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For Immediate Release:

Seven local organizations earn matching grants for endowment building at the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation

As part of its *Making a Good Gift Better Program*, the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation awarded dollar-for-dollar matching grants to seven local organizations which have been building endowments for their future.

Grants have been awarded this year to the endowment funds of:

Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory	\$25,000
West Suburban Special Recreation Foundation (Flo & Joe Murray Fund for Special Recreation)	\$10,000
Unity Temple Restoration Foundation (Edgar J. Kaufman Endowment Fund for Unity Temple Restoration)	\$15,000
Oak Park & River Forest Infant Welfare Society	\$10,000
Family Service & Mental Health Center	\$ 5,000
Sarah's Inn	\$10,000
Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest	\$10,000

“Endowments are indicative of fiscally responsible, well-prepared and forward-looking nonprofits,” said Theresa Amato, Executive Director of the Community Foundation. “We are pleased to be able to strengthen and support the organizations that serve the residents of our community.”

Judy Shepelak of the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory said, “For several years, the Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory contemplated creating an endowment. With the Community Foundation's "Making a Good Gift Better Program" we realized a great opportunity had been handed to us. The income from our Endowment will help us

implement exciting new educational programs we have recently developed that will greatly enhance the experience of visitors to the Conservatory.”

In September of 2005, The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation launched *Making a Good Gift Better*, an endowment building matching grant program. Participating organizations that established a new endowment fund, or added to an existing fund at the Community Foundation became eligible to receive up to \$25,000 in matching grants. Other recent recipients of matching grants include the River Forest Public Library and the Concordia University Community Scholarship Fund. Altogether, the Community Foundation will match up to \$250,000 in resources assembled from the community to help build permanent endowments that benefit the organizations and the work they do.

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