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CCSF alumna Diana Spatz founded organization awarded \$115,000 in grants by the Ford Foundation

The organization founded by CCSF alumna **Diana Spatz** and four friends at UC Berkeley has been awarded \$115,000 in grants from the Ford Foundation as part of the 2003 Leadership for a Changing World awards. The organization, Low-Income Families' Empowerment Through Education (LIFETIME), had as its first project, organizing for the Family Resource Center in the Student Union at CCSF's Ocean Avenue Campus. Spatz earned the CCSF Chancellor's Friend of the College Award in 1998 for that project.

Spatz has high praise for City College for helping her realize the possibilities that were open to her. "I was at City College just to get a certificate for word processing. My first semester, I was a welfare mom and paid my own fees because I didn't know I could get a Board of Governors fee waiver," she tells *City Currents*. "I love City College of San Francisco. EOPS and the Latino Service Center gave me my start as a student. **Susan Rouder's** political science class gave me the skills and support I needed to be a founder of LIFELINE."

Spatz points out that welfare mothers are usually discouraged from pursuing education. LIFETIME has trained many parents who have fought successfully to have their higher education count as a welfare-to-work activity under California's state welfare program.

An awards dinner will be held for the 2003 LCW award winners on **October 21** in New York City.



City College alumna **Diana Spatz**, center, is pictured with the other founders of LIFETIME, recipient of \$115,000 in grants from the Ford Foundation. Pictured from left are **Heather E. Jackson**, **Anita Rees**, **Leilani Luia** and **Sylvia Cabrales**.

The LIFETIME leadership group that won the award include three members of LIFETIME's board of directors, **Leilani Luia**, Chairperson; **Sylvia Cabrales**, Vice Chairperson, and **Heather Jackson**, Secretary; as well as **Diana Spatz**, Executive Director; and **Anita Rees**, Program Director. All five women are single mothers who completed college degrees while raising their families on welfare, and who are committed to helping other low-income mothers and fathers accomplish the same.

The 17 individuals and groups that are recipients of the Ford Foundation award will each receive \$100,000 to advance their work and an additional \$15,000 for supporting activities over the next two years

For more information about the award go to www.leadershipforchange.org.