

For Immediate Release

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Racine Community Foundation Awards \$128,783 in Third Quarter Grants

RACINE (September 2014) – The Board of Directors of the Racine Community Foundation is pleased to announce the award of \$128,783 in third quarter grants. The thirteen organizations benefitting from these grant awards include the following:

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin has been awarded a grant to provide medical care and nutritional support for HIV/AIDS patients from Racine County. The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is at the forefront of HIV prevention, care and treatment and is dedicated to providing quality medical, dental, mental health and social services for all people with HIV disease.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Racine and Kenosha Counties has been approved for a grant to support the hiring of a Recruitment / Outreach Specialist. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Racine and Kenosha Counties helps children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with measureable impact, while developing the agency's capacity to provide mentoring services to all children who request Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

Celebrate Children Foundation will receive a grant to award, administer and evaluate professional development educational awards and to award YoungStar Business Practice Toolkits. Through public-private partnerships, the Celebrate Children Foundation helps Wisconsin communities create the highest quality early care and education systems for children from birth to age five.

Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin has been awarded a grant to present four concert programs of diverse choral music. The current season objectives aim to employ professional musicians, engage volunteers, build relationships with community members and increase awareness of choral music and the Choral Arts Society.

Housing Resources, Inc. will receive a grant to provide education and support to prepare first-time home buyers for successful homeownership. Through classroom training and counseling aimed at repairing credit, learning budgeting skills and developing savings habits, Housing Resources empowers people to live their dream of homeownership.

Junior Achievement of Wisconsin, Inc. has been awarded a grant to provide programming support that will continue to expand educational opportunities, advance citizenship and develop economic ownership for Western Racine County youth. Through learning experiences that simulate future success and support career discovery, Junior Achievement programs provide students with the financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work-readiness skills that they will need to become responsible citizens and succeed in a global economy.

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, Inc. will receive a grant to provide support and social event programming to members of the LGBT community in Racine and to provide education and training to sensitize the Racine population. The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin provides a safe, supportive and active community in which lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender identified people are provided services that promote wellness and positive living.

Partners2 has been approved for a grant to support programming that prevents the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by youth in the community. The Partners2 mission is to network parents, students, schools and the community to promote positive cultural change and healthy choices, with an emphasis on preventing alcohol, tobacco and drug use by youth.

The Racine Family YMCA will receive a grant for programming for the Young Leaders Academy. The Young Leaders Academy is a year-round program dedicated to reversing the negative trend of low academic achievement and stereotypical behavior of youth ages seven through fourteen from low-income communities in Racine.

Shepherds Baptist Ministries, Inc. has been awarded a grant to be used toward the installation of a fire suppression system in the Lamb Cottage facility. Lamb Cottage is home to women with intellectual disabilities who reside at Shepherds. Installing the required sprinkler system will provide increased safety, and also allow updates to be made to the kitchen facilities.

SOAR of Racine will receive a grant to support SOAR scholarships, student support programs and school development programs. Through partnering with families, private schools and regional partners, SOAR works to eliminate the academic achievement gap among children from families with limited financial resources leading them to high school graduation and to higher education or sustainable careers.

Sustainable Edible Economic Development, Inc. has been approved for a grant to provide training and scholarships to individuals who want to learn more about the production of local healthy food. The mission of Sustainable Edible Economic Development, Inc. (SEED) is to make lives better and create jobs through healthy, sustainable, local agriculture by increasing and diversifying the production and distribution of local, wholesome agricultural products.

YWCA Southeast Wisconsin has received a grant to support the Dress for Success Racine program. Dress for Success Racine gives low-income women access to the workforce by offering professional attire for interviews and work, as well as networking, job search and professional development support to obtain and maintain employment.

In other business, Co-Executive Director Liz Powell, reported that as of September 26, 2014, the assets of the Racine Community Foundation were \$51,769,438. During the third quarter of 2014, the Board of Directors approved contributions, memorials, new funds and additions to existing funds totaling \$389,693.

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.