

For Immediate Release

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## Racine Community Foundation Awards \$50,000

On Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, six Racine community organizations competed for up to \$50,000 in the Racine Community Foundation's Shark Tank event held at the Gateway Technical College. The programs pitched needed to address the development of youth soft skills in Racine. The proposals were judged by a panel of five community leaders including: Dr. Veronica Carver, John Batten, Hope Otto, Neil Staeck, and Austin Schultz. We are pleased to announce that the panel directed funds to be awarded to the Racine Family YMCA Young Leaders Academy (\$20,000) and Junior Achievement (\$30,000).

The six finalists for the competition were chosen by a Foundation committee from a pool of 15 applicants. They were selected on the basis of their clarity, potential impact and experience. The organizations chosen to compete in this unique granting opportunity were: Focus on Community, Racine Family YMCA, Racine County Opportunity Center, The Academies of Park, Society's Assets, and Junior Achievement. Each organization was given up to five minutes to make their pitch to the judges who were then allowed to pose questions to the presenters. The final awards were decided through an internal, private discussion of the presentations. The winning proposals were:

- The Racine Family YMCA Young Leaders Academy will create a Job Skill Training Team comprised of high school students from St. Catherine's High School Interact Club to teach middle and high school students in the George Bray neighborhood what it really takes to obtain and maintain a job during high school.
- Junior Achievement will create a "soft skills kit" for all Racine County middle and high schools, comprised of activities to foster soft skills by engaging volunteers to connect with students and inspiring them while giving their education real-world context.

The Racine Community Foundation was thrilled to engage our community- applicants, panel members, and audience members – in a unique way to fund programs addressing soft skills for Racine County youth.

The Racine Community Foundation, Inc. is a publicly supported, tax-exempt 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 funds in a responsible manner.

Information about the Foundation is available by contact the Foundation at 262.632.8474 or its website: [www.racinecommunityfoundation.org](http://www.racinecommunityfoundation.org).