



For Immediate Release

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ROCHESTER AREA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES LATEST GRANT AWARDS

The Rochester Area Foundation has determined its 2015 Cycle 2 Grant Disbursements. A total of \$44,750 is to be granted to 12 local community organizations to improve the overall quality of life in the greater Rochester area. The Foundation also thanks our donors who partnered with us in making these grants possible. The following are the names of the organizations, their given grant amount, and the initiative the funds will be used for.

- A. **Community Food Response** - funding for containers for the food given out through CFR as well as a part-time site coordinator to ensure that the clients are given healthy appropriate meals for their families and that volunteers are prepared for the tasks they need to accomplish to do this. **Total Funded was \$6,000.**
- B. **City of Elgin** - expansion of existing Hoenk Park to add 2 ball fields for Little League and Softball such that there will be a total of 4 fields for this use with appropriate fencing, backstops and canopies. **Total Funded was \$5,250**
- C. **Commonweal Theatre** – creation of a "Second Stage" which will enable an expansion of the theatre's traditional work into other area such as Eagle Bluff, outdoors etc. which will reinforce Lanesboro's direction as the "art's campus" of SE MN. **Total Funded was \$10,000**
- D. **Rochester Irish Fest** – Irish Fest will be collaborating with Rochester Public Schools to present a program which will include a National Irish Story-teller as well as a Curated Children's Exhibit of Irish Arts, Culture and History. This will include a local visual Artist directing Children's Irish Visual Art Project expecting to reach 1,000 students. **Total funded was \$3,250**
- E. **Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)** - Provision of direct service to homeless veterans in Olmsted County. This service is short-term financial assistance to prevent housing/employment crisis enabling a return to stability. **Total Funded was \$6,000**

- F. **Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge (MNTC)** – To support the human health and wellbeing of the children who have parents in recovery at the Rochester facility, the grant seeks to provide a children's play area, climbing equipment and a volleyball court for healthy parent and children visits and potentially community sponsored interactive activities. **Total Funded \$4,500**

- G. **Rochester Pickleball** – Pickleball is a growing sport that is easily adapted to persons of all ages. Over 150 players are registered with Rochester Pickleball and courts are scarce. A joint plan with the pickleball players and the Rochester Park and Rec are looking to covert 2 tennis courts at Cooke Park to 6 pickleball courts. **Total Funded \$2,250**

- H. **Rochester Rotary Risers** – Expand the trial work done with weGive365 grants to enable My Book Day to reach every first grade student in Rochester. Collaborative effort between Rochester Public Schools and Rochester Public Library to encourage first graders to continue reading over the summer with a hard cover book that has a bookplate with their name on the cover. **Total Funded \$7,500**

About the Rochester Area Foundation. For over 70 years, the Rochester Area Foundation has partnered with donors to improve the quality of life, promote greater equality of opportunities, and develop effective methods to assist those in need in the greater Rochester area. To find out how the Foundation can connect you with the causes you care about most; call (507) 282-0203 or visit online at www.rochesterarea.org

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