

10/29/09

For Immediate Release

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2009 Community Foundation Grants Announced

The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation announced the awarding of \$ 128,000 funding to local organizations and institutions at its Annual Grants Breakfast, October 23. The Foundation provides grants from a variety of its funds, coordinates with other funders and works to match donor interests with opportunities in the community.

This year, the Community Foundation made grants in the areas of arts & culture, education, health, human services, youth, community, development, and environmental sustainability. The Foundation prioritized awards to programs that demonstrated measurable impact in the areas of youth and environmental sustainability in the Oak Park and River Forest communities. “The organizations funded displayed a commitment to local partnerships toward a common goal”, said Sophia Lloyd, the Foundation’s Executive Director.

Bringing a strategic vision to action, the Community Foundation also announced a funding award for the piloting of a Community Leadership Program in partnership with Dominican University. The partnership also includes other organizations serving on the *Communityworks* advisory committee. This program will provide local emerging leaders the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and apply them within the context of the Oak Park and River Forest communities. Funding for this pilot comes from the Foundation’s *Communityworks* endowment.

Additionally, *Communityworks* funding has been earmarked for the commissioning of a baseline report that will form the basis of an environmental sustainability plan for both villages. This baseline will then be used to determine progress towards long term environmental sustainability in Oak Park and River Forest. Selection of the firm to conduct this study will be finalized by the end of the year.

The Oak Park - River Forest Community Foundation inspires philanthropy and stewards the community toward sustainability and well-being. The Foundation serves Oak Park and River Forest by stimulating

and facilitating individual philanthropy, being accountable and prudent managers of donor funds, making responsive and informed grants, and convening resources to address community priorities and interests.

For more information about the many ways the Community Foundation fosters philanthropy, please visit our website at: www.oprfcf.org, or call us at 708-848-1560.

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List of grantees:

Animal Care League
Children's Clinic of Oak Park & River Forest
Dominican University
Hephzibah Children's Association
Oak-Leyden Developmental Services
Momenta Performing Arts
Oak Park-River Forest Day Nursery
Oak Park-River Forest Food Pantry
Oak Park & River Forest High School
Parenthesis
Pillars Community Service
Sarah's Inn
Senior Citizen's Center of Oak Park and River Forest
Seven Generations Ahead
Steckman Studio of Music
West Suburban PADS



Representatives of recipient organizations gather for group photo.



Communityworks committee members Annese Piazza and Terrie Rayburn join the breakfast.



Dominican President Donna Carroll speaks to the breakfast attendees about Community Leadership.