



Rochester Area  
Foundation

Contact: Carrie Zimmerman  
[carrie@rochesterarea.org](mailto:carrie@rochesterarea.org)  
507-272-9016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ROCHESTER AREA FOUNDATION'S WEGIVE365 PROGRAM ANNOUNCES 2016 GRANT RECIPIENTS



Rochester, MN (August 24, 2016) – Members of the Rochester Area Foundation's weGive365 program presented \$1,000 grants to 7 area nonprofits at an ice cream social on Tuesday, August 23.

weGive365 is a dollar-a-day collaborative giving program that lets members pool their money and make a positive impact on our community through grants to nonprofits.

This year, weGive365 members chose to award grants to the following organizations:

- **Bolder Options** for running shoes for their program's participants. Nearly 70% of the kids that Bolder Options works with come to their first meeting in shoes that are too small or inappropriate for their sports activities.
- **Diversity Council** for the establishment of their Human Library Program. The Human Library™, an initiative developed by the World Culture Center in Denmark, allows people and organizations to check out human "books" for a unique learning experience. If you want to know what it's like to be, say, a single

mother, a homeless person, a refugee, or a gay man, you check one out of the library and they share their personal story and answer your questions.

- **RideAbility** to support and improve the Annual RideAbility Student Horse Show at the end of each horseback riding season. RideAbility serves families of children or adults with special needs in an environment of fun and therapy where everyone is able.
- **Rochester Student Health Services' Rochester ALC Clinic** to deliver a cognitive-behavioral skills building program called COPE2Thrive designed to help teens deal with anxiety, stress, depression, and risky behaviors.
- **Ronald McDonald House of Rochester** to expand the Angels of Inspiration program as a way to honor the memory of children who pass away and offer support to their families. With this grant, Ronald McDonald House will be able to give a gift of a stained-glass heart as an expression of their sympathy and a \$50 gift card to be used as needed.
- **Sports Mentorship Academy** to provide incentives to students in the Truancy Reponse Assisting Challenging Kids (TRACK) program who have good attendance. The TRACK program is a school based intervention mentoring program that meets once a week during lunch or recess for students who are involved in the juvenile court system due to excessive absences from school.
- **Zumbro Valley Health Center** for purchasing bases passes and taxi coupons for clients who would otherwise have no option for transportation to and from the facility. Research shows that lack of adequate transportation is one of the greatest barriers people at or near federal poverty levels face to accessing services.

“I’m thrilled for the organizations that were awarded grants from the weGive365 members” said Karel Weigel, Interim President of the Rochester Area Foundation. “I look forward to seeing this unique program grow in to something more people are involved in and can make an even stronger impact in Rochester area communities.”

### **How does weGive365 Work?**

Members of weGive365 give \$365 annually, or one dollar a day. One half of the pool is directed to the weGive365 endowed fund. The other half of each year’s membership dollars are awarded as \$1,000 grants to area nonprofits based on the votes of the members.

The application for weGive365 membership is available on the Rochester Area Foundation website at [www.rochesterarea.org/give/wegive365.php](http://www.rochesterarea.org/give/wegive365.php)

###

### **About the Rochester Area Foundation**

Established in 1944, the Rochester Area Foundation is a collection of separate charitable funds set up by individuals, families, nonprofit organizations, and businesses that are managed, invested, and disbursed for the current and future good of the Rochester area. Learn more at [www.rochesterarea.org](http://www.rochesterarea.org)