



Press Release

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Community Foundation awards over \$67,000 to 15 local non-profit programs

GREEN BAY, Wis. – December 17, 2009 – The Greater Green Bay Community Foundation has awarded 15 grants to local non-profit programs. Five of the grants focused on supporting programs for people struggling with increasingly tight budgets. An additional 10 grants were given to programs serving children, disabled individuals, the elderly, the environment, and homeless individuals.

The grants were awarded through the Funds for Greater Green Bay, a collection of unrestricted and field of interest funds of the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation. **Field of Interest Funds** are established to support particular interest areas, specific program initiatives, causes or geographic areas. **Unrestricted Funds** are not specifically designated for use by a particular agency, cause or area of interest. The Funds for Greater Green Bay is the most flexible fund offered through the foundation, allowing them to identify and respond to the current needs of people in Brown, Kewaunee and Oconto Counties. The fund gives out grants in the areas of arts and culture, education and learning, the environment, health, human services, and neighborhoods and community.

The grants were awarded based on a competitive application process. Funding was provided through the Community Foundation's Funds for Greater Green Bay and in partnership with many generous donor advisors. The grants were approved by the Community Foundation's Board of Directors at their quarterly meeting this fall.

The following grants are aimed at providing aid to programs to relieve the strain of increasingly tight family budgets:

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. was awarded **\$4,000** for the **HIV Specialty Food Pantry**. HIV positive people often must choose between food, shelter, and expensive medications. Without proper nutrition and supplements, their already weakened immune systems are highly susceptible to illness. ARCW provides a specialty food pantry in Northeast Wisconsin for financially needy people living with HIV. The pantry serves 16 Northeast Wisconsin communities. The grant will help the pantry serve individuals from Northeast Wisconsin in 2009-2010.

The Greater Green Bay YMCA, Inc. was given a grant of **\$1,000** towards membership scholarships and family programming. The grant will help provide a safe and caring environment for families and youth to participate in social, recreational, and community activities in the near downtown area by providing dollars for membership scholarship assistance and for one family dinner night.

The Green Bay Lightning Soccer Club, a high level, non-recreational soccer league, has received a **\$1,200** grant towards their scholarship program. The grant will allow talented children to participate in the league without a focus on their ability to pay.

Love Life Ministry has received a **\$3,000** grant for their ecumenical outreach program to provide diapers, layettes and gently used clothing and furniture for infants and toddlers of low-income families.

NeighborWorks received a **\$4,500** grant towards **Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling**. Currently there are 1,552 residences in Brown County either in foreclosure or owned by banks. This is an increase of more than 500 since April of this year, with more than 430 foreclosure related filings in Brown County in August and September alone. NeighborWorks is one of the only agencies in the region certified by the HUD to offer counseling to families at risk of and facing foreclosure. The grant will help NeighborWorks offset the cost of their foreclosure mitigation counseling services, which they have been providing since 1989.

FUND FACTS:

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Additional grants were awarded to the following programs serving the elderly, the environment, children, people with disabilities, and homeless individuals:

The **Safe, Active, and Independent Living Initiative**, offered through the **Aging and Disability Resource Center of Brown County**, was awarded **\$7,500**. The ADRC of Brown County serves adult residents of Brown County who have needs related to aging or disabilities. The Safe, Active, and Independent Living Initiative features two prevention programs to help at-risk adults with chronic illness and those at risk for falls.

Cats Anonymous, Inc. was awarded **\$300** towards their **Live Traps for Feral Cats Program**. Since 2005, Cats Anonymous has worked to reduce the number of stray and feral cats in Northeast Wisconsin. The grant will cover the cost of ten live traps to safely and humanely trap and transport stray and feral cats so that they can be neutered by local veterinarians.

Cerebral Palsy, Inc. was awarded **\$5,500** towards the purchase of a **Rifton SoloLift**. The CP Center treats individuals with a variety of temporary or permanent physical, sensory and/or speech needs and conditions. The Rifton Sololift will allow caregivers to safely lift and transfer adult clients during daily activities.

Bully Prevention Training for Bus Drivers, offered through **Children's Promise, Inc.**, was awarded **\$2,700**. The program educates school bus drivers about bullying to stem the rising incidents of violence on buses. The grant will cover the costs of the director of the program, data collection, clerical support and other expenses related to the bus driver training program.

Encompass Early Education and Care, Inc. has been awarded a **\$5,000 grant** towards their **Scholarships for School-Age Mother Childcare Program**. The School-Age Parent Child Care Program provides care for children of financially needy teen parents at a reduced rate so that they are able to complete one more year of high school. The education of these parents gives them a chance to become self-sufficient and better providers for their children.

Golden House was awarded **\$5,300** towards transportation funds (bus tokens/passes, taxis, or other means) to help victims of domestic violence become more self-sufficient. Golden House provides safe shelter and comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence.

Children First Family Literacy, a collaborative effort of the Howe Family Resource Center, Literacy Green Bay, NWTC and UWGB, received **\$5,750** to hire three early childhood instructors. Children First Family Literacy is the only comprehensive family literacy program in the area. Adults take classes to attain basic education competencies while their children are provided with quality and developmentally appropriate experiences.

N.E.W. Curative Rehabilitation, Inc. received **\$6,400** towards their **Mind Movers Program**. There is no existing Early Memory Loss program in the area, although it is estimated that nearly 4,000 people have some sort of dementia. The Mind Movers program will provide participants with information and tools to keep the mind and body active, maintain skills and abilities and achieve goals for independence, all which can lead to better outcomes for the person with the disease.

New Community Shelter received **\$10,000** towards their **Community Meal Program**. Since January, the shelter has served more than 74,000 meals, with a projection to serve about 98,000 meals this year. Although their resident population has been lower in 2009, they are serving more and more meals per night. The grant will support the continued provision of meals at the Shelter.

St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter received a **\$5,500** grant towards the **Stable Housing Options Program**. The funds will help cover more than half the cost of a daytime caseworker. This caseworker will help clients obtain required identification documents and housing contacts, as well as helping clients meet the requirements of treatment programs. The goal of the program is to assist individuals in transitioning to permanent housing.

About the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation

Established in 1991, the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization that manages more than 600 funds and distributes grants to between 400 and 500 nonprofits each year. Community Foundation grants provide funding for programs and services that improve the quality of life in Northeast Wisconsin, supporting human services, education, arts and culture, the environment, and more. Our mission is to inspire and encourage charitable giving in northeastern Wisconsin by connecting people who care with solutions that strengthen our community. For more information, please visit our website: www.ggbcf.org.

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