

7 groups benefit from Power of the Purse

READING EAGLE

Local women, calling their group the Power of the Purse, have donated \$37,000 to seven community organizations in Berks County.

Since its start in 2012, the Power of the Purse has awarded \$145,243 in grants to programs that work to empower women and children. It operates through the Berks County Fund at Berks County Community Foundation.

"Our donations are combined so that we can have a greater impact together than we would if we made the donations individually," said Chiara Renninger, a founder of the group, which has 37 members.

Each year, group members review grant applications, visit nonprofits and vote to determine which programs will receive grants. This year's recipients:

Reading Recreation Commission: \$10,000 for the Girls Leadership Program, which teaches leadership skills to girls in the city, at Northwest Middle School and Third and Spruce Recreation Center.

Girl Scouts of Eastern



COURTESY OF BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Participants in the Girls Leadership Program at Northwest Middle School, Reading, will benefit from a grant awarded by the Power of the Purse, a group of 37 local women who provide funding to empower women and children.

Pennsylvania: \$10,000 to continue its leadership program that works with 1,400

girls between five and 17 in Berks County.

YMCA of Reading and Berks County: \$5,000 for the Y-Haven child care and transportation program, which aids women in the YMCA's transitional living so they can focus on finding jobs and education.

Community Prevention Partnership of Berks County: \$4,480 for the orga-

nization's Nurse Family Partnership program, which gives first-time, low-income mothers home visits from nurses during pregnancy and until the child turns 2.

Clare of Assisi House: \$3,562 for this transitional housing program, which teaches women life skills and provides a temporary place to live as they transition from prison.

Girls on the Run of Berks County: \$2,570 for scholarships to girls from low-income households who attend elementary and middle schools in the Reading School District.

Children's Home of Reading: \$1,388 for this organization, which helps women in the Berks County jail system prepare to make good choices after prison.

3 area museums get \$61,000 in state grants

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Three local museums were awarded more than \$61,000 in grants this week from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust received \$11,979, Historical Society of Berks County Museum and Library received \$10,476 and the Reading Public Museum recently received a \$40,030.

"Forty-thousand dollars is nothing to sneeze at," Reading Public Museum director and CEO John Graydon Smith said Thursday. "We apply every year to the PHMC and the grants are competitive."

Over the past five years, the PHMC has awarded almost \$2 million in grants to 141 museums and official county historical societies in 57 Pennsylvania counties, according to the commission's website.

"Pennsylvania has an incredible story to tell through its rich history and culture, and we are fortunate to have so many wonderful museums and historical societies to serve as messengers," Gov. Tom Wolf said in a written statement on the commission's website. "This grant funding will be distributed throughout all four corners of the commonwealth to ensure these facilities are able to continue serving as educational resources for all Pennsylvanians."