



Nokomis Foundation

2010-11 Highlights

Friends of Nokomis,



For more than twenty years the Nokomis Foundation has been a vehicle for my dream of supporting work that ensures that women's voices are a part of every conversation which matters. We have worked at this through capacity building, convening and collaboration with some amazing partners.

In 2009, we made a decision to focus our efforts on promoting women's economic self-sufficiency through the removal of barriers to health care that they faced. In announcing that focus we looked forward to being part of the national conversation on health care, collaborating with other change agents and supporting advocacy. We committed ourselves to the work of creating and implementing a non-partisan public policy agenda that would preserve consumer choice, lower costs of quality care, and offer universal coverage and access. Since creating these goals we have found opportunities to partner with tireless advocates working to make this vision a reality. My special thanks is due to our Nokomis staff, Mary Alice Williams and Anne Hagen, for their incredible dedication to our mission and tireless efforts on behalf of our exciting new work.

We are pleased to present highlights of the work we have funded in 2010 and 2011 to advance our agenda.

Twink Frey
Founder

161 Ottawa Ave NW
Suite 305 C
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616 451 0267 T
616 451 9914 F

nokomisfoundation.org

Building self-sufficiency and advancing civic participation for women.

Advocacy

University of Michigan School of Social Work 3

Michigan Consumers for Healthcare 4

Planned Parenthood 5

Michigan League for Human Services 5

Local Opportunities

2010 Grants 6

2011 Grants 7

2011 Special Events 7

Summary

Recent Investments 8

Contact Information 8

Advocacy

During 2010-2011 Nokomis Foundation initiated partnerships committed to education and advocacy with a focus on improving health care policy for women. The following grants were made to promote health care equity.

University of Michigan School of Social Work

“The health care crisis that leaves low income women and their families without adequate access to health care requires new approaches for conceptualizing and delivering that care. We hope our projects lead to better health care in Michigan and become a national model.”



In April 2010 Nokomis partnered with the University of Michigan’s School of Social Work to convene a panel of experts in a working session called *Health Care for Impoverished Women in An Era of Health Care Reform*. Under the guidance of Dean Laura Lein, the work of this group continues. Of note are two efforts.

Sustainable Funding for Community Health Worker Practice and Utilization in Michigan: Planning the Future

Key stakeholders working with Doctor Edie Kieffer at the University of Michigan School of Social Work met to examine opportunities and strategies for developing sustainable systems of care and reimbursement in utilizing community health workers in Michigan. The group explored the effectiveness of successful projects as models, with a focus on the benefits for low-income women, who dominate the profession. A group, Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance, has been formed to continue development of this agenda.

<http://www.ssw.umich.edu/chw>

Increasing Access to Oral Health Care in Michigan: A Discussion of Three Possible Solutions

Key stakeholders working with Professor Luke Schaefer at the University of Michigan School of Social Work met to address solutions to the oral health crisis in Michigan. This strategy emerged from the original convening when participants identified oral disease as among the most common ailments in Michigan particularly among disadvantaged populations including low wage women who experience high levels of oral disease and low levels of care. Active subgroups continue to work on professional and legislative advocacy needed to develop approaches to the shortage of oral health care including the authorization of mid-level certified practitioners to increase access to dental care.

<http://ssw.umich.edu/oralhealth care>

Michigan Consumers for Healthcare



At the end of 2010, Nokomis funded a small planning grant to support the efforts behind Michigan Consumers for Healthcare (MCH), a new coalition of organizations across the state. In 2011 Nokomis reinvested in this non-partisan effort to address the opportunities afforded for Michigan citizens by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. MCH works to provide a coordinated, strategic consumer voice at healthcare policy tables to achieve both immediate and long-term results.

In its first year MCH established regional offices, engaged grass-roots consumers, convened healthcare experts and hosted community conversations across the state which were re-broadcast on local public access channels. MCH has forged collaborations with more than 130 community organizations statewide and has paid particular attention to inclusive outreach to a variety of grass-roots organizations, including those serving women. The goal is to ensure that healthcare and health insurance coverage options provide access to quality care that is effective, efficient, patient-centered, equitable and culturally appropriate for our diverse Michigan population.

<http://consumersforhealthcare.org>

“MCH is all about making sure consumers are heard and are actively involved in every level of health care decision making. True reform of our health care delivery system will happen when consumers and their champions shape health care policy.”

“It is our goal to integrate the value of technology and the impact it will have on our ability to deliver quality, efficient and effective health care.”

Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood of West and Northern Michigan has long been a strategic partner of Nokomis Foundation. Their mission is to promote and ensure sexual health, responsibility, and justice. As the political climate threatened this important work, we welcomed the opportunity to demonstrate our continued support of their efforts to ensure comprehensive health care to women who would not otherwise have access to needed services. Grant funding was provided for the creation of an electronic medical records infrastructure, which will support Planned Parenthood’s readiness to operate in the emerging health care environment as the region’s largest provider of sexual health, education and advocacy services.

<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/west-northern-michigan>

“We know our work is more needed than ever, given the tough times for families in Michigan. Nokomis Foundation support is vital to ensuring that women and their families have the health care and economic opportunity they deserve”

Michigan League for Human Services

The Michigan League for Human Services is a nonprofit, nonpartisan statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that Michigan’s low-income residents achieve economic security. Through research, analysis, and non-partisan public education and advocacy efforts, the League brings credible and accessible information to the public policy discussion of the critical issues that affect the lives of low-income people. Historically, Nokomis Foundation has used League analysis and research to inform its strategic direction. Nokomis has awarded a first-time grant to the League to support efforts to disseminate data and policy analysis focusing on current threats to the safety net particularly as they impact low wage earning women and their families.

<http://www.milhs.org>

Local Opportunities

In support of local organizations that address health care service gaps for women or that focus on system improvements we provided the following grants in 2010 and 2011:

2010 Grants

Catherine's Health Center and Health Intervention Services

Expansion of dental services, chronic care, and mental health services through a collaborative relationship between the two providers.

Kent Health Plan — Kent County Employer Survey

Completion of Kent County Employer Survey related to insurance coverage for low wage earners, a significant number of whom are women.

YWCA — Nurse Examiner Program

Expansion of Sexual Abuse Nurse Examiner program in collaboration with Children's Assessment Center.

Gilda's Club — Sister-to-Sister Program

Outreach to reduce barriers to participation in cancer treatment through mentoring, navigation, and support services for women of color through the Sister-to-Sister program.

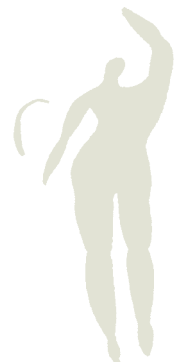
Arbor Circle — Strong Beginnings

Extension of maternal depression prevention and early intervention services in collaboration with Strong Beginnings community collaborative.

Planned Parenthood — Cervical Cancer Screening

Restoration of cervical cancer screening capacity, and treatment referrals in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Community Health.

“We will continue to assist our sister organizations as they explore options. Most communities do not have the benefit of a funding partner for start-up. What Nokomis provides for us, we happily pass on to our peers.”



2011 Grants

Clinica Santa Maria — Parent Education

Development and implementation of culturally sensitive prenatal and postnatal education and services for uninsured or underinsured women in the Hispanic community.

YWCA — Services for Women with Disabilities

Expansion of Sexual Abuse Nurse Examiner program to provide training and equipment to facilitate services for women with developmental disabilities.

Catherine's Health Center — Technology Planning

Development of enhanced technology plan to prepare for upgrades to increase coordinated quality care as called for by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Advanced Care Planning Initiative

Support of community wide advanced care planning system to ensure the fundamental right of people to make informed choices regarding their health care and end of life care.

2011 Special Events

Affordable Care Act Anniversary Celebration

Nokomis Foundation sponsored the first of five celebrations across Michigan in recognition of the first anniversary of the signing into law of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Women, War & Peace

Nokomis hosted Abby Disney producer of the critically acclaimed PBS series, *Women, War & Peace*. Ms. Disney spoke and answered questions following the presentation of one film in the series, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. This segment featured the ordinary-yet-heroic women who brought peace to Liberia, including President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Leymah Gbowee, who were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

Nicholas Kristof

Nokomis was a lead sponsor for the appearance of Nicholas Kristof in the 2011-2012 Grand Rapids Community College Diversity Lecture Series on the topic *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*.

Summary

Recent Investments

Investing in Advocacy and Opportunities to Improve Women's Health

The Nokomis Foundation invests in its commitment to the well-being of women through partnerships and collaborations with our grantees.

Grantmaking Investments

2010	\$420,910
2011	\$481,352

Contact Information

For further information about our work please visit our website.
www.nokomisfoundation.org

Or contact us:

Mary Alice Williams
President and CEO
mawilliams@nokomisfoundation.org
616 451 0267 ext 14

Anne Hagen
Program Director
ahagen@nokomisfoundation.org
616 451 0267 ext 11



Nokomis Foundation