

For Immediate Release

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## **Racine Community Foundation Awards \$202,345 in Fourth Quarter Grants**

**RACINE (January 2014)** – The Board of Directors of the Racine Community Foundation is pleased to announce the award of \$202,345 in fourth quarter grants, closing the 2013 grant cycle having made a total of \$928,197 in awards. The fourteen organizations benefitting from fourth quarter grants include:

**SAFE Haven of Racine, Inc.** in support of a half-time interventionist to administer mental health assessments, conduct counseling sessions, facilitate parenting classes and oversee all mental health services for youth in the program and after.

**United Cerebral Palsy of Southeastern Wisconsin** to continue the in-home respite program for up to 30 families. The program offers care giving relief to parents and primary care givers of children with disabilities living in the home or foster care.

**Catholic Charities** for outreach and case management for families of all faiths seeking crisis help for basic needs assistance, including food, prescriptions, and help with home energy and eviction emergencies. Follow-up long-term assistance helps families develop strategies to prevent future emergencies.

**Creative Arts Resource and Network of Western Racine County, Inc.** to support a part-time staff member and assist workshop leaders. Art workshops provide structure and support for individuals with varying physical and developmental disabilities. The number of participants in the program has more than tripled in the last year.

**The Prairie School** to produce an oral history video documentary about Mound Cemetery with Racine's current superintendent of city cemeteries. The video will be available to the public

through the Racine Heritage Museum, Preservation Racine's archives and The Prairie School Social Studies Department.

**Prevent Blindness Wisconsin** to expand their free preschool vision screening program and provide follow-up support for approximately 830 low-income children, ages 3-5 years. The program also provides certified children's vision training for staff and health and safety education for teachers, parents and children.

**Racine Community Outpost** to expand the Jacato Drive COP house by adding a conference room to the existing structure. The addition will more than double the current area used for community and conference gatherings, allow for after school mentoring programs and free up existing space to accommodate Probation and Parole agents and other community partners.

**Racine Friendship Clubhouse** to expand kitchen and gardening instruction/education to Clubhouse members to help them build self-esteem and develop employment skills. The program emphasizes the development of kitchen skills that translate to a variety of work environments and an appreciation for healthful and economically grown foods.

**Racine Kenosha Community Action agency, Inc.** in support of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The program recruits and trains volunteers as IRS-Certified Tax preparers who then provide no-cost tax preparation assistance for low-to-moderate income households.

**Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, Inc.** in support of Racine-only watershed-based grant requests. The grants address projects aimed at near-shore health and pollution runoff, wetland restoration, plant and aquatic invasives, aquatic life and sediment monitoring and water quality education programs for K-12 youth.

**St. Monica's Senior Citizens Home, Inc.** to purchase both the hardware and software for a brain fitness system. The system helps increase memory skills and cognitive agility through interactive games. The program allows for individual, family or group use.

**Senior Companion Program** to provide outreach programs for the elderly who live independently. The program will connect older adults to programs that serve to improve quality of life and provide informative social opportunities, including speaker forums on issues such as nutrition, scams, medication, safety and social media.

**Wind Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. (WLVFC)** for the purchase, installation and testing of a natural gas-fueled stand-by generator recommended by the National Fire Protection Association. This alternate source of electrical power will allow the WLVFC to respond to emergency rescue calls and evacuation needs even with the loss of primary power.

**Wisconsin Badger Camp (WBC)** to support the Campership Program that provides financial assistance to campers who cannot afford camp on their own. WBC provides natural

environment experiences to individuals with developmental challenges. The grant will support five campers from Racine County.

In other business, Co-Executive Directors, Jill Heller and Liz Powell, reported that as of January 3, 2014, the assets of the Racine Community Foundation were \$51,129,926. During the third quarter of 2013, the Board of Directors approved contributions, memorials, new funds and additions to existing funds totaling \$2,218,845.

The Racine Community Foundation, Inc. is a publicly supported, tax-exempt charitable organization formed in 1975. The mission of the Racine Community Foundation is to enhance the quality of life for the people of Racine County by encouraging and providing opportunities for charitable giving and by managing and distributing the funds in a responsible manner.

Information about the Foundation and the grant application procedure are available by contacting the Foundation at 262.632.8474 or its website at:

[www.racinecommunityfoundation.org](http://www.racinecommunityfoundation.org).