

NEWS BRIEF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact:
Nancy Zallek
nancy@mankatoareafoundation.com
507-389-4583

Mankato Area Foundation Announces Fall 2011 Grant Recipients

MANKATO, Minn. (December 5, 2011)—The Mankato Area Foundation (MAF) has recently awarded over \$25,000 in local grants and scholarships to organizations during its recent funding cycle. Semi-annually, MAF distributes grants from the Mankato Area Community Fund and other donor advised and designated funds in response to applications based on five core areas of funding which include education, culture, recreation, aesthetics and civics. Grants this fall include:

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Mankato - \$7,500 to support the proposed development of a Boys and Girls Club for our community. Boys and Girls Clubs provide services—established on the principles of outcome-based youth development strategies—which promote the educational, health, social, vocational, character and leadership development of the girls and boys they serve.

Partners for Affordable Housing - \$3,000 to assist with their Life-Long Learning project. The Life-Long Learning project emphasizes educational support for homeless children (Student to Student Program) and renters training (RentWise) for adults. Partners for Affordable Housing operates a comprehensive family homeless shelter program in a secure and supportive environment at the Theresa House and the Welcome Inn.

-more-

MSU Mankato/Good Thunder Reading Series - \$2,500 to bring two visiting writers to Greater Mankato. The first residency involves former Mankato residents who were educated here and went on to publish books that have received national attention. The second involves out-of-town writers who will have the opportunity to meet community writers, present their work in public and visit area high schools during their four day stay. The Reading Series is celebrating its 30th year of programming.

Robotics Team (funded through the Thin Film Technology Fund) - \$2,000 to help offer a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics team experience to area middle and high school students from Mankato, Eagle Lake and St. Peter. FIRST's mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership. Students will have the opportunity to design, build and program a 120lb. robot from the ground up to solve a challenge created by FIRST organizers.

The Mankato Area Foundation also provided the following funding through the Thin Film Technology Fund: Minnesota State University, Mankato College of Science, Engineering and Technology Scholarships - \$6,000; Minnesota State Southern Minnesota Regional Science Fairs - \$6,000; and Formula SAE Competition at Minnesota State University, Mankato - \$1,000.

The Mankato Area Foundation has been connecting philanthropic interests with community needs since 1974 and enriches the quality of life in Greater Mankato through its various grantmaking programs. Over the past 37 years, the Mankato Area Foundation has distributed more than \$2,500,000 in grants and scholarships to local organizations and students.

###