

For Immediate Release

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## **Racine Community Foundation Awards \$237,128 in First Quarter Grants**

**RACINE (March 2014)** – The Board of Directors of the Racine Community Foundation is pleased to announce the award of \$237,128 in first quarter grants. The sixteen organizations benefitting from these grant awards include the following:

**The Arc of Racine County, Inc.** has been awarded a grant to support the School to Community Transition Project. The program has a specific objective of teaching self-advocacy skills to disabled youth through classroom programs, individual mentoring and parent workshops.

**Aurora Health Care, Inc.** has been approved for a grant to purchase fitness equipment for the Cardiac Rehab unit at the Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington. The Cardiac Rehab unit is the only unit in the area, and provides a professionally supervised program to help people recover from heart attacks, heart surgery and coronary procedures.

**Cerebral Palsy Agency of Racine Inc. (RADD)** will receive a grant with three objectives: 1) provide Camp Kinder scholarships, 2) support the youth respite program and 3) purchase computer equipment. Camp Kinder scholarships will allow youth to attend a camp where they are provided with opportunities to learn, play with peers and interact with the world around them. Through the youth respite program, disabled youth will enjoy a positive experience while spending the night at local hotel with highly-trained staff, giving a break to caregivers. The purchase of new computer equipment will increase efficiency and ensure that information is effectively distributed to clients and the community.

**Eco-Justice Center** has been awarded a grant for the production of a video to mark their tenth anniversary. The video will capture the significant accomplishments and detailed history of the evolution of the Center, which is currently only shared verbally.

**Greater Racine in Bloom** (Fiscal Sponsor: City of Racine) will receive a grant for the America in Bloom project. The program is a national campaign and contest dedicated to promoting county-wide beautification and community involvement. The goal of the program is to encourage environmental improvements and beautification through plant exchanges, neighborhood flower plantings, public and private clean-up days and educational workshops.

**The Haylofters, Inc.** has been awarded a grant for technical stage lighting and electrical upgrades. The Haylofters, one of Wisconsin's oldest continuously running community theater companies, produce three main stage productions and one Young Haylofters production annually. This grant will allow them to replace an electric control board, dimmer panel, sensor-dimmer modules and upgrade their existing electrical system.

**HOPES Center of Racine, Inc.** will receive support for their social services program. The program helps homeless people with mental illness address their mental health issues and/or addictions so that they might become self-sufficient and stably housed. This objective is met through offering counseling by certified professionals, intensive case management, a healing arts program and street outreach.

**Main Gallery** (Fiscal Sponsor: Racine Arts Council) has been approved for a grant to support projects and programs during the 2014 season. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Main Gallery, and the season will be celebrated through employing young artists, creating a story pole to be installed along the Root River and hosting an Alumni Exhibit and Auction.

**Polish National Alliance** will receive a grant to fund their annual Polish culture picnic. With a goal of keeping Polish heritage and pride alive in the community, the picnic features a Catholic Mass conducted in Polish, ethnic food and traditional Polish entertainment.

**River Bend Nature Center** has been awarded a grant to support the WATERshed program. This program helps 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Racine Unified School District make connections to how daily activities impact our watershed and introduces them to solutions on how they can make a positive difference.

**Siena Retreat Center** will receive support for their Grand Opening events. Both an open house and a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be hosted to introduce the Siena Retreat Center's new building to the community. The event is an opportunity to present the new, updated facility and to expand the potential users of the building.

**Urban League of Racine and Kenosha, Inc.** has been approved for a grant to provide assistance and referrals to residents of Racine County that are monolingual Spanish speakers or limited English speakers in need of translation and/or interpretation services. This assistance will allow persons with a language barrier to respond to correspondence in a timely manner and submit on-line job applications, improving their chances of securing gainful employment.

**Volunteer Center of Racine County** has received support for the SafeAssured ID program for youth in the Racine Community. SafeAssured ID kits provide families and law enforcement with the power to deliver immediate, holistic and ready to broadcast information unique to a missing person. Participants will have the opportunity to create a kit, free of charge, at school events and other major youth events in the community.

**Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth** (Fiscal Sponsor: University of Wisconsin Foundation) will receive a grant to provide scholarships for Racine Unified School District students from low-income households to attend creative writing courses. Through enrollment in a nine-week course, the district's most academically talented fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students will have the opportunity to develop their creative writing skills.

**Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation** has been approved for a grant to support the Job Title: Business Owner project. This micro-enterprise development project offers business education and one-on-one technical business assistance to individuals in Racine County, fostering job creation and retention.

**Women's Resource Center of Racine** has been awarded a grant to renovate and upgrade the City of Racine shelter and counseling offices, and to secure and convert a facility in Burlington for domestic violence victims in the rural west end of Racine County to be used as a small shelter and counseling offices.

In other business, Co-Executive Directors, Jill Heller and Liz Powell, reported that the assets of the Racine Community Foundation for the year ended 2013 were \$51,762,452. In 2013, the Foundation distributed \$2.6 million in grants to area nonprofit organizations.

The Racine Community Foundation, Inc. is a publicly supported, tax-exempt charitable organization formed in 1975. The mission of the Racine Community Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for the people of Racine County by encouraging and providing opportunities for charitable giving and by managing and distributing the funds in a responsible manner.

Information about the Foundation and the grant application procedure are available by contacting the Foundation at 262.632.8474 or its website at:

[www.racinecommunityfoundation.org](http://www.racinecommunityfoundation.org).