

For Immediate Release

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Racine Community Foundation Awards \$245,511 in First Quarter Grants

RACINE (April 2015) – The Board of Directors of the Racine Community Foundation is pleased to announce the award of \$245,511 in first quarter grants. The seventeen organizations benefitting from these grant awards include the following:

The Arc of Racine County, Inc. has been awarded a grant to expand the School to Community Advocacy Program. The Arc of Racine promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. This program will incorporate goal-setting self-advocacy activities to reinforce appropriate social skills/behavior in the community and utilize volunteers from area businesses to teach skills of interest for career exploration.

Caledonia Historical Society will receive a grant to construct a foundation for an early 1900's machine shed/barn that will be restored at the Linwood Park Heritage Village. The mission of the organization is the collection, preservation and dissemination of materials and information relating to the history of Caledonia. The machine shed/barn will be restored and will house displays that will be open to the public.

Faith, Hope and Love has been awarded a grant to purchase a vehicle to be used to carry out their mission of providing necessities for children in crisis situations. Through their Duffels for Kids program, Faith, Hope and Love delivers emergency duffle bags filled with personal care and comfort items for children in Racine County who are experiencing a crisis situation.

Focus on Community will receive a grant to support the SMART Recovery program. Focus on Community offers innovative, integrated services for the prevention of substance abuse by providing education, building positive values and promoting healthy lifestyle choices for youth, families and community members. The SMART Recovery program will be implemented at one

middle school, one high school, a police community facility and Burlington High School to assist youth in recovery from substance abuse and addiction.

Get Behind the Arts (fiscal sponsor: Kenosha Art Association) has been awarded a grant to support the 2015 Get Behind the Arts Studio Tour. The purpose of the tour is to expose local talent, broaden art audience and take an active role in creating and sustaining a vibrant and creative community. This will be achieved by hosting a three day arts event that includes a self-guided tour of over 75 visual and performing artist's studios in Racine and Kenosha, providing a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the innovative and productive world of the working artist.

HOPES Center of Racine, Inc. will receive a grant for operational support to provide clients with mental health services, case management, outreach services and housing assistance. Recognizing the worth and dignity of each person, HOPES Center serves the mental health and social service needs of the poor and homeless and engages participants and others in eliminating barriers to further success.

Hospice Angels Foundation, Inc. has been approved for a grant to support their Shelter Me, Wish With Me and Comfort Me programs in Racine County. The mission of Hospice Angels is to "Honor Life and Offer Hope" to terminally ill individuals and their families. This includes basic needs to shelter individuals at the end-of-life, granting last wishes and providing healthy bereavement support opportunities to children and families.

Professional Women's Network for Service, Inc. will receive a grant to be used for program supplies to support the Baby LITS USA program. The Baby LITS is an early literacy program for children three to six years old. Children and parents meet monthly for storytelling and program activities with the goal of developing children into good readers who are more likely to become better learners throughout their school career.

Racine Community Outpost will receive a grant to complete construction and purchase various furnishings for the COP House on Mead Street in Mount Pleasant. A Community Policing (COP) House is a home in a residential area that is used as a police outpost. Programs and activities are held at the COP house in an effort to build trusting relationships between the public and law enforcement as a means to accomplish a goal of reducing the crime rate and number of police calls in that area.

Racine County Opportunity Center has been approved for a grant to design and develop a gross motor outdoor area, including professional installation and a ground safety surface, for toddler age children enrolled in the birth to three and daycare programs. The goal of the Racine County Opportunity Center is to provide programs that will help individuals who are disabled and/or developmentally delayed maximize their potential to lead a life of fuller participation in family and community.

Racine in Bloom (fiscal sponsor: City of Racine) has been approved for a grant for the creation of a mosaic installation art wall at Zoo Beach. This project will engage community members in

the creation of a mosaic installation that will be located at the landings above the original mosaic located there, and will feature a depiction of the Demeter and Persephone myth in a classical style that mirrors the first work.

River Bend Nature Center has been awarded a grant to support the WATERshed program. The mission of River Bend Nature Center is to provide environmental education and outdoor recreation to the residents of Racine County. The WATERshed program helps local 4th and 7th grade students make connections to how daily activities impact our watershed and introduces them to solutions on how they can make a positive difference.

Veteran's Outreach of Wisconsin will receive a grant for programming that provides services to area veterans. The mission of the Veteran's Outreach of Wisconsin is to help veterans attain normalcy in life by helping them furnish their new found homes while providing additional assistance as needed. Their desired outcome is to have no homeless veteran or veteran in need go without the items they need to have normalcy in their lives.

Vietnam Veteran's Chapter 767 has been approved for a grant to help fund a Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall exhibit in Racine. The group is a veteran's service organization comprised of Vietnam veterans and their supporters. The Moving Wall exhibit will educate visitors on the Vietnam War and its effect on the population.

Village of Waterford has received a grant to support the construction of non-motorized canoe/kayak launches at the Waterford and Rochester dam sites of the Fox River. Currently, the dams impede travel on the river and providing launches will allow water travelers access to the full length of the Fox River. This has the potential to make western Racine County a destination for recreation and tourist activities contributing to the economic growth of the area.

Waterford River Rhythms, Inc. has been awarded a grant in support of the Free Music in the Park concert series. The concert series hosts seven shows from June through August at the Waterford Village Hall Park. The goal is provide an upscale event that will enhance the community and introduce Waterford and the surrounding area to new music.

Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) 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. WWBIC focuses on individuals who face barriers of traditional means by opening opportunity for pursuit of their dreams and economic well-being.

In other business, Executive Director, Liz Powell, was pleased to report that the assets of the Racine Community Foundation for the year ended 2014 were \$53,500,000. In 2014, the Foundation distributed \$2,527,353 in grants to benefit 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.