

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Michael Trench
815-744-9223
mtrench@willcountycf.org

Will County Community Foundation Announces 2011 Grant Awards of Nearly \$125,000 to Nine Area Organizations

Joliet, Illinois (November 11, 2011) – The Will County Community Foundation, an affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust, awarded and presented nearly \$125,000 in grants to local nonprofit organizations that serve the urgent and critical needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families in Will County. The Foundation’s priorities of health, human services and education were highlighted in the grant awards, designed to strengthen the capacity for service of nonprofits in Will County. With more than \$500,000 of funding requests received from 27 organizations, the Board of Directors had difficult decisions to make. “Our grant making was very challenging this year as we saw so much good work taking place, and needs that have increased for many nonprofits as they struggle with changes in the economy, decreased donations and uncertainties related to traditional streams of revenue from State and Federal sources,” said Michael Trench, executive director of The Will County Community Foundation.

The following awards were made this year:

Easter Seals-Greater Joliet: \$15,000 for purchase of equipment to be used in their newly expanded and renovated Therapy Wing.

Joliet Hospice: \$12,500 for nursing staff to bridge their expansion of pediatric Hospice and palliative care services.

Northern Illinois Food Bank: \$5,000 to provide Mobile Pantry service in outlying areas of Will County. In addition, members of the Will County Community Foundation Board have agreed to provide volunteer staff for one Mobile Pantry visit to Will County during the coming year.

CASA of Will County: \$15,000 to expand their capacity-building work by funding 50% of an additional case manager to handle an additional 60-80 children's cases. Their Board has agreed to fund the remaining 50% through additional fundraising efforts.

The Miracle League of Joliet: \$10,000 to provide uniforms for 170+ special needs children who participate in their baseball-based program.

Joliet Junior College Foundation: \$20,000 to enhance the training of 350 nursing students by purchase of a Pyxis Medstation, used by all area hospitals for medication dispensing and inventory control. This will result in nursing students being better trained to work in a hospital setting immediately.

G.W. Buck Boys and Girls Club: \$11,200 for the infrastructure and plumbing repair portion of a much needed renovation of their swimming pool which serves as core to many programs in the community.

United Cerebral Palsy of Illinois Prairieland: \$11,000 for purchase of a Tap-it Monitor, allowing people with disability-related communication challenges to communicate more readily on-site through use of this technology.

Daybreak Center – Catholic Charities: \$25,000 to take advantage of a timely opportunity to provide improvements to adjacent property that will be donated by the City of Joliet, and supported with a match from the Housing Foundation of Will County. The result will be a more home-like atmosphere with a playground at the Shelter, and desperately needed parking for volunteers, staff and guests.

This is the largest number of grants the Will County Community Foundation has provided within the community, serving a variety of urgent and critical needs in their priority areas of Health, Human Services and Education. Because of the difficult economic circumstances many non-profits face, the program was expanded this year to consider mission-critical capital expenditures for which other sources of funding might not be available.

For more information or with any questions, please contact Michael Trench at mtrench@willcountycf.org or 815-744-9223.

Will County Community Foundation:

The Will County Community Foundation was founded by local residents in 2005 to:

- Hold various non-profit agency/organization endowment funds

- Serve as a resource for donors and professional advisors in the implementation of charitable strategies through Donor Advised Funds and other planning vehicles
- Build endowments in special areas of interest that fund a competitive grant program annually.

With more than \$1 million in assets, and distribution of more than \$600,000 in grant awards, they are actively “Connecting people who care to causes that matter.” As an Affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust, they represent not only the Trust’s interest in promoting and advancing philanthropy throughout the region, but have available the resources and expertise that have made it a philanthropic leader for nearly a century. To learn more, visit www.willcountycf.org