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Media Contact: Julie Johnson
314.345.5580 office - 314.640.2614 cell
jjohnson@mffh.org

Foundation Awards \$2.5 Million in Grants to Local Organizations

Funding Supports Organizations That Improve Health Across Missouri

(ST. LOUIS) – Thirty-seven nonprofits in the St. Louis area have received a total of more than \$2.5 million in grants from the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH). Grant funding supports nonprofit organizations that work to improve the health of thousands of Missourians.

The local grants are part of a nearly \$5.8 million round of funding approved by MFH's board in March 2010. First-time MFH grant recipients are marked with an asterisk (*).

Thirty-six of the grants, totaling more than \$2.4 million, come through MFH's **Basic Support** program. Basic Support funds operational expenses for health-related nonprofits' existing salaries and benefits, equipment and supplies. Area organizations receiving Basic Support grants are:

* **Agape Christian Counseling Services, St. Louis, \$75,000.** Funding supports the organization's efforts to improve access to affordable, professional mental health services, especially for the uninsured and underserved.

* **American Red Cross St. Louis Chapter, St. Louis, \$75,000.** The grant assists the organization in its efforts to provide crisis assistance and educate Missourians about healthy lifestyle choices.

Caring Solutions, St. Louis, \$75,000. The grant supports the organization's efforts to care for children and adults with multiple, severe developmental disabilities.

Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma, St. Louis, \$75,000. The grant assists the center in its efforts to provide mental health services to youth and adults affected by war, torture and forced relocation.

* **C.H.A.M.P. Assistance Dogs Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000.** Funding supports the organization in training service dogs for disabled children and adults.

The Child Center Inc., Wentzville, \$75,000. With the help of grant funding, the St. Louis-area organization assists sexually and physically abused children through counseling,

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advocacy, forensic interviewing and prevention programs.

* **Christian Family Services Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000.** Funding supports the organization's efforts to place children in caring foster homes and provide counseling for expectant mothers.

* **CREATE Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000.** Funding assists the organization in providing medical appointment transportation, food and wellness services for seniors.

Delta Gamma Center for Children with Visual Impairments, St. Louis, \$75,000. The grant helps the center offer education and therapy services for families with visually impaired children.

Earth Angel Aviators, Wentzville, \$21,542. With the help of MFH funding, the St. Louis-area organization offers needy patients free medical transportation throughout the Midwest.

East Central Missouri Area Health Education Center, St. Louis, \$75,000. Funding helps the center partner with schools and other organizations to promote health care careers and improve health services for the uninsured and underserved.

* **Equine-Assisted Therapy Inc., Robertsville, \$55,876.** This grant helps the St. Louis-area organization offer equestrian therapy to disabled individuals.

Food Outreach Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000. With the help of MFH funding, the organization provides nutrition education and healthy meals for low-income HIV/AIDS and cancer patients.

FreeWay Foundation Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000. Funding supports the organization's efforts to educate students on drug prevention and violence reduction.

Gateway Greening, St. Louis, \$75,000. The grant assists the organization in its efforts to increase urban residents' access to locally grown, affordable, fresh foods through school and community gardening programs.

* **Health and Dental Care for Kids, St. Louis, \$75,000.** The grant supports the organization's work in providing a medical and dental care home for at-risk children.

Healthy Communities St. Charles County, St. Charles, \$66,786. Funding helps the St. Louis-area organization educate the community about health issues such as substance abuse, obesity, family violence and senior care.

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HOPEBUILD, St. Louis, \$20,604. The grant helps the organization increase access to fresh foods and nutrition education in underserved communities.

House of Pais Inc., St. Louis, \$50,000. With the help of grant funding, the organization offers counseling, education, support and therapy to children with mental health concerns, and their families.

Howard Park Early Childhood Center, Ellisville, \$75,000. Grant funding helps the St. Louis-area center provide physical, behavioral and developmental therapy to children with disabilities.

Kids in the Middle Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000. Funding supports the organization's efforts to provide mental health services and counseling programs for children dealing with family crises.

Memory Care Home Solutions, St. Louis, \$75,000. Funding helps the organization offer training to caregivers of patients with dementia, helping to reduce stress and control health care costs.

New Beginnings CSTAR Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000. This grant assists the organization in its efforts to provide outpatient substance abuse treatment.

Nurses for Newborns Foundation, St. Louis, \$75,000. This grant assists the organization in providing services to prevent infant mortality, child abuse and neglect through in-home nursing visits and education.

Progressive Youth Connection, St. Louis, \$75,000. With the help of grant funding, the organization offers violence prevention counseling, character and health education, and related youth development programs.

St. Louis Area Foodbank Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000. Grant funding assists the organization in providing nutritious foods and dietary education to low-income populations.

Saint Louis Effort for AIDS, St. Louis, \$75,000. Grant funding helps the organization provide care and support for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, and offer educational outreach to reduce the number of new cases.

St. Louis Peregrine Society Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000. The grant helps the organization provide nutritional supplements, transportation and medical supplies to cancer patients.

* **Support Dogs Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000.** The grant helps the organization provide trained service dogs, with a focus on assisting the low-income disabled.

* **Tower Village Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000.** Funding assists the organization in offering long-term and in-home care services and education to low-income elderly and disabled people.

* **Visiting Nurse Association Hospice Care, St. Louis, \$75,000.** With the help of grant funding, the organization provides hospice care to terminally ill patients, including the uninsured.

Walker Scottish Rite Clinic for Childhood Language Disorders of St. Louis Inc., St. Louis, \$75,000. Funding helps the clinic offer speech and language therapy to children in need.

Warren County Senior Center, Warrenton, \$75,000. With the help of grant funding, the St. Louis-area center provides nutritious meals, health screenings, exercise and related programs to the elderly, homebound and disabled.

West County Multiple Sclerosis Center, St. Louis, \$75,000. Funding helps the organization offer medical care, training and information for multiple sclerosis patients.

The Women's Safe House, St. Louis, \$75,000. Grant funding assists the organization in providing crisis shelter and support services to women affected by domestic violence.

Young Choices Inc., St. Charles, \$6,200. With the help of grant funding, the organization offers tobacco prevention education to needy and uninsured citizens in the St. Louis area.

MFH's **Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Initiative (TPCI)** is a multi-year effort to reduce tobacco use in the state through a variety of funding strategies. A recently approved TPCI grant went to the following organization:

American Lung Association of the Central States, St. Louis, \$58,004. Grant funding helps the association address tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure among pregnant women and mothers with young children.

Established in 2000, MFH is the largest nongovernmental funder of community health activities in Missouri. MFH is in its eighth year of grantmaking, having issued more than \$363 million in grants and awards to date. It is dedicated to improving the health of unserved and underserved residents in 84 Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis.

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