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Contact: Michele Chausse, Rosie's Place, 617.318.0210: o, 978.697.1928: c;
mchausse@rosiesplace.org

Rosie's Place Names Recipient of 2014 Kip Tiernan Social Justice Fellowship

"Women in Charge" Will Bring Financial Literacy Education to Survivors of Domestic Violence

BOSTON--Rosie's Place has awarded the 2014 Kip Tiernan Social Justice Fellowship to Nicole Kreisberg of Williamstown, MA for a program she has developed that will seek to empower survivors of domestic violence by building their economic knowledge and financial skills. The \$40,000 fellowship, which honors Rosie's Place founder Kip Tiernan, is given annually to a woman to develop and carry out a special project that will further the mission of Rosie's Place in New England. Founded in 1974 as the first women-only shelter in the country, Rosie's Place provides a safe and nurturing environment to help poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives.

In carrying out her proposal, Kreisberg, who works as a Senior Research Analyst at the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER), will develop a curriculum and enlist economic and financial experts from AIER and other organizations to deliver workshops to domestic violence survivors. Workshops will take place at the Pittsfield, North Adams, and Great Barrington locations of Elizabeth Freeman Center, the largest domestic violence agency in Berkshire County, MA. AIER has offered to help fund Kreisberg's program with a matching \$40,000.

In a letter of support for Kreisberg's project, AIER president Stephen J. Adams wrote that the Institute is "thrilled to support Nicole's program, which is sure to bolster our educational mission by providing much-needed financial literacy services to low-income women in our community."

According to Kreisberg's proposal, the main objectives of her project are to increase women's economic competence, improve their confidence to make financial decisions, and strengthen and expand the already-existing networks of rural New England organizations that serve women.

"Low-income women who suffer domestic violence are frequently denied access to basic financial tools and the opportunity to make financial decisions," said Kreisberg. "This program will augment Elizabeth Freeman Center's already excellent social services by providing women with a cohesive financial literacy education catered exclusively for them."

Kreisberg received an A.M. degree in Social Service Administration last year from the University of Chicago. Previously, she received a B.A. degree from the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied Latin American Studies and Anthropology.

“Through this Fellowship, we hope to provide a woman with the resources to realize a vision – just as Kip was able to do, 40 years ago,” said Rosie’s Place Executive Director Sue Marsh. “This Fellowship embodies the same spirit and commitment that was the basis of Rosie’s Place’s founding.”

Kreisberg added, “With the help of Rosie’s Place funding, this project can serve as a conduit, connecting the best minds, knowledge, and resources to ensure all women are financially confident and economically secure.”

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