

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greater Milwaukee Foundation grants \$80,000 to increase local news coverage of city neighborhoods

Milwaukee, WI – Sept. 24, 2012 – Two grants from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation will help two local nonprofits increase the breadth and depth of news coverage of Milwaukee’s diverse neighborhoods.

United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee will receive \$60,000 over two years to match a national challenge grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation that has allowed it to expand its coverage of Milwaukee neighborhoods through the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service. The Zilber Family Foundation is also contributing to the Knight challenge grant.

Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service is an exclusively online news service that started in March 2011 by reporting on three Milwaukee neighborhoods – Lindsay Heights, Clarke Square and Layton Boulevard West. It now covers a total of 15 neighborhoods, including ones that participate in the Foundation’s Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative. In 2012 it won a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for its coverage.

“We are excited by this multi-faceted partnership that will help raise the visibility of the powerful work for change that is being accomplished in Milwaukee neighborhoods every day,” said Kathryn Dunn, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation’s vice president of community investment. “We are committed to supporting partnerships that have a positive impact on the future of our community.”

A \$20,000 grant to Radio Milwaukee to support *Community Stories*, a regular series of short stories highlighting Milwaukee’s unique neighborhoods, people, businesses, organizations and other assets. The series will focus on eight themes in 2012/13: arts & culture; strong neighborhoods; economic development/employment; healthy and inspired youth; environment and sustainable agriculture/food; transportation; healthy living and technology.

A total of \$815,600 was awarded through the third quarter competitive grantmaking cycle. Additional grants of \$25,000 and above include:

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Strengthening Neighborhoods

Friends of Holton: \$45,000 to renovate the kitchen and upgrade the HVAC system at the Holton Youth + Family Center.

City of Milwaukee: \$30,000 to support a research position that contributes to the work of the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission. The commission reviews homicides in the city, looks to find trends and recommends strategies to prevent them in the future and will work with neighborhood groups to help them understand prevention strategies.

Strengthening Education

UWM Foundation: \$25,000 to fund course development for professional development training geared toward providers and employees of Milwaukee's afterschool programs.

Increasing income and building assets

La Casa de Esperanza: \$100,000 to continue its 7-year-old VITA site program as well as expand the asset building component, including financial literacy.

Social Development Corporation: \$80,000 to help match a grant from the IRS in support of the agency's VITA site during the 2012/2013 tax season.

Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation: \$50,000 to support a bilingual small business outreach specialist position to help develop small businesses in the Latino community.

Word of Hope Ministries: \$45,000 to support the salary of a career counselor who would work with individuals with multiple barriers to help find employment.

Waukesha-Ozaukee-Washington County Workforce Development Board: \$30,600 to partially support the position of a case manager, who would work with the organization's *Building Futures* program. The program works with low-income 18 to 24 year olds to help them find employment.

Ways to Work: \$25,000 to further expand the auto loan program for low-income families in Ozaukee, Washington and Waukesha counties.

Promoting equity, diversity and inclusion

BoardStar: \$25,000 to expand its marketing and outreach efforts and improve the functionality of its web-based board matching software so it can increase the placements of people of color on nonprofit boards throughout Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Waukesha and Washington counties.

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Community responsive grantmaking

PEARLS for Teen Girls: \$45,000 to enable the organization to serve more high needs girls through its programming and to further engage alumnae.

John Michael Kohler Arts Center: \$35,000 to cover the partial costs of an extensive feasibility study related to the long-term preservation of the Fox Point property and former home of Wisconsin artist Mary L. Nohl.

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin: \$25,000 to conduct a study that will assess the extent of hunger throughout the organization's 36-county territory in southeastern Wisconsin.

Museum of Wisconsin Art: \$25,000 to help with the costs associated with moving the museum's artwork into its new 33,000-square-foot building later this year.

Milwaukee Police Department: \$25,000 to cover equipment, training and supplies associated with implementing the Student Talking it Over with Police Program in five Milwaukee Public School sites. The S.T.O.P. program is designed to improve the relationship between police officers and Milwaukee youth.

ABOUT THE GREATER MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is a family of more than 1,100 individual charitable funds, each created by donors to serve the local charitable causes of their choice. Grants from these funds serve people throughout Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties. Started in 1915, the Foundation is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the world.

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