

**Fund**

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"All of them were so good, it was really hard to decide." Cook said of the applicants. "We really could see that these groups were addressing the tough issues, the things women and girls in our community are talking about."

The Bethesda Center for the Homeless; Carver Road Branch Library; the Center of Excellence for Research, Teaching & Learning at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine; the Children's Law Center of Central North Carolina; Crisis Control Ministry; Empowering Girls in Real Life Situations (E-GIRLS); Experiment in Self Reliance; Winston-Salem / Forsyth County Schools; and Winston-Salem Youth Arts Institute received more than \$180,000 in combined grants from the Women's

Fund for the year.

Crisis Control Ministry was awarded \$30,000 to expand its Breaking the Cycle program. Created as a small pilot program last year, Breaking the Cycle targets repeat Crisis Control clients, offering counseling and other assistance in hopes of increasing self sufficiency. Six former clients have "graduated" the program so far.

"We've had a great response," commented Maile Philpott, director of development for the program. "It's very inspirational to see the success story, to see them make that full transition into self sufficiency."

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School system is the only grantee to receive funding from the Women's Fund two years in a row. The \$28,436 it was given this year will support the salary of Grizelda Flores, who is embarking on

her second year of providing support for Hispanic teen mothers in the school system. Flores works closely with School Social Worker Faith Lockwood, who has worked with teen moms of all backgrounds since 1999. The two women provide counseling and support for the young girls as they struggle to juggle with the demands of parenthood and school.

"Our ultimate goal is helping teen moms graduate from high school," Lockwood said. "We use a model that provides counseling while we are accomplishing concrete tasks."

Having a native Spanish speaker on staff has been helpful for both her and for the Hispanic girls who make up about a third of the population she works with, Lockwood added.

"I don't speak Spanish ... I knew I was missing out on what I was getting from my English-speaking stu-

dents ... I wasn't really helping at the deepest level," she commented.

"Adding Grizelda ... has been incredibly helpful. It's magnified our effectiveness

tremendously."

For more information about the Women's Fund of Winston-Salem, or to join, contact Women's Fund

Coordinator Tari Hannenman at (336) 714-3468 or visit [www.wsfoundation.org](http://www.wsfoundation.org). Membership is \$1200 for individuals and groups.



Photo by Christine Rucker/ Women's Fund

Representatives of the agencies that were awarded grants at last week's luncheon.



Photo by Felicia Long

Rev. and Mrs. Runnels stand beside Rev. John Mendez at a recent banquet celebrating Mendez's pastoral anniversary.

**Runnels**

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original size by the time he became pastor, but leadership soon garnered an increase in membership.

"We had some gains in memberships... A lot of the (members') children who had grown up in the church started coming back," he stated. "My proudest achievement is the return of the members who left long ago ... who came back to reclaim their church."

Runnels' life has changed considerably since he came to First Calvary as a single pastor eight years ago. He married nearly two years ago, and he and his wife Pamela welcomed the birth of their first son, Hasting, 14-months ago. The changes in his personal life have made the responsibilities of the pastorate increasingly challenging, Runnels said.

"I want to take this time for my son. I want to be able to watch him grow up," he remarked. "I'm a preacher's kid; I understand the demands of pastors and ministers, and my demands are even greater because I have a full time job. I just thought it was important to take this time."

Runnels' October 12 announcement came as a blow to Administrative Assistant Mildred Searcy, who recently celebrated 58 years of working at the church.

"I'm going to truly miss him; I had gotten used to working with him," she said. "He's a good pastor to work with."

"We were hoping that we were going to get to keep him," Searcy added. "He has all the qualities that you would be looking for (in a pastor)."

The church will soon begin the search for another leader, likely employing a search committee organized by the Board of Trustees and Deacons just as it has in the past, Searcy speculates, but she says nothing has been decided yet.

Despite her sadness at losing the pastor she has come to love, Searcy chalks Runnels' resignation up to God's will.

"Ministers move, and I don't think it's always because they don't like where they are," she commented. "I think that sometimes God sends them somewhere else. Maybe this is his time to make his move to another level."

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Dr. Omar P. Sangüeza; Debra Copeland-Sizemore, PA; Dr. Steven R. Feldman; Dr. Rita Pichardo-Geisinger; Dr. Gil Yosipovitch; Dr. Alan B. Fleischer Jr.; Dr. Joseph L. Jorizzo; Dr. Amy J. McMichael; Adele Clark, PA.  
Not shown: Dr. Phillip M. Willford.

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*The Voting Rights Coalition Partners: Winston-Salem Urban League, NAACP, Black Leadership Roundtable, Delta Sigma Theta, AKA LINKS and Connections, CHANGE, Sigma Gamma Rho, Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice, Democracy North Carolina, Winston-Salem District AME Zion Church and others.*

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