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For Immediate Release

15 Area Nonprofits to Receive Grants from the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation

Fifteen nonprofit organizations that serve residents of Oak Park and River Forest will be awarded grants totaling \$55,900 at the Community Foundation's annual Grants Breakfast at 8:00 am on Friday, September 28 at the Oak Park Country Club.

The funded organizations touch lives throughout our community by alleviating urgent human needs, promoting physical and emotional wellbeing, improving educational and recreational opportunities and supporting the cultural resources of our community. This year, the Community Foundation responded to calls throughout the nonprofit community by offering grants that can be used for general operating and capacity building within organizations rather than restricting all grants to specific program purposes.

Grant proposals were received from 50 organizations that serve local residents across a range of needs and interests. "With such a creative and vital nonprofit community, it is challenging to select from among the many worthwhile proposals the Foundation receives" notes David Weindling, the Foundation's Program Officer. In addition to its annual Community Grants program, the Community Foundation this year will also award college scholarships and education enrichment grants totaling more than \$500,000 to more than 280 students, and support dozens of community organizations through grants from donor advised, designated and agency funds administered by the Foundation.

Of the fifteen grants awarded this year, four were granted under the Foundation's CommunityWorks initiative – a program founded in partnership with the Grand Victoria Foundation to impact the community within the focus areas of child care, land use and protection, and workforce development. Seguin Services will receive a grant to enable greater contributions to society, and improve the

quality of life through supportive employment programs for people with disabilities. Grants to Hephzibah Children's Association, Parenthesis and the Oak Park & River Forest Day Nursery will further the education and training of child care providers and parents to help them create environments and deliver care that gives our community's children the greatest opportunities for happiness and success. (Attached is a list of all of this year's Community Grant recipients).

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The following agencies have been awarded grants by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation as part of our 2007 Community Grants program.

Animal Care League
Family Service & Mental Health Center of Oak Park and River Forest
Hephzibah Children's Association
Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest
MOMENTA Performing Arts Company
Oak Park Education Foundation
Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare
Oak Park & River Forest Day Nursery
Parenthesis
Seguin Services
Senior Citizens' Center Oak Park River Forest
Ten Thousand Villages Oak Park
Vital Bridges
Volunteer Center
West Suburban PADS