

CREW Foundation, *Your* Foundation to support the Women of Today and to Open Doors for the Women of Tomorrow!

CREW Foundation is YOUR Foundation! As a member of our local CREW Austin chapter, you are a member of a much larger, national network, CREW Network.

CREW Foundation was incorporated in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation and is the philanthropic component of the Network of Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW Network). It's mission is to support CREW Network in advancing the success of women in commercial real estate through charitable, philanthropic and educational programs. The Foundation's Envisioned Future is to create a world where women and girls of diverse backgrounds have unlimited opportunities for economic and professional success.

As a part of the CREW Network, the Foundation is focusing on creating positive systemic economic change for women and girls by exposing them to the many financially rewarding careers in commercial real estate.

This unique focus is powerful as it relates to the strength of our CREW Network. There is no other place where we can give our time and money to create a valuable impact on the lives and economic status of women by promoting the opportunities in our industry!

We and the Foundation will accomplish this goal through *CREW CareerZone*, reaching out to high school, college and re-entering or changing workforce women through outreach efforts such as: CREW Careers, UCREW, e-Mentoring, scholarships, and more!

Additionally, the Foundation is working strategically and carefully to re-align our grant making with this new focus, so that the work done *outside* of CREW Foundation will have the same mission and focus as the agenda of CREW Foundation. By working with other like-minded organizations, our grant making can have a substantial effect on the economic success of women *and* the commercial real estate industry.

Since its inception, CREW Foundation has accomplished the following:

- Awarded over \$712,500 to 11 national programs specifically focused on economic self-sufficiency for women and girls
- Developed key relationships with organizations working to effect systemic change for women and girls
- Provided administrative support and consulting to numerous chapters to assist with their local charitable fundraising
- Created leadership opportunities for CREW members to serve on boards of national charitable organizations
- Developed a pilot program, national in scope, "CREW Careers™: Building Opportunities" designed to advance the success of women in commercial real estate and develop tomorrow's leaders today! In 2007 25 chapters participated with approximately 850 girls and 750 actively involved CREW members.

In addition, the following is the work to improve the lives of women and girls that our donations will support in 2008:

Girls Inc. --- awarded \$45,000 to bring trainers and leaders from 15-20 affiliates to their centralized training facility in Indianapolis in March 2008 for Train-the-Trainer session. Participants will learn how to implement a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program under the *Thinking SMART* (Science Math and Relevant Technologies) program for their chapters. The *Thinking SMART* program is an innovative science education project that builds girls' knowledge and skills in historically non-traditional areas, such as math and science.

The **Dress for Success Professional Women's Group Summit** --- \$25,000 award to support the 4th annual Summit. *Dress for Success* is located in 83 communities in the US, Canada and UK. Many of the D4S affiliates have developed a Professional Women's Group which meets monthly and provides support and skill development to help women continue to succeed in the workplace. Of the affiliates with Professional Women's Groups, each can nominate one client to attend the Summit (along with one staff person from the affiliate. Summit participants attend sessions to develop business and leadership skills along with a strong focus on entrepreneurship.

The **Girls for a Change** --- \$30,000 award to provide continued support for their operations in Phoenix and Silicon Valley as well as their anticipated expansion into 2 markets in 2008. Likely candidates for expansion include Philadelphia and Raleigh Durham. Girls for A Change sponsors Girl Action Teams comprised of girls and adult mentors. The mentors teach high school age girls skills related to identifying issues in their community and becoming change agents.

In addition, as a part of the 2007 CREW Careers™ program, each of the 25 participating chapters, of which **CREW Austin** is one, received a \$1,000 CREW Foundation grant that was in turn given to partnering local girls' group. CREW Austin's local girls' group in 2007 and 2008 were the Girl Scouts, Lone Star Council.

Through CREW Foundation, CREW Network members seek to make a difference both nationally and locally in the lives of women and girls who want to achieve the same successes that members of CREW Network have attained through their careers in commercial real estate. CREW Network is one of the first professional groups of its kind to create a national philanthropic effort.

I urge each and every one of you to visit the CREW Network website (www.crewnetwork.org) and follow the link to the Foundation. Join me in supporting the work of the Foundation and contributing to this worthy cause.

Together we can change lives!