

For Immediate Release

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Racine Community Foundation Awards \$333,309 in Second Quarter Grants

RACINE (July 2014) – The Board of Directors of the Racine Community Foundation is pleased to announce the award of \$333,309 in second quarter grants. The twenty-seven organizations benefitting from these grant awards include the following:

Atonement Lutheran Church has been awarded a grant to support the 2014 Racine ELCA Neighborhood Camp. The camp, offered through the collaboration of local Lutheran churches, provides safe, fun and stimulating places for kids to learn and play in the summer. The 2014 camp theme is “Eat Smart/Play Hard” and will provide enrichment opportunities for more than 250 children to increase their knowledge and skills around healthy eating and physical activity.

Bethany Apartments has been approved for a grant to be used toward the cost of replacing all the apartment windows. The current windows have developed significant health and safety concerns, in addition to problems with environmental temperature management. The installation of new windows will help keep energy bills down for residents, who are responsible for paying their own housing expenses.

Big Sisters of Greater Racine will receive a grant to support “Memories for a Lifetime” enrichment programming. Through planned activities and events Big Sisters and Little Sisters will be given the opportunity to spend time together and build shared experiences as they learn new things together.

Carthage College has been awarded a grant to support the 18th season of the Carthage Chamber Music Series. Additionally, Racine area school students will be given the opportunity to engage in educational workshop performances and Carthage students will be able to mentor Racine high school chamber music ensembles.

The Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin, Inc. will receive a grant to support the Roadmap Sessions program. Roadmap Sessions have an individualized approach and therefore are customized to each family and the challenges they encounter. Through education and support families are helped to overcome their challenges surrounding Down Syndrome enabling them to achieve their dreams.

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin has been awarded a grant to help fund the Mobile Pantry Program for Racine County. The Mobile Pantry Program will provide fresh produce, meat, dairy products and whole grains, as well as pantry staples, to Racine County residents who lack access to enough food to meet their basic nutritional requirements.

Fifth House Ensemble will receive support for the Fresh Inc. Chamber Music Festival. The festival will bring together 50 college and post-graduate level composers and instrumentalists for performances in local areas. Additionally, participants will be provided with a complete artistic toolbox for the modern marketplace, including instruction, rehearsals, broadcasts, recorded performances, portfolio creation and training workshops in entrepreneurship and creative programming.

Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast has been approved for a grant to support the Urban Initiative Program. Through this program, Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast will serve high-risk girls in economically distressed neighborhoods. Through programming specifically created to meet their unique needs, girls will be encouraged to develop a stronger sense of self, seek challenges in their world, develop critical thinking skills, develop healthy relationships, be able to identify community needs and feel empowered to make a difference.

Great Lakes Community Conservations Corps will receive a grant to be used toward the salary of a Root River Watershed AmeriCorps Program Classroom Vocational Instructor/Field Work Coordinator position. The Root River Watershed AmeriCorps Program provides education and work experience to prepare participants with industry recognized credentials to be able to serve their community and complete public infrastructure projects. Participants attend classroom instruction, apply their skills at real-world projects and acquire a post-secondary scholarship for continuing education toward a diploma.

Human Capital Development Corp., Inc. has been awarded a grant to support the First Choice Pre-Apprenticeship Training program. Through the program disadvantaged, unemployed, under-employed and displaced workers are recruited and trained for jobs in the construction field.

John XXIII Educational Center will receive support for their Educational Center programs. The center offers after school supervised study with mentoring and tutoring and provides optional courses that foster teamwork, communication skills and social relationships. Short term goals include developing study skills and increasing school attendance, with long term objectives including high school graduation with career options and further educational opportunities.

Make a Difference - Wisconsin has been approved for a grant to provide Financial Education programs to Racine County students. Solid financial management skills will be provided to high school students through three programs: Bank Your Future (focusing on budgeting and saving), Check It Out (understanding bank accounts and how to responsibly maintain them) and To Your Credit (understanding credit and credit cards).

National MS Society – Wisconsin Chapter has received support for the Crisis Management Program. The program helps clients learn about MS and access useful resources to manage life with MS. Services include: a referral and information hotline, a self-help group and emergency assistance for the economically disadvantaged.

Next Generation Now will receive a grant to support the Love and Logic program. Through the program parenting classes will be offered to parents of children fourteen years old and younger, with a goal of engaging parents and helping them explore practical skills for reinforcing the expectations of the children in their lives.

Racine Art Museum Association, Inc. has been approved for a grant to support the Women of Worth art program. Women of Worth provides structured treatment to women who are battling alcohol or drug addiction. The Racine Art Museum Association will provide an on-going art component for this program as part of the extensive in-patient and out-patient treatment for women and women with children.

Racine County TRIAD has been awarded a grant to support Senior Safety programs. The funds will support outreach programs for older adults in Racine County and include: providing SafeAssured ID kits for seniors, search and rescue training through the CERT program, purchasing File of Life packets and purchasing air conditioners for seniors.

Racine Heritage Museum has been awarded a grant to be used toward the construction of the “Underground Railroad Epilogue: Waterways and Freedom Found” exhibit. The exhibit is intended to address the following objectives: showcase the local, socio-political/economic context for the abolitionist movement, incorporate the stories of fugitive former slaves beyond the Underground and Civil War years and affirm Racine County as the nexus of a network of antislavery advocacy in southeast Wisconsin.

Racine Interfaith Coalition will receive a grant to be used for Women of Worth client services. The goal of the Women of Worth project is to provide a Family Center Treatment program for the treatment of substance use and mental health disorders with highly integrated services that are accessible for women and their children.

Racine Literacy Council has been approved for a grant to be used toward the salary of a Fund Development Coordinator position. This position will allow the Racine Literacy Council to expand its fund development capabilities and opportunities for grant writing which will assist in cash flow, ensuring their long term sustainability.

Racine Montessori School has been awarded a grant to be used toward the cost of the Accessibility and Safety project. Various campus improvement projects will be completed to increase the safety, accessibility and security of the school.

Racine Symphony Orchestra will receive support for the following programs: Polish Culture Music, Educational Outreach and Masterworks/Chamber Concert programs. Through a variety of programs and concerts, the Racine Symphony Orchestra will provide quality cultural and musical experiences for Racine County residents and students.

Racine Vocational Ministry has been approved for a grant to support the RVM Walk-in Program. Through the program, returning ex-offenders, the homeless, domestic violence victims, veterans and others who have failed to find employment using traditional systems will be served. Providing employment support, life skills training and job placement helps these individuals become trained and skilled workers who have an increased ability to find and retain meaningful jobs.

Rotary Club of Downtown Racine will receive support for the Rotary Post Prom. The purpose of the Post Prom event is to provide a safe, healthy and memorable experience for graduating high school seniors in Racine County.

Three Harbors Council, Boy Scouts of America has been awarded a grant to support Scouting in Racine County. The scouting program aims to empower positive role models, provide safe environments, promote community service opportunities and ensure consistent leadership to provide a necessary outlet for youth of Racine County that would otherwise be limited in extracurricular experiences.

Wisconsin Historical Foundation will receive support for the Wisconsin History Tour traveling exhibit. The Tour is a traveling exhibit that will visit the Racine Public Library for the month of September, 2014. Featured will be reproductions of historical photographs, maps and archival materials, artifact replicas, a computer for visitors to share their stories, a Jeopardy-style game and a screen to display slideshows.

Wisconsin Humane Society Racine Campus has been approved for a grant for operational support. With this support, the Wisconsin Humane Society can continue to provide a comprehensive animal adoption program and animal medical care. Additionally educational and assistance programs for people are offered in an effort to create a more humane community where people value animals and treat them with respect and kindness.

Young Aviators Inc. has been awarded a grant to support the 2014 Young Aviators summer program. Young Aviators is an aviation-oriented summer program that aims to have its graduates leave with an increased awareness of aviation, flying, science-based subjects and a fresh excitement for the rewards of a technology-based career.

In other business, Co-Executive Directors, Jill Heller and Liz Powell, reported that as of July 1, 2014, the assets of the Racine Community Foundation were \$52,985,821. 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 at its website:
www.racinecommunityfoundation.org.