



For Immediate Release

October 21, 2014

Contact: Max Evans

Telephone: (507) 282-0203

Email: max@rochesterarea.org

ROCHESTER AREA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES LATEST GRANT CYCLE AWARDS

The Rochester Area Foundation has determined its 2014 Cycle 2 Grant Disbursements. A total of \$61,668 will be granted to 13 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. **Chatfield Brass Band** – This unique library is world renowned. The library facility was constructed in 1981 and requires energy upgrades to improve temperature and humidity controls to preserve the music. This will also reduce operating costs to the organization. **Total Funded was \$3500.**

- B. **Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center** – This accredited special function school and environmental seeks to create, develop and sustain a regional Food Laboratory dedicated to teaching and demonstrating sustainable agricultural methods and lifestyle opportunities in the Upper Northern States. Their partners are Univ. Minnesota, Blandin Foundation, Living Future Institute, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and Center for Sustainable Building Research. **Total Funded was \$20,000**

- C. **Black Data Processing Associated Youth Computer Training** – Looking to expand their program with under-represented youth and girls interested in STEM curriculum. Their program focuses on teaching industry standard programming languages. Their partners are RSD #535 and Rochester Community Baptist Church. **Total Funded was \$3500**

- D. **Camp Victory** – Looking to answer the request of the Rochester Youth Night Campus and Family and Children’s Center to integrate with the Day Treatment and After School Juvenile programs to help instill critical life skills, confidence and respect. This requires program expansion in terms of people, processes and practice. **Total funded was \$4000**

- E. **Collaborative Leadership Fellows** – Funding scholarships for students that are not able to pay full tuition. This program is a multi-sector networking and learning opportunity that focuses on the betterment of the greater Rochester area. Students in this program tend to be from local nonprofit organizations as compared to the Leadership Greater Rochester which tend to be from the for profit community. **Total Funded was \$2400**

- F. **Commonweal Theatre Company** – Bringing theatre to all students in the Rochester area before they graduate. To date they serve about 400 students and they look to expand to 600 through this grant. **Total Funded \$3000**

- G. **Elder Network** – Providing a one year pilot program utilizing a coordinator position to manage volunteer interfaces with clients. UMR is participating in this program by providing students to be trained in this position. The measurement goals are to increase the efficiency of volunteer time and therefore the effectiveness and quantity of time volunteers can spend with their clients. **Total Funded \$5000**

- H. **Gift of Life Transplant House** – Looking to replace bath linens in 36 guestrooms. These linens are washed almost daily because of the low immune rate of the clients there. The last replacement was in 2009 when the 724 2nd St facility was opened. Ashley Furniture is a partner and will donate mattresses and bed linens. **Total Funded \$2268**

- I. **Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans** – Continuing to reach homeless veterans in Rochester. This unique program is the only one focused solely on the veteran population. They have been successful in this outreach over the past 5 years. **Total Funded \$4000**

- J. **Olmsted Medical Center** – A matching grant for the purchase of two GE Giraffe Incubators for babies born needing level 2 care at the new Women’s Pavilion. They will use this grant as a challenge grant to their donors, patients and friends to outfit the remaining needs of the Level 2 Nursery Rooms. **Total Funded \$13,000**

- K. **Hawthorne Education Center** – Providing for adult computer literacy education. The collaborative effort of UMR students and Hawthorne seeks to increase the adult computer literacy rates in Rochester so that individuals can get and retain higher paying positions which require computer literacy. This grant is a partnership grant with IBM who will be providing computers at low cost. **Total Funded \$8000**

- L. **Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale** – Bringing world-renowned violinist Midori to Rochester. Her program will be to do three things, First to train and the perform with SEMYO, second, train and perform with RSOC and lastly engage with the community in an arts and culture round table discussion on what these organizations bring to the community and how others have engaged with their communities in bringing this to fruition. It is the last segment of her proposed work that the Foundation is particularly interested in – having these discussions is a precursor to understanding how Rochester can best utilize their arts and cultural organizations to create a vibrant community. **Total Funded \$3800**

- M. **Spare Key** – Supporting families who have children in critical care hospital situations for 14 of 90 days and could be at risk for losing a home. Their program provides mortgage or rental relief for these families. This grant is specifically for those families in greater Rochester who are faced with this concern. **Total Funded \$6500**

About the Rochester Area Foundation. For nearly 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

###