



# LAKE MICHIGAN FEDERATION

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Dear Jessica,

I am pleased to submit this grant proposal on behalf of the women in the Great Lakes Basin working for a better quality of life for themselves and their families. The Lake Michigan Federation, as one member of an oversight steering committee, is requesting \$42,695 to initiate a long-term Great Lakes Women's Leadership Campaign that will integrate environmental concerns into the decision-making process of other social and economic programs.

We are all very excited about this program and look forward to working with you and the Kellogg Foundation to improve the quality of our life in the Great Lakes Basin. If you have any questions regarding this proposal or its participants, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Bero,  
SE Wisconsin Regional Director

## STAFF

- Glenda L. Daniel  
Executive Director
- Sophia L. Brown  
Assistant Director and  
Development Associate
- Barbra G. Oliver  
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- Rebecca Leighton  
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to Save a  
Great Lake*

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# LAKE MICHIGAN FEDERATION

## Great Lakes Women's Leadership Campaign

### Introduction

The Lake Michigan Federation (LMF) is seeking \$42,695 from the Kellogg Foundation to initiate a long-term Great Lakes Women's Leadership Campaign to integrate environmental concerns into other social and economic decision-making in the Great Lakes Basin.

This campaign will target women leaders across the Great Lakes Basin who are working to improve public health and build a sustainable economy. These women will make the connection with those that work to improve education and crime prevention. The campaign will work to identify the links between these areas and the environmental problems that negatively impact and interfere with their progress. In addition, the network of advocates brought together by this campaign will work to integrate these concepts into mainstream policy and decision-making processes.

### Problem Statement

In the Great Lakes Basin, as in other parts of the country and the world, toxic contaminants impact our health and community in seemingly subtle ways. Unfortunately, as more contaminants are dumped unchecked into the system the impacts are dispersed more broadly and become more difficult to correct.

It is our belief that while environmental problems have typically been isolated from other issues by decision-makers, they impact at least four facets of our community. These include education, health, crime and economics. For example, recent studies have indicated that toxic contamination influences children's development and restricts their abilities to learn at normal rates. Additionally, the rising costs of health care correspond with the rising number and variety of environmentally related health problems around the Great Lakes Basin.

More serious attention must be given to how large a role the condition of our ecosystem plays in the condition of our community. The connections must be clearly made between our actions and their impacts over the long-term. Some questions to be asked might include; "Is there a correlation between the low aptitude scores of our children, the growing crime and suicide rates, and the environmental toxics their mothers were exposed to? "Are toxic pollutants responsible for the growing number of reproductive disorders across the Great Lakes?"

Historically, the decisions for the paths taken in building our communities, primarily on narrow economic grounds, have been made by men. Women have been excluded from the process and as a result have more objectively scrutinized the effects of past decisions.

This project will be led by women working with the people of their community and making changes from the bottom up. Some of the women represented will be working in depressed communities where polluting industries and hazardous waste landfills are often located. These areas also tend to have very high crime rates and poor health conditions.

Other participants will represent native communities who have been almost completely out of the process. Their homes have been taken over for development, and their communities stripped of traditional values. We will use their energy and values to reach out to the native people and build a strong and active movement for restoration of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

#### Proposal

Goal - The overall goal of this project is to gain full participation from women throughout the decision-making process as it relates to building a healthy and sustainable community in the Great Lakes Basin. Within five or ten years down the road we hope to have in place strong regional policies based on a healthy ecosystem as well as a healthy economy.

This project is being developed by a consortium of women from a number of Great Lakes organizations out of frustration surrounding the impact of toxic contamination on our communities and the narrow scope within which these problems are typically addressed.

The initial project includes two phases:

- 1) Plan and convene a two day conference among women from grassroots community and environmental groups. This meeting will focus on developing an initial outline of connections between environmental problems and their role in social and economic development. The group will then develop a list of organizations and individuals to contact for the second gathering. To maintain a strong working meeting we will aim for 30 to 40 participants.

- 2) The second conference will be a bi-national meeting with women from active environmental, social justice and educational organizations around the Great Lakes Basin. This second group, made up of at least 60 women, will identify further and confirm the links between social and economic concerns through environmental problems and will develop a set of goals and recommendations for action.

In addition, there will be a leadership development component to aid women in speaking clearly, confidently, factually and effectively in order to influence policy changes to resolve ecosystem problems.

Participants in the conferences will be asked to act as a network and maintain communications through an agreed upon method to ensure implementation of the overall program. The group will identify an agenda and develop a program under which these concepts can be integrated into mainstream decision-making processes.

A consultant will be hired to conduct the conferences and hold a leadership training workshop during the course of the second conference. This will outline and provide role playing on taking the message back to their own communities and spreading the message across the basin through grass roots organizing, media relations, and communications with government agencies and elected officials.

The group created from this workshop and expanded upon through effective organizing will develop into a Great Lakes leadership network and actively pursue participation from a variety of organizations and individuals. The agenda and program will be produced in a report and disseminated to key decision-makers around the Basin. Included in the report will also be a check list to guide community leaders in successfully implementing the Network's program.

#### Project Partners/Steering Committee Members

The Federation will act as fiscal agent of this campaign as part of a joint venture of women from throughout the Great Lakes region. The steering committee will be made up of the following people representing these organizations.

**Kathy Bero**, SE Wisconsin Regional Director, Lake Michigan Federation.

**Glenda Daniel**, Executive Director, Lake Michigan Federation.

**Mary Ginnebaugh**, Windsor Office Director, Great Lakes United

**Jean Jabanoski**, Coordinator of Environmental Information and Education, City of Toronto Department of Public Health

**Karen Murphy**, Field Coordinator, Great Lakes United

**Rebecca Shriner**, Water Quality Standards Project Coordinator, National Wildlife Federation.

## Project Evaluation

Evaluation of the conferences will be done by the participants as well as the consultant. Additionally, we will ask the consultant to do a follow up and evaluate the program six months after the second conference. This will give us an early indication of how successful the present plan is and allow for changes if necessary.

## Qualifications of Lake Michigan Federation

The Lake Michigan Federation, 22 years old this spring, is a four-state organization focusing on citizen action to improve and maintain water quality in this and other Great Lakes, their tributaries and surrounding environment, to promote sound plans for shoreline management, and to increase Lake appreciation through public and school-based education.

The Federation has always been committed to issues of environmental/social justice and has long recognized that policy decisions in fields such as economics, transportation, housing and land use also have environmental implications. The Federation's own membership is very diverse and, particularly on the southeast side of Chicago and in Northwest Indiana, has a large minority and working class component. In addition, we are currently developing a proposal with the Council for Disability Rights to develop better disabled access to Great Lakes lakefront parks.

With regard to women's issues in particular, Kathleen Bero of our southeastern Wisconsin office has represented the Federation in a Jane Addams Conference-sponsored series of seminars with a global focus on Women in the Environment and is a member of World Women in Development and Environment (WorldWIDE). Lee Botts of our board and Glenda Daniel, LMF executive director, were also honored by the Global Assembly of Women in the Environment last November at a conference held in Miami, Florida under sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Programme. Our organization was among 218 singled out for special distinction worldwide.

The Federation's record on public education and information dissemination is long and varied.

We were the first and leading group in the region to build public support for ultimately successful efforts to secure phosphate bans on detergents -- to reduce eutrophication (producing excess algae growth, fish deaths) in Lake Michigan.

We trained a network of citizen groups, still functioning after more than ten years, to work for strengthened wetland protection through intervening routinely in Clean Water Act Section 404 permits to dredge and fill wetlands. Our classic "how to" guide, **A Citizen's Guide**

to **Protecting Wetlands**, has just been revised and reprinted and has been promoted successfully nationwide.

We have also been successful in initiating and supporting citizen networks in support of Remedial Action Plan development and implementation in 10 of 43 Great Lakes toxic hot spots, called "Areas of Concern," around the Great Lakes. Our Master Plan for the Grand Calumet River, developed in the early 1980's, was in fact the prototype for the Remedial Action Plan concept later adopted by the International Joint Commission and the two federal governments with Great Lakes jurisdiction.

Other projects ongoing or recently completed include: coordination of two Pollution Prevention Demonstration Projects--in Milwaukee and in northwest Indiana; a pollution prevention project conducted with POTWs and their dischargers to identify problem pollutants and innovative ways to keep them out of the system, Great Lakes education curriculum development and dissemination in area elementary schools; a research and public education campaign directed at finding practical solutions to the problem of contaminated sediments in Great Lakes bays and tributaries; a policy research project to evaluate the effectiveness of wetlands mitigation in Corps of Engineers Districts within the Great Lakes region; a study, conducted for the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront, to document and evaluate lakefill policies throughout the binational Great Lakes; and a new Shorekeepers project, to find stewards to "adopt" specific stretches of Lake Michigan shore to observe and monitor on a regular basis.

Finally, we are heading a two-year pilot project based in Milwaukee to develop a two-phase multi-media campaign to increase public knowledge and awareness of the dangers posed to ground and surface waters by hazardous product use in homes and on gardens and lawns as well as by small commercial establishments. The materials developed will be made available across the country to give communities a head start in implementing their own household pollution prevention programs.

Over the years, in specific projects and ongoing efforts too numerous to mention, we have built credible expertise in knowledge of the Great Lakes ecosystem (including air, land, ground and surface water, and human resources) and, in particular, of threats to that system from conventional pollutants and toxic compounds. We have consistently maintained a focus on building citizen awareness, concern and action to protect our Great Lake and the communities on its shores.

**GREAT LAKES WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN  
BUDGET 1992 - 1993  
(preliminary)**

**PERSONNEL**

**Salaries**

Project Coordinator (20 days @ \$100/day)      \$ 2,000  
Benefits (20%)      \$ 200

Consultant to run conferences and do  
follow-up evaluations      \$10,000

**TOTAL PERSONNEL**      **\$12,200**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Printing      \$ 1,000  
Brochure (includes artist fees)      \$ 2,000  
Postage      \$ 400  
Phone (includes conference call)      \$ 700  
Research Materials      \$ 300  
Rent/utilities      \$ 350  
Travel      \$ 1,000

**TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE**      **\$ 3,495**

**PARTICIPANT EXPENSE**

**First Meeting**  
Travel Scholarships (partial)      \$10,000  
Catered Meals (at conferences)      \$ 3,000

**Total**      **\$13,000**

**Second Meeting**  
Travel Scholarships (partial)      \$10,000  
Meals & Lodging Scholarships (partial)      \$ 4,000

**Total**      **\$14,000**

**TOTAL PARTICIPANT EXPENSE**      **\$27,000**

**TOTAL EXPENSES**      **\$42,695**