

For Immediate Release

Contact: Liz Powell, Executive Director, Racine Community Foundation
(262) 632-8474; liz.powell@racinecommunityfoundation.org



Racine Community Foundation Awards \$175,195 in Fourth Quarter Grants

RACINE (December 2014) – The Board of Directors of the Racine Community Foundation is pleased to announce the award of \$175,195 in fourth quarter grants. The twelve organizations benefitting from these grant awards include the following:

Broadscope Disability Services, Inc. has been awarded a grant to provide in-home respite to families in Racine County. Broadscope Disability Services, Inc. (formerly United Cerebral Palsy of Southeastern Wisconsin) serves individuals and families challenged with all types of disabilities, and helps them live a life with support, independence and inclusion. The respite program provides caregiving relief to parents or primary care givers of children with disabilities.

Careers Industries has been approved for a grant to purchase iPads to increase learning opportunities for disabled adults in the Integrated Day Services program. Careers Industries works in partnership with people who have developmental and/or similar disabilities so they can achieve their highest goal. The iPads provide a picture-based augmentative/alternative communication system to assist in more effective communication.

Catholic Charities will receive a grant to support the Community Outreach Program and Case Management Services. Catholic Charities serves all individuals and families who live on the verge of, or in poverty in Racine County. Case managers problem solve, advocate, transport and help clients acquire basic needs and help them deal with other issues, all with the goal of increasing client's capacity to reach their potentials and achieve self-sufficiency.

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin has been awarded a grant to support the Racine Child and Family Counseling Program. The organization's mission is to build, sustain and enhance a nurturing environment for Wisconsin's children. The Counseling Program serves children of all ages who often present with a clear diagnosable behavioral and/or mental health issue.

DeKoven Foundation will receive a grant to install an air conditioning system, including the required electrical work, in the St. John Chapel. The DeKoven Center provides programs for spiritual growth and reflection, as well as facilities for conferences, retreats, meetings, social events and recreation. This project will not only help preserve the historical chapel, but will add capacity and financial stability to the DeKoven Foundation.

Emmaus Lutheran Church has been awarded a grant to support the Emmaus After School for Youth (EASY) program. EASY provides a quality after school program to 35 – 40 neighborhood elementary and middle school children four days a week. Teachers, interns, volunteers, mentors and peers provide supervision, leadership skills, mentoring and homework assistance.

Prevent Blindness Wisconsin will receive a grant to support the Racine County Head Start / Preschool Vision Screening program. Prevent Blindness Wisconsin aims to prevent blindness and preserve sight by identifying the early signs of vision disorders, facilitating early and effective treatment and preventing eye injury. The program provides vision screening, offers follow-up for children who fail the screening and distributes eye health and safety information.

Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency, Inc. will receive a grant to be used toward the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The organization strives to focus all available resources so that low income individuals can attain the knowledge, skills and motivation necessary to become self-sufficient. The VITA program utilizes IRS-Certified Tax Preparers who provide no-cost tax assistance, prepare federal and state tax returns and provide electronic filing for low-to-moderate income working households.

SAFE Haven of Racine, Inc. has been awarded a grant to be used toward the salary of a Youth and Family Services Director position. This individual will administer mental health screenings, conduct individual and family sessions, facilitate groups and teach parenting classes. These services support SAFE Haven's mission of improving the quality of life for youth and families by providing safe living environments, crisis support and community intervention.

Senior Companion Program, Inc. will receive a grant to support the Senior Outreach Program. The organization provides volunteers who provide companionship with compassion, and seeks to enhance the quality of life for older adults through socialization, friendship and the sharing of information. The grant awarded will be used to host an Appreciation Luncheon for volunteers and the seniors they visit and speaker forums addressing specific topics related to the elder population.

Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare – All Saints Foundation has been approved for a grant to support the Wisconsin Avenue Clinic. The clinic program serves uninsured, underinsured and low-income patients who do not have a primary care physician. The model of patient-centered health care focuses on caring for patients while providing education and promoting patient understanding.

Wisconsin Badger Camp, Inc. has received a grant for the Campership Program. The Campership Program provides financial assistance to individuals with developmental disabilities that wish to attend the outdoor recreational programming that Wisconsin Badger Camp provides, but could not afford to pay the camp fee.

In other business, Executive Director Liz Powell reported that as of December 11, 2014, the assets of the Racine Community Foundation were \$52,435,937. During the fourth quarter of 2014, the Board of Directors approved contributions, memorials, new funds and additions to existing funds totaling \$469,828.

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 at its website: www.racinecommunityfoundation.org.