

Alternatives For Girls Awarded \$950,000 from McGregor Fund

Alternatives For Girls (AFG), a 24-year-old Southwest Detroit-based nonprofit organization serving homeless and at-risk girls and young women, received a three-year grant totaling \$900,000 from the McGregor Fund this past summer. \$600,000 (\$200,000 per year) of this grant will support the Shelter and Street Outreach programs for young women ages 13 to 21, and \$300,000 will be used for a working capital reserve fund.

Through this generous grant from the McGregor Fund, AFG will be able to continue assisting homeless young women in securing a safe and stable living situation as well as learn life skills and meet educational goals that will help them lead productive, independent lives. This grant will also continue

to aid at-risk girls and women in accessing safety tools and risk-reducing resources, create a wider support network and build leadership and employment skills.

In addition, AFG was awarded one of four grants as part of the Eugene A. Miller Fellows Program. Now in its third year, the program recognizes nonprofit leaders by providing support for sabbaticals to chief executives of longstanding McGregor Fund grantee organizations working in the areas of human services and health care. As part of her sabbatical, AFG CEO Amanda (Amy) Good plans to study program evaluation, succession planning and leadership development, and youth-focused community development, especially that which successfully

helps at-risk youth to transition all the way to employment and stable housing. She also plans to enter a Spanish-language immersion program and train for a triathlon.

This year's Eugene A. Miller Fellows also include John C. Barnett of Project N.O.A.H. at Central United Methodist Church, Sheila Clay of Neighborhood Service Organization, and Sister Mary Ellen Howard of St. Francis Cabrini Clinic.

AFG remains one of the only agencies in southeastern Michigan with the organizational capacity or mission to work exclusively with girls and young women who have "fallen through the cracks" and are not formally being

served by the foster care or juvenile systems. The organization's doors are open all year for any young women to get off the streets; and AFG actively seeks out these girls and women through community and street outreach to offer an array of proven programs to make a difference in their lives. More information can be found at www.AlternativesForGirls.org.

The McGregor Fund is a private foundation established in 1925 by gifts from Katherine and Tracy McGregor "to relieve the misfortunes and promote the well-being of mankind." The foundation awards grants to organizations in the following areas: human services, education, arts and culture, health care and public benefit.



Mildred Gaddis

Mildred Gaddis to celebrate 36 years in radio

Special tribute to benefit
Alternatives For Girls

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Mildred Gaddis, who has been dubbed Detroit's Queen of Talk, is celebrating 36 years in radio broadcasting.

The host of the morning drive 6 to 10 a.m. program "Inside Detroit" airing daily on WCHB AM 1200, will be honored with a charitable roast on Saturday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m., at the International Marketplace, 400 Monroe St. in downtown Detroit.

The event, a gathering of leaders from all sectors of the community, is a major benefit for Alternatives for Girls (AFG), a Detroit nonprofit group meeting the needs and challenges of abused young women in the city.

Gaddis

From page A-1

"Alternatives For Girls helps homeless and high-risk girls and young women avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation, and helps them to explore and access the support, resources and opportunities necessary to be safe, to grow strong and to make positive choices in their lives," the organization said on its website, adding, "AFG accomplishes this mission through three key services: AFG Prevention, the AFG Shelter/Transition to Independent Living Program (TIL) and AFG Outreach.

"Finding self-esteem, improving a grade-point average, rejecting drugs and alcohol, choosing abstinence, connecting with a mentor, discovering un-

tapped talents — these are some of the experiences girls have when they take part in AFG Prevention programming.

"These experiences can happen in a summer (through the Rise-N-Shine program), during the course of a school year (through after-school workshops, study groups and girls' clubs) or across the span of several years as girls mature from five to 18 years of age, building their characters on a foundation of positive choices."

With a reputation and a knack for asking tough questions of her guests, Gaddis is expected to have the tables turned on her at this special roast recognizing her years of service in the commu-

nication industry. She has been at the center of Detroit's evolving political scene in the last 20 years and has often been a fierce critic of the political establishment.

Her no-nonsense style in political interviews has led some to call her "Ms Stronger than Black Coffee." But her caring spirit has made groups like Alternative for Girls and others the beneficiaries of her community projects.

Former deputy mayor Freman Hendrix and prominent criminal defense attorney Ray Paige are among a list of guests who will participate.

Call (313) 259-4014 for tickets and additional information.

FROM CONGRESS IN 1991