

# **WILPF INVESTING IN SYSTEM CHANGE**

## **Through Emerging Women Activists:**

### **Mini Grants Fuel Activism**



**Women's International League for Peace & Freedom -  
US Section**

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# REQUEST SUMMARY - **MINI GRANTS FUEL ACTIVISM**

**NATURE OF REQUEST:** Request for \$10,000 to fund a Mini Grants Program that power work among women activists across the United States working towards peace and economic justice through empowering women leaders working on civic engagement, environmental justice, food security, peace through disarmament and nuclear weapons abolition, and training in local activism in these areas.

**REQUEST FROM: Women's International League for Peace & Freedom – US Section, (WILPF US)** a 103 year old women's international organization, founded in 1915 by Jane Addams and international women who met at The Hague in an effort to stop World War I. Although they failed to stop the Great War, they formed a Women's Congress whose initial work laid the groundwork for the introduction of the League of Nations, then the United Nations and the International Declaration of Human Rights. They have been active since then on women's rights, peace, social justice, human rights and economic justice issues including the Civil Rights movement, nuclear weapons abolition movement, and the effort to preserve democracy by curtailing money in politics. The organization trains, organizes and supports civic engagement

**DETAIL:** Three times a year WILPF US invites its members in 40 branches across the US and at large members as well to apply for **Mini Grants to provide seed money for local projects, events and organizing strategies.**

The grants, up to \$2500, have been used by members to fund speaker events, educational forums, printed materials and training to power their work. (a complete list of grants distributed is provided). To date WILPF US has distributed 63 "mini grants" to fund local activism, for a total investment of \$86,072. WILPF US is seeking support for this Mini Grant program which supports projects across America and encourages leadership and innovation among WILPF members. These are powerful examples of civic engagement, leadership training and support for resources and materials that fuel ongoing activism at the local level on issues that affect the common good.

**5 EXAMPLES:** (A full list of grants distributed since 2009 is attached).

**Here's a cross section of Mini Grants that reflect the type of project funded:**

In 2018 the Santa Cruz California WILPF Branch received \$750 to fund their work on a **long term PUBLIC BANKING EDUCATION CAMPAIGN**, advocating for a California State Bank and a local County Bank. The local branch members are using the funds to produce "HOW TO" Packets for Elected Officials, 2 sets of poster board displays, a WILPF Banner on Public Banking and Buttons. This is only the start of this long term campaign. They will be supporting civic engagement for local legislation. Public banks are a way to keep local money invested locally, and to provide low interest financial support through savings, checking and loans. In California, where marijuana was made legal, commercial banks are prohibited from depositing dollars from the sale of marijuana. As a result there is a lot of money unsecured in communities which can fuel robbery and theft. In addition, public banks are less vulnerable to economic downturn than big commercial banks.

In 2017 the Philadelphia Pennsylvania WILPF Branch received \$980 to fund their work on to develop a **video tour of Fracking sites** in Pennsylvania and create DVDs they could use to educate the public about the environmental impact of fracking on local Pennsylvania communities. This was inspired by a similar grant of \$2500 to the Fresno California WILPF Branch that funded a **video tour of fracking sites in California**. The DVDs produced by that project were distributed in California to the public, and also to WILPF branches across the US as examples of effective local activism.

In 2015 the National WILPF Issue Committee on Earth Democracy received \$1200 to write, produce and distribute thousands of Infographic Cards that **educate about the interconnections between CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE**, connecting climate and extreme weather events, the flight of refugees, food shortages, and resources conflicts, militarism and the burden born especially by women and children. These cards have been reproduced several times through subsequent mini grants and used continually by WILPF branches across the US to educate and inform their community.

In 2014 the National WILPF Issue Committee on Corporations v Democracy received \$2500 for their work on **THE HUMAN RIGHT TO HEALTH & SAFE FOOD, producing Infographic Cards about the health risks of glyphosate, especially its threat to women, babies and the most vulnerable in society**. A separate wordpress website was created that accompanied the cards and provided WILPF members with in depth information and tools for activism in the form of articles, published studies, a community survey, access to tools that measure glyphosate in urine, and suggested actions of civic engagement including letter writing campaigns, organizing demonstrations outside big box stores that sell products with glyphosate, and discussing with neighbors the dangers of yard chemicals and water runoff. Thousands of these cards have been printed and distributed to WILPF members to support their own activism.

In 2012 the Des Moines Iowa WILPF branch received \$700 to conduct a year long study and research to better inform its members and the public of the corporate agricultural takeover of the long esteemed **World Food Prize** held in Des Moines annually. The grant covered speakers, events and materials. This work resulted in more activism on this topic in 2013 when the branch received a second grant of \$1500 to conduct a community wide **Symposium on the Food Sovereignty Prize**, a sustainable food alternative to the World Food Prize, with international speakers and activists. This Symposium led to a coalition of allies under the banner of **OCCUPY THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE**, annual protests, demonstrations, letter-writing campaigns and other activism to denounce the takeover of the World Food Prize by big agricultural corporations promoting genetically modified seeds, profligate use of toxic chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and international loans and aid packages that back a corporate agenda of compressed seed ownership. These annual protests have grown and continue onward.

**BACKGROUND:** This non-profit women's organization is steered by a hands-on activist Board of Directors (all volunteer) and a single part time staff member, aided by part time consultants who edit national member communications, support fundraising activities and expand visibility through social media. WILPF US is a 501c4 organization based in Des Moines Iowa operating through a 501c3 fiscal partner, Peace Development Fund. They are part of International WILPF with offices in Geneva and New York City. WILPF enjoys Consultative Status at the United Nations and monitors the work of the UN through its programs on disarmament ([www.ReachingCriticalWill.org](http://www.ReachingCriticalWill.org)) and women, peace & security ([www.Peacewomen.org](http://www.Peacewomen.org)). WILPF members have won the Nobel Peace Prize several times, most recently as part of a coalition that received the prize in 2017 for their work towards a UN Treaty on Banning Nuclear Weapons that 122 nations signed.



# WILPF INVESTING IN SYSTEM CHANGE

## Through Emerging Women Activists

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From the first WILPF has benefitted from and invested in the development of leaders who have vision and strategy to move the organization forward. Our history is full of their names and achievements. Our work is led from a bottom-up grassroots model where the passions of our members dictate the focus and strategies we pursue. Today we have 40 branches of inspired women and at-large members working in solidarity across the US and we're growing.

### We Talk, We Plan, We Make A Difference

We've spent time analyzing what makes a project or branch succeed. Of course much of it has to do with the capacity of the leaders and the enthusiasm of the members. But enthusiasm gets ignited when there is an idea for action that

- Is well matched with the needs and issues of a local community.
- Includes collaboration with stakeholders in the community affected.
- Makes use of the talents and expertise of local partners, including our own members.
- Has a good chance of success, or at least of raising awareness of the issue.
- Appeals to the broader community, not just 'the usual suspects'.

But key to success is also coordination that builds on the success in one branch location and is able to rework it successfully in another. That kind of coordination is essential for increasing impact, visibility and engagement. And it's key for replicating our most successful projects across the country.

### INVESTING IN ACTIVISM

What keeps WILPF visible in our communities across the country is the work and activism of our Branch members and National Issue Committees. These are women who discern a need for activism in their city or state and undertake tremendous projects that matter and have impact beyond what we see on the surface. In many cases their local work is informed and inspired by global issues that are reflected up close and personal right on Main Street. WILPF US empowers and equips these women with tools, resources and experience to optimize their efforts.

Once we identified that strong connection between visibility/impact and activism, we started helping fund the most creative and easily replicable branch projects so they are as successful as possible. These seed monies are in the form of **mini grants** that come directly from the donor support we receive. Our Mini Grant Program began in 2009 and has been growing each year.

Members of branches, at-large members, and chairs of National Issue Committees can

- apply for grants up to \$2500 three times a year.
  - to help launch projects, campaigns or events
  - attend conferences to learn more and bring perspectives back to our work
- support the collaborative work we do with allies

Applicants are judged by the impact the project intends, the number of members it engages, and its replicability across WILPF.

We've seen an enormous amount of good work and excellent projects take off because of these small grants. Over the length of the project (2009 through the present).

**We've invested a total of \$86,000** in work that advances our mission and better equips our activists to create change locally and nationally.

## **THE CHALLENGES**

While the number of applications increases each year, the amount we have to invest in these women-led initiatives has remained stagnant at \$10,000 per year.

Envisioning a project, strategy or campaign and designing in advance the materials necessary to make it work can be challenging and demanding for our branch leaders who have never applied for grants and have not been held adequately accountable for the documentation process to evaluate and measure impact of these projects.

While we've simplified the submission process, still submitting a grant is daunting for inexperienced applicants. And submitting final reports, financial documentation and sample materials at the end of an exhausting project is burdensome. We do not have program staff to work closely with members to solicit new grants or assist them with the documentation that would strengthen the impact of these grants. So those factors have limited who applies and the quality of the projects that come to us. Arguably the newer, weaker or less organized branches that could most benefit from strategic planning and seed money to make their projects succeed are less inclined to apply because of lack of capacity.

**To that end we realize we need a more effective outreach to inspire more and better applications and to assist members in an envisioning process to identify a strategic approach to a local or national issue that matches both their capacity to complete the project and the specific issue they want to address.**

Here are the goals we are setting for this MINI GRANT EXPANSION project if we can secure funding.

1. **Direct Mentoring & Outreach to Branches** – We would hire a part time MiniGrant Outreach Coordinator in 2019 to promote the mini-grant process, stimulate visionary projects and encourage more branches and committees to apply.
2. **Program Goals** – Working with our volunteer Program Committee, Mini Grants Committee, Development Chair and Communications Coordinator, the Outreach Coordinator will spend the first 6 months assisting potential applicants to create plans or actions in 2019 and 2020 that match the issues in their own community within the constraints of their capacity or working with allies. In the case of national issue committees, we'd be looking for plans that have potential for national impact. In each instance we'd be assisting them to
  - look critically and strategically at local issues that require more attention and investment or are being neglected entirely
  - connect them to the overarching global issues WILPF pursues (Peace & Demilitarization, Women's Rights, Human Rights, Racism and White Privilege, the Middle East, the Environment, Corporate Threats to Democracy and Profits Before People, and Cuba & The Bolivarian Alliance) with a strategic sense of impact and accessing internal resources and WILPF experts on the issue.
  - discern the most effective project they could undertake to have the greatest impact for system change, engaging the greatest number of participants and stakeholders
  - plan for the timing, materials, type of action/campaign
  - make a realistic budget
  - match their dreams to their capacity

- encourage collaboration with local partners and allies, especially involving stakeholders in the issue to be addressed
  - plan for the greatest possible outreach and public promotion of the action/event
  - look for other funders besides WILPF US, including local donors
  - seek synergies with other WILPF members, branches, issue committees that have done the same or similar projects to pool resources, learn from the experience of others and possibly collaborate together to widen the impact.
3. **Increasing Available Funds** – We’d like to be able to increase the amount we now offer each year from \$10,000 to \$25,000 between 2019 and 2020, with plans to begin distributing the additional funding gradually 6-9 months after we have a Mini Grants Outreach Coordinator in place. In order to achieve this we’ll create a special fund with seed money of \$25,000 and add to it each year, distributing increasing amounts over the next 2 years.
 

\$10,000 in 2019	\$15,000 in 2020	Reassessment of project goals for 2021
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  4. **Leadership Training & Documentation Goals** – We will work with branch leaders to connect them to WILPF’s Social Media promotional capabilities, assist them with grant writing training, and assist them in building into their project measurable goals and objectives as well as solid evaluation and reporting capacity.
  5. **Friend-raising/fundraising Goals** – For community visibility and sustainability we will help the branch leaders better connect with our own WILPF Mini-Grants Committee and also seek local funding through small but effective fundraising efforts. We’re learning and teaching fundraising skills for ongoing sustainability.
  6. **21st Century communications Goals** – Social media that matters. Working with our WILPF-US Communications Director, branches granted a MiniGrant will be urged to use social media platforms to promote the project/action and connect with local activists who may not have heard of WILPF. In addition we’ll be assisting branches to connect to local progressive bloggers, meetup groups, neighborhood associations, as well as natural allies.



## EXEMPLARY MINI GRANTS



### ACTIVISM ON PUBLIC BANKING

In 2018 the Santa Cruz California WILPF Branch received \$750 to fund their work on a **long term PUBLIC BANKING EDUCATION CAMPAIGN**, advocating for a California State Bank and a local County Bank. The local branch members are using the funds to produce "HOW TO" Packets for Elected Officials, 2 sets of poster board displays, a WILPF Banner on Public Banking and Buttons.

This is only the start of this long term campaign. They will be supporting civic engagement for local legislation. Public banks are a way to keep local money invested locally, and to provide low interest financial support through savings, checking and loans. In California, where marijuana was made legal, commercial banks are prohibited from depositing dollars from the sale of marijuana. As a result there is a lot of money unsecured in communities which can fuel robbery and theft. In addition, public banks are less vulnerable to economic downturn than big commercial banks.

### EDUCATION ON THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

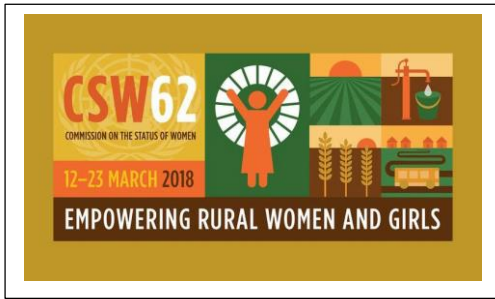
**The Burlington VT Branch** is teaching about the history of nuclear weapons by bringing a Hibakusha (survivor of Hiroshima) to speak to the community. We're told the horrific nature of the Hiroshima bombing and its environmental and human cost is rarely included in many school history curriculums. We must remember in order to effectively gain solidarity on abolishing nuclear weapons. The event gathered signatures for a PETITION urging the US to sign on to the UN TREATY TO BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS.



**CONNECTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS, CLIMATE JUSTICE, REFUGEE FLIGHT, RESOURCE CONFLICTS & WAR.** The WILPF US National Earth Democracy and Corporations v Democracy Issue Committees collaborated on creating and distributing two 2-sided colorful and informative Infographic Cards that were made available nationally to members and branches for effective teaching and activism tools. One linked the issues of **CLIMATE JUSTICE+WOMEN+PEACE**, the other focused on the **HUMAN RIGHT TO HEALTH & SAFE FOOD**. These have been used across the US at farmers markets, Earth Day celebrations, teach-ins and women's events.



## OUTREACH: MAKING OUR CASE at The UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN



WILPF enjoys Consultative Status at the UN, and we take our role seriously. Our International Programs monitor the work of the UN on both Disarmament and the Women, Peace & Security agenda. Once a year, thanks to our Section's investment and the generosity of a committed donor, we bring a cadre of students and 2 WILPF members to the US's Status On The Commission of Women Conference where thousands of women from around the globe gather to monitor progress on the condition of women's rights and innovative programs that raise the visibility of and demands for women's rights.

Several of our branches, members and WILPF leaders submit workshops and when they are accepted we provide MiniGrant funding to help the speakers attend. And we also fund travel for members to represent us at UN events on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for the planet.

In 2012 the National Cuba & Bolivarian Alliance Committee received \$750 to bring speakers for 2 Side Panel Events at the UN's Commission on the Status of Women events... report of US Women's Research Delegation to Cuba focused on EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS AS A HUMAN RIGHT.

In 2013 the Missoula MT Branch received \$900 to bring speakers on Side Panel at UN CSW Event on Violence Against Women and Girls "NOT ONE MORE: RESILIENCE & RESISTANCE - USING ART, PROTEST, EDUCATION AND POLITICAL ACTION TO ELIMINATE FEMINICIDE & HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

In 2017 the San Diego CA Branch received \$2500 to bring speakers to the CSW for a Parallel Side Event on "OUTSTANDING REFUGEE & INDIGENOUS WOMEN LEADING WOMEN WORLDWIDE FROM ABUSE TO ECONOMIC & SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT"

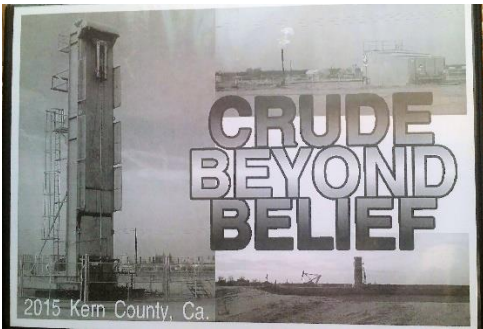


### FOOD SECURITY & FOOD JUSTICE

In 2012 the Des Moines Iowa WILPF branch received \$700 to conduct a year long study and research to better inform its members and the public of the corporate agricultural takeover of the long esteemed **World Food Prize** held in Des Moines annually. The grant covered speakers, events and materials. This work resulted in more activism on this topic in 2013 when the branch received a second grant of \$1500 to conduct a community wide **Symposium on the Food Sovereignty Prize**, a sustainable food alternative to the World Food Prize, with international speakers and activists. This Symposium led to **annual protests**, demonstrations, letter-writing campaigns and other activism to denounce the takeover of the World Food Prize by big agricultural corporations promoting genetically modified seeds, profligate use of toxic chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and international loans and aid packages that back a corporate agenda of compressed seed ownership. A coalition of groups including WILPF formed OccupyTheWorldFoodPrize.org. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqHYZsUiNKA&feature=youtu.be>



**“CRUDE BEYOND BELIEF” CITIZEN ACTIVISM ON FRACKING.**



In 2015 the Fresno CA Branch received \$1500 to conduct a tour for the public of fracking sites in California. They made a video of the tour and edited it into CRUDE BEYOND BELIEF. It was distributed to the public in California and used for citizen activism to push back against fracking. In 2017 the Philadelphia branch, inspired by Fresno, received \$980 to fund their work developing a video tour of fracking sites in PA.

They also created a DVD for the public and used it for citizen activism to block fracking in PA.

**A full list of all WILPF US Mini Grants distributed since 2009 is included in this document.**



## WEAVING A NEW VISION

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Every day we hear strident shouting, on social media, on talk shows, in the news. Power-holders pit “us” against “them.” Misogynists demean women. Racists stir steaming cauldrons of fear and hatred. All this shouting threatens to drown out voices of reason.

The burning question is: *How do we counter the vocal minority's vituperative tribal chant?*

**We know the answer:** With WILPF's all-encompassing, transformative vision of a world at peace.

A world in which –

- The needs of all people are met in a fair and equitable manner
- All people equally participate in making the decisions that affect them
- The interconnected web of life is acknowledged and celebrated in diverse ways and communities
- Human societies are designed and organized for sustainable existence

But to play a strategic role in creating the world we want, we have to speak with power ... together, operating strategically in the political, academic and social realms... but as a non-partisan organization calling for a healing and feminist model for peace and equality.



# THE PROUD HISTORY WE BUILD UPON

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*“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.” - Robert Kennedy*

Think back to another generation, a hundred years ago. It's the second year of World War I. Women are barely allowed a whisper outside the home ... certainly not a real voice in “the affairs of men.” Most are not even allowed to vote.

But in this atmosphere, with war raging around them, a courageous group of women suffragettes with a vision of world peace sends out the call. A world-wide Congress of women is convened.

Picture that sea of women, two thousand strong. All with the passionate drive to end war and secure a permanent peace. The first time in modern history that women from nations at war united to demand peace.



These are the women who created the **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**.

For the next hundred years, progressive women banded together in WILPF branches across America to share revolutionary ideas ... to protest injustice ... to demand an end to war.

With unending pressure, unwavering determination, unstoppable zeal, they pulled their country toward the light.

Time and again, under the WILPF banner of peace and freedom, these strong women changed their portions of the world for the better:

- *WILPF members have included thousands of “ordinary” women and men, and five Nobel Peace Prize laureates, including Jane Addams, WILPF's first president, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- *WILPF gained consultative status with the United Nations as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) in 1948 and monitors U.N. work in Geneva, New York and Paris.*
- *In 1957, U.S. members presented 10,000 signatures protesting nuclear testing to the White House – efforts which helped lead to the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty.*
- *WILPF played an important role in the anti-war and civil rights movements of the 1960s and 1970s.*

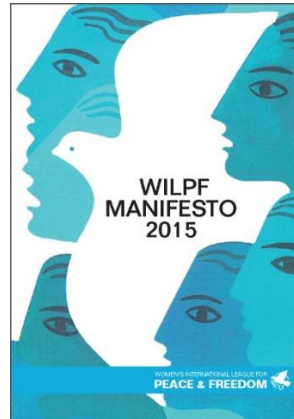
**WILPF member Coretta Scott King** spoke out against the Vietnam war at a WILPF press conference one week before her husband's assassination on April 4, 1968. Listening are WILPF leaders Kay Camp (left) and Dorothy Hutchinson. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a WILPF sponsor, addressed WILPF's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner in 1965.

- *WILPF was a key voice of the anti-nuclear movement of the 1980s with vigils, lobbying, peace encampments and civil disobedience.*
- *WILPF organized impressive delegations to the UN's Commission on the Status of Women's review of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference, bringing the voices of grassroots women to the development of these critical tools for women's rights and peace.*

**WILPF sponsors and members have included academics, elected officials, faith leaders, artists, writers, esteemed university faculty members and activists.**

**We are proud of our roots and our past.**

# TODAY: WILPF SOLIDARITY ON ISSUES THAT MATTER



*"This is the potential WILPF offers women for coordinated strategic action that matters," says Mary Hanson Harrison, WILPF US President. "When we're working together in a cohesive way, we gain real visibility across the country and create tremendous impact."*

WILPF has consistently raised up generations of strong women, empowering them to do the same: speak out, demand justice, change the world.

**We're still raising our voices for those who have no voice.** And it's hard to imagine a time when helping women find their activist voice was more essential. What does that look like?

Our members vote each year on a handful of **SOLIDARITY EVENTS** they collaborate on across the US, in addition to the unique work they do locally in their own communities on issues like fracking, environmental threats, water quality, food security, homelessness, immigration and refugees, and women's rights.

These Solidarity events provide opportunities for us to stand together as ONE WILPF and speak with one voice, on one day, with one message.

**VISION:** As we move forward together we're looking at ways to maximize the power of Solidarity by coordinating our efforts, finding synergies across the country and supporting more projects in ways that can demonstrate a common vision and measurable regional or national impact.



**Madison WI WILPF**



**Greeley CO WILPF**

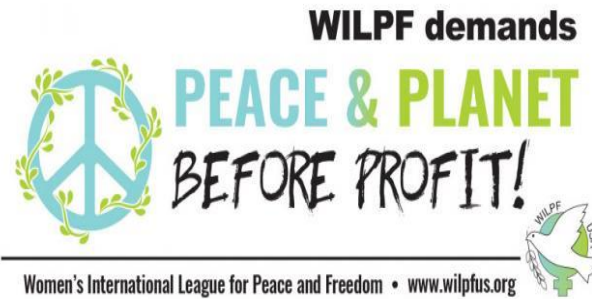
**The Poor Peoples Campaign**

For more than a month from **May 14th to June 23rd, 2018** WILPF women in **27 branches** of WILPF raised their voices and **took to the streets** in a significant show of support for the Poor People's Campaign. They rallied at state capitols, held teach-ins at churches, met with state and national elected officials, sang songs, held banners, made signs, marched with hundreds of other Poor People's Campaign demonstrators and risked arrest, some spending hours or overnight in jail. WILPF was both present and visible in empowering women and standing with the most vulnerable in weekly demonstrations and actions that stretched across the country.



In July, 2017 over 122 nations around the world signed on to a UN Treaty to ban nuclear weapons. WILPF International and WILPF US were part of a coalition organized under ICAN, International Committee to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. For our decade long efforts to move that treaty forward, the coalition was awarded **the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize** at a ceremony in December, 2017.

In New York City **in June 2017** WILPF organized a **WOMEN'S MARCH TO BAN THE BOMB** march, and 16 of our branches across the US organized or participated in **'sister marches'** in their own communities, for everyone who couldn't make it to NYC, and to make sure the Treaty was being given local public attention. We launched a Citizens Petition to support the treaty and collected signatures at every march. **ON EARTH DAY** 2017 and 2018 our message of Peace & Planet Before Profit was heard across the country in 26 participating WILPF branches. They marched with the scientists, tabled at marches and rallies, provided children's activities about climate change and caring for Mother Earth, met with elected officials and collaborated with local chapters of the Sierra Club, 350.org, US-PIRG, faith community friends and held Teach Ins in churches and libraries, showing films discussing books and making their communities aware of the environmental disaster that's coming.



### **Philadelphia PA WILPF**

Women organizing strategically in their own communities, to plan and take action, to raise their collective voices and reach across America with a single message -- that adds up to nationwide impact.

#### **Picture it:**

Women raising their voices together ... under the WILPF banner ... in a chorus of positive messages. United in sisterhood, with a common mission and within an international framework, across races, class, and politics. Indeed the international structure of WILPF unites us with peacewomen around the world.

WILPF members transforming cacophony into strategic and effective calls for justice, for equality, for peace from Main Street to Pennsylvania Ave. to J Street and onward.

It's a picture that's achievable.

But to maximize our potential for increased capacity and impact will take planning and focus on the future. And in a time of scarce resources and continual assaults on all that most American women hold dear, we'll need the vision, energy and support to maximize the opportunities within these challenges.

**WILPF has connected human rights and economic justice to the roots of war since 1915.** We teach about and organize to challenge the incremental degradation of our rights, our democracy, our environment and a sustainable world.

Our history cries out for a re-centering and dedicated focus. Effective leadership demands a plan for sustainable action. WILPF-US is preparing and gathering support to educate, organize and empower women activists for the long haul. We're moving forward a vision that will enable a women-led charge for peace, human rights, and economic justice.

**We're investing in leaders to change the world.**

# SUSTAINED STRATEGIES TO UNITE & ORGANIZE

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*"I raise up my voice not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard." - Malala Yousafzai*

The national board has developed a two-phase plan to strengthen the voice with which women condemn injustice and inequality in our country and demand solutions.

**Phase 1** focused on reaching out to at-large members and branches to re-connect them to the national organization and to each other.

- Starting in 2014 President Mary Hanson Harrison personally visited 12 branches in her first two years in office. From California to New York City, she met with long-time WILPF activists ... women who have carried the banner of peace and freedom for decades and are longing for younger women to take up the cause, as well as newer members who are enthusiastically taking up that banner. Wherever she went enthusiasm and membership were raised.



- During the Summer of 2015, WILPF US undertook a comprehensive survey of branches by phone to hear their concerns, their successes, their aspirations. Their responses were included in a comprehensive report to the national board and shared with the members. The survey effort reconnected isolated branches and strengthened the national connection. The results allowed for more strategic planning by issue committees and identified for the Board critical areas of support needed to unify the membership and call for more Sectional (and intersectional) solidarity.
- In October of 2016 the leadership of WILPF US met with the Program Committee to work on programmatic themes and goals for the next several years. These goals have helped us narrow our focus and better support our activist members in their work.
- From June of 2016 through the present, monthly national all-member "OneWILPF" Calls provided a forum for branches and at-large members to connect, plan and coordinate actions ... solidarity that had been missing. Over a two-year period, these calls, with their intensive communication and follow-up, wove the WILPF network back together. Shining a spotlight on programs that worked well in one region offered leaders in other areas both inspiration and know-how. During these two-hour sharing sessions, via phone and computer, eager novices could ask seasoned WILPF leaders ... who might be in the next state or clear across the country ... specific questions. "How did you ...?" "What about ...?" We heard from WILPF women who are experts in their field, and outside activists who have their own specialty expertise. They've evolved to include leadership training and webinar PowerPoints on capacity building.
- At our Triennial Congress in Chicago in July 2017, we rededicated ourselves to Leadership Training, reintroducing the concept of a Leadership Institute to help groom future leaders and train activists. While the plans continue to evolve for this process, we've been using the ONE WILPF Calls to do short targeted webinars on training, and we look forward to developing more skill-based training for success and empowerment.





- And the One WILPF Calls brought about a member-led initiative to conduct nation-wide Solidarity Events designed to sharpen our organizing skills, build our communication skills and exercise our coordination ‘muscle’. With a common message and signage, and operating on a single day, 27 branches have been involved in these effective outreach and solidarity events.

**From these initial outreach efforts, we’re already seeing results.**

WILPF facilitated branch collaborations on two National Solidarity Events in 2017, and three in 2018, plus a coordinated participation in the national Women’s Marches in January 2018. These coordinated efforts and Solidarity Events project our visibility and a common WILPF message across the US to amplify our voices and make our message harder to ignore. More visibility brings us more members and more action engages and inspires.

By the end of Phase 1, with a woman-led minimum of expense and all-volunteer coordination, WILPF US had gained 220 new members and several new branches.

Just picture what that kind of sustained infusion of enthusiasm and commitment will do over the next critical years of organizing and action!

Phase 2

## **STRONGER ... STRATEGIC ... SUSTAINED**

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*“A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.” - Mahatma Gandhi*

We know that WILPF members have the spirit and belief in the mission.

We’re in the midst of stoking the fire, providing these strong women with the seed money to make their strategies, actions, and outreach as effective as possible.

The first phase has already been realized and yielded great results. See the list of total grants distributed in our Addendum.

**Now ... to strategically plan and put those plans into action that matters.**

To inspire more WILPF members to think strategically, plan effectively and realize the seed money they need to make their plans reality.... we need a total of **\$80,000**.

**It’s a bold plan. And we need your support.**

## **The truth is if we are going to continue to have impact organizing progressive women activists and promoting citizen engagement in communities across the US, we need to do more to spur action.**

Will you help us do MORE to make WILPF more visible and effective, to invest in the women who make a difference right in their own hometowns, by holding aloft the progressive causes that lift up other women and women's rights, the rights of immigrants and refugees, the rights of nature and the Principles of Guardianship, economic justice issues that increase poverty in the US, and human rights abuses... all these together create the conditions that so often erupt in conflict and violence?

### **PROACTIVE PLANNING –**

If we were able to be more pro-active about promoting our Mini-Grants we feel everyone would benefit. If we were able to make the work to launch these projects go farther and with more impact...

#### **COORDINATION:**

Imagine if we were able to assign a stipend program planner to work with each branch to identify local issues, priorities and design projects that would address local issues, qualify for funding, and make their branch more visible with more consistent outreach and engagement in their community!

She'd work on visionary requests and assist our weaker less capable branches in designing fundable projects that could create more viability and visibility in their community.

She'd shepherd each application through concept development, budget planning, impact statements, and application. Then she'd remain involved to make sure final reports, including impact reports, get filed in a timely way.

**A Part Time Mini Grant Outreach Coordinator**, working closely with Program Committee, Mini Grant Committee, Communications Coordinator and Development Committee. **\$35,000**

#### **FUNDING FOR MORE PROJECTS:**

Imagine if we had more than \$10,000 to distribute and could increase both the number of grants we distribute and the size of the projects we invest in!

**\$15,000 in donations and grants for annual Mini Grant distributions**

**\$10,000 a year in Mini Grant Investment Savings as a Reserve Fund for future mini grants. An investment in the future.**

**\$25,000**

#### **SOLIDARITY PLANNING FOR MINI GRANT PROJECTS:**

Imagine if that stipend program planner was able to promote successful projects more effectively across WILPF US, so replicable projects actually get replicated in many of our branches! Instead of reinventing the wheel, we'd be using project templates that work in one city to launch them successfully in another!

We could plan **Regional Training Meetings** where our most successful Mini-Grant programs are promoted with toolkits and Q&A presentations so other branches are inspired to replicate them.

If we target the following regions for those meetings, how much more traction would these excellent projects get?!

California - The Mountain States - The Midwest - The Northeast

**Four regions, four weekend conferences that unite members, share successful projects for replication, and engage at-large members in those areas (not associated with branches).**

\$5000 per Region                      **\$20,000**

*For renting a space, promotional mailings and social media coordination, a small stipend for the conference coordinator, and printing those toolkits.*

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**TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST                      \$ 80,000.00**

**This is one of the most meaningful investments we can make to empowering women and lifting up an alternative vision for tomorrow:**

- training up a new generation of women activists
- empowering strong branches in their own local communities
  - working as a concerted movement across our nation
  - pulling our country back from the brink of tribalism
- holding high our values of justice, equality and peaceful, sustainable co-existence
- creating a safe haven of support for activists and a positive face for progressive radical change in the US.

We stand on the shoulders of inspiring women activists of the past.

**What will be written of our generation?**

Let it be said of us, that through our Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, we gave women the skills ... and the organization ... they needed to strategically transform our world for the better.

# Addendum

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WILPF Vision Statement

WILPF Mission Statement

Project Budget

Organizational Budget

List of WILPF MINI GRANT Distributions to date.



# **Vision**

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**WILPF envisions a transformed world at peace, where there is racial, social, and economic justice for all people everywhere—a world in which:**

- The needs of all people are met in a fair and equitable manner**
- All people equally participate in making the decisions that affect them**
- The interconnected web of life is acknowledged and celebrated in diverse ways and communities**
- Human societies are designed and organized for sustainable existence**

# Mission

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**WILPF members create the peaceful transformation they wish to see in the world by making connections that:**



- **Provide continuity with the past so that knowledge of historical events and patterns informs current activities for change**
- **Create analysis and action that reflect and reinforce each other**
- **Link and challenge root causes of oppression, especially racism, sexism, heterosexism, militarism, economic disparity, and political disempowerment**

- **Build and strengthen relationships and movements for justice, peace, and radical democracy**

<b>Project Budget</b>	
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Grant #1	\$ 5,000
Grant #2	\$ 2,500
Sponsor/Donor #A	\$ 1,000
Sponsor/Donor #B	\$ 1,500
WILPF (from operating budget or special fund)	\$ 500
Overhead (InKind Donations)	
Computers	\$ 50
Office space	\$ 250
Supplies	\$ 20
Income Source X	
Income Source Y	
Income Source Z	
<b>Total Inflow</b>	<b>\$ 10,820</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
Print Materials	\$ 2,500
Communications -	
Phone	\$ 50
Postage	\$ 250
Travel & Meals (T&M)	
Airfare	\$ 5,000
Car rental	\$ 1,500
Gas	\$ 250
Lodging	\$ 550
Meals	\$ 400
Staff Time	
Overhead (InKind Expenses)	
Computers	\$ 50
Office space	\$ 250
Supplies	\$ 20
Expense TBD #1	
Expense TBD #2	
Expense TBD #3	
Expense TBD #4	
<b>Total Outflow</b>	<b>\$ 10,820</b>
<b>Net for Project</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



## 2018 BUDGET

### INCOME

BEQUESTS	\$0
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$78,000
GRANTS	\$38,400
MEMBERSHIP DUES INCOME	\$34,825
PROGRAM SERVICE/RESOURCE INCOME	\$28,100
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$17,579
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$196,904</b>

### EXPENSES

GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES	\$14,267
GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP	\$42,100
MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS	\$10,300
PERSONNEL/CONTRACTORS PROF FEES	\$107,900
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT EXPENSES	\$11,200
PROGRAMS, INITIATIVES, BRANCH & MEMBER SUF	\$60,278
WILPF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT	\$21,860
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE 5040.00	\$500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$246,545</b>

Prior-Year Carryover \$51,822

**2018 Net** **\$2,181**