinary training and experience in an operating kitchen and cafeteria. After learning all aspects of food preparation and food handling, students are qualified for jobs that often pay twice as much as minimum wage. They also learn how to be reliable and dependable workers.

One single mother said, “They’ve helped me with so much besides what I’ve learned in the kitchen. How to budget, keep my bills organized, do résumés, look for a job, keep a job...they get you ready for life.” A survey of WOW students one year after graduation shows that more than 85 percent retain their jobs.