



DEACONESS
FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Louis, MO, September 30, 2008---The Deaconess Foundation Board of Trustees has selected eight exemplary, child and youth-focused organizations to join the Deaconess Foundation Impact Partnership, a capacity- building funding initiative. As Impact Partners, these nonprofits will receive substantial, multi-year funding and participate in a range of training, executive coaching and planning activities. The support is designed to help each organization better achieve its mission and improve the possibilities for low-income children and families in St. Louis. The Foundation expects to commit more than \$6 million to the initiative over the next four years. "With so many outstanding applicants, it was a difficult process for us and we have admiration for all of the organizations," noted Sr. Betty Brucker, Deaconess Foundation Board Chair. The organizations chosen for the Deaconess Foundation Impact Partnership are:

- 1—The Belle Center
- 2—Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri
- 3—Court Appointed Special Advocates of St. Louis County
- 4—College Summit-St. Louis
- 5—Fathers' Support Center
- 6—Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club of St. Louis
- 7—SSDN
- 8—University City Children's Center

Deaconess Foundation's Impact Partnership is one of the largest and most intensive capacity-building initiatives in the region. The Foundation will work with each nonprofit to develop and implement a capacity- building plan designed to advance the organization's vital mission. "Our end goal is to ensure that there is a strong safety net of social services programs in the region for children growing up in the face of poverty," explained Rev. Jerry W. Paul, CEO and President of Deaconess Foundation.

The Foundation started the Impact Partnership in 2004, after distributing traditional program grants for its first five years. "Over and over again, we visited agencies with impressive staff and innovative solutions to fight poverty. But too often, we saw stellar programs that were held together with scotch tape, the best intentions and a patchwork of donated computers," explained Rev. Jerry W. Paul. The Foundation launched the Impact Partnership in order to invest in the much-needed infrastructure and leadership that makes programs more effective. Typically, the Impact Partnership funds activities such as board and staff development, strategic planning, financial systems, human resources, evaluation, information technology, and resource development.

Deaconess Foundation was created in 1997 from proceeds generated by the sale of the Deaconess-Incarnate Word Health System. In continuing the hospital's historic mission on behalf of the United Church of Christ, the Foundation has focused its support on organizations helping to preserve and improve the health of children in stressed neighborhoods

throughout the St. Louis region. Since its inception, Deaconess Foundation has provided \$33 million in grants to more than 100 organizations.

"Our staff and board have only the highest respect for the agencies in our area that are striving to improve the quality of life for children most in need. It saddens us that we can't give direct support to each one. But we do believe the organizations chosen to be the next Impact Partners will make an even greater impact on the lives of children in the days ahead. Everyone at Deaconess is thrilled at the opportunity to participate in the mission and work of our Impact Partners," concluded Rev. Jerry W. Paul.

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