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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation Awards \$145,000 to Organizations in DC and Israel to Educate and Empower Women and Girls

Innovative program on violence prevention, teen dating awareness highlights stellar list of grantees

Rockville, MD – Continuing its commitment to make a positive difference in the lives of women and girls in Washington, DC and beyond, the Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation of Greater Washington (TOWF) awarded a record \$145,000 in grants to 13 organizations in its eighth year.

TOWF's grant recipients include local Jewish organizations, programs focused on local low-income immigrant women, and Israel-based nonprofits. The grantees affect change by addressing issues such as social justice and political training for emerging leaders, prevention of gender-based violence for African refugees, economic empowerment through small business training, abusive relationship prevention through teen education and advocacy for women's rights during Jewish divorce.

"We are proud to award a record \$145,000 in grants and add new, innovative organizations who are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of women and girls," says Sara Gorfinkel, Director of the Foundation. "Each grant cycle, TOWF trustees are more aware of the pressing needs facing women and girls in our community and beyond, and this is clearly reflected in our grant making this year."

The Tahirih Justice Center, a national non-profit organization that protects courageous immigrant women and girls fleeing gender-based violence by providing holistic legal services and advocacy in courts, communities, and Congress, is new to TOWF's grants slate this year. Since 2009, TOWF has awarded \$115,000 to 6 different organizations working on behalf of low income immigrant women and girls in the DC Area. "Words cannot understate how critical every dollar is to enabling us to protect the lives of women and girls refusing to be victims of violence," stated Layli Miller-Muro, Executive Director and Founder of Tahirih.

As Gorfinkel recalls, "Each one of us has in her family's history a story of immigration. Our parents and grandparents landed in many countries full of hopes and dreams but faced discrimination and challenges experienced by the immigrant population in DC today—so we seek to address this affinity through our grants to organizations such as Tahirih Justice Center, Empowered Women International, and A Wider Circle."

Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA), which received a \$30,000 grant for continued growth of its teen dating awareness program "AWARE: It's Not Love," has received over \$120,000 from Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation,

which remains one of their primary funders for prevention programs. With TOWF's support, JCADA has been able to create an effective partnership with Montgomery County for expanded educational programs.

The Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation is the only Jewish giving vehicle in the Greater Washington area that offers women a voice and a vote in supporting causes that impact the lives of women and girls. They achieve this by pooling their charitable donations and then, together, deciding how to allocate funds.

Detailed grants allocation information is listed below. For more information about joining or supporting the Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation of Greater Washington, please visit www.towf.org or contact Sara Gorfinkel, Director, at (301) 348-7376, or sara@towf.org.

2013-2014 TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATIONS: \$145,000

LOCAL JEWISH WOMEN & GIRLS

Adas Israel Community Mikvah, *Bodies of Water*, \$5,500 – Promote health, strength and confidence for women and girls by gaining Jewish tools for positive body image, and by understanding the Mikvah's role in embodied Judaism.

AVODAH, *Jewish Women's Professional and Leadership Development Institute*, \$10,000 – Train AVODAH corps members to understand the root causes of gender inequity, increase their connection to social justice with a gender lens and develop relationships with professional female role models.

Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, *"It's Not Love,"* \$30,000 – Educate teens on dating abuse, violence awareness and prevention at programs in school, camp and youth group settings.

Organization for the Resolution of Agunot, *Agunah Prevention and Education Program*, \$10,000 – Educate young Jewish women and men about signing a Jewish prenuptial agreement when getting married to prevent get-refusal in the event of a divorce.

LOCAL LOW INCOME IMMIGRANT WOMEN & GIRLS

A Wider Circle, *Well Mother, Well Baby*, \$5,000 – Prepare low-income pregnant and parenting adolescents for a healthy pregnancy, healthy birth, and long-term responsibility of caring for themselves and their children. Program aims to 'break the cycle' of poverty within low-income teenage families.

Empowered Women International, *Grow My Business*, \$12,500 – Train and assist immigrant, refugee and low-income women, who have already completed the Entrepreneur Training for Success (ETS) Program, to grow their small business through a structured nine-month program.

Tahirih Justice Center, *African Women's Empowerment Project*, \$15,000— Protect vulnerable, low-income African immigrant women who are fleeing gender based violence by seeking refuge in America. Provides legal representation as well as resources to teach others of the struggles they have endured.

ISRAEL: JEWISH & NON-JEWISH WOMEN & GIRLS

Adva Center, *Creating a Women's Budget Forum in the Negev*, \$10,000 – Create a forum of female leaders to advocate for improved services for women and girls through training on municipal budgets.

ATZUM, *Task Force on Human Trafficking*, \$12,000 – Establish a Task Force to combat human trafficking by creating social change within Israeli society and the government.

Center for Women's Justice, *Skills Building and Outreach for Civil Action Against Get Refusal*, \$10,000— Provide solutions and resources to Jewish women whose husbands are refusing a Jewish divorce using damage claim litigation.

Itach-Maaki & Shutafot in association with The Jewish Women's Collaborative International Fund, *Bringing Women to the Fore: A Feminist Partnership*, \$5,000 – Create activist coalition of seven leading Israeli women's organizations, promoting gender equality and women's rights, and minimizing gender gaps on a variety of issues in Israel through social and media campaigns. *TOWF is one of 17 Jewish Women's Foundations to contribute to this two-year, \$150,000 total, collaborative grant.*

Mavoi Satum, *Sign and Change*, \$10,000— Promote the use of a prenuptial agreement containing an arbitration clause to prevent extortion and get-refusal in the event of a divorce.

WePower, *Advanced Training, Mentoring and Support for the Next Generation of Women Leaders in the Negev*, \$10,000— Train young women activists in the municipal/public arena to enhance gender social justice to the benefit of women and girls in their communities.

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The Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation of Greater Washington provides a vehicle through which Jewish women can support causes that result in lasting impact on the lives of women and girls. It gives women a vehicle for expressing their Jewish identity and for developing a more informed Jewish philanthropic response to women's issues. The Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation is an independent project of the United Jewish Endowment Fund and The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.