

Women's group awards funding for mental health programs



3 MINUTES AGO • PANTAGRAPH STAFF

BLOOMINGTON — More than \$50,000 will be awarded to six mental health programs during 2016 by the Women to Women Giving Circle of the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation.

"We've focused our funding on community mental health issues over the last two years," said Sharon Tarvin, Women to Women group chairwoman. "Mental health affects every person in our community and we are directing funds again this year to help strengthen local programs."

Organizations sharing the \$51,225 in funding are:

- McLean County Health Department for its mental health first aid class. More than 500 county residents have taken the class. The new grant allows for additional trainers and sessions.
- The Baby Fold for its Healthy Start program, which provides first-time mothers with the knowledge and resources to maintain a safe and healthy environment for their baby.
- Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal and Lawrence Irvin Neighborhood Center for the SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) youth program. The goal is to reduce youth suicide and self-destructive behavior.
- Girl Scouts of Central Illinois for the BFF-Be a Friend First program to help girls identify and reject bullying.
- National Alliance on Mental Health of Livingston/McLean Counties for their programs for parents and caregivers of children and adolescents with mental health conditions and for in-school presentations.
- YWCA McLean County for Rural Outreach for YWCA Stepping Stones to provide services to rural communities about healthy relationships and counseling for victims of sexual assault.