

Hmong Women's Giving Circle Mission and Overview

About the Hmong Women's Giving Circle (HWGC)

- HWGC is a volunteer driven entity made up of 20 Hmong women and girls pooling their resources to invest in their community for social change efforts for Hmong women and girls.
- HWGC was founded in January 2004 as pilot project to build a bridge between the Hmong community and mainstream philanthropy.
- All participants who contribute and/or raise \$500 per year have the opportunity to participate in defining the structure and focus of the giving circle.
- In the first year of grantmaking, the HWGC raised a total of \$15,000 to fund non-profit organizations and groups in Minnesota.
- In 2004, the first round of grants went to the following organizations: Hmong American Institute for Learning, Hmong American Partnership, and Hmong Women's Action Team.

Mission

The mission of the Hmong Women's Giving Circle is to promote philanthropy within the community, to encourage activism and create social change for Hmong women and girls.

Values

- *Social Change* - Supporting efforts that have an impact on societal attitudes and behaviors, or result in needed systemic change.
- *Pluralism* - Striving for the full participation of the Hmong community, including: age, class ability, sexual orientation, religion and gender.
- *Respect* - Committed to a strong belief in each individual's worth and dignity.
- *Integrity* - Having the expectation that participation from our members and the community to be honest and fair.

Vision

The vision of the HWGC is an empowered community that builds on its assets and takes accountability for issues concerning Hmong women and girls.

By creating and building this circle, the HWGC members seek to:

- Empower Hmong women to achieve full confidence in their capabilities as financial donors;
- Create a new, substantial pool of money to effectively invest in projects that will make a difference to the women and girls in the Hmong community;
- Build and strengthen the programs in the Hmong community through the power of joint contributions;
- Develop Hmong women's capacity for philanthropic leadership; and
- Increase Hmong women's economic independence.