



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Impact KC Awards 2009 Grants**

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On Thursday, November 5, Impact KC awarded five grants totaling nearly \$100,000. Out of ninety-nine applicants, the following five charities were selected for grants: Catholic Charities, Children's Place, Front Porch Alliance, Ronald McDonald House Charities, and reStart.

Catholic Charities will use its \$15,000 grant to remodel a transitional home and otherwise help families fighting homelessness. Children's Place, which provides therapeutic services for pre-school-aged children suffering from trauma, will perform a badly needed remodel of its kitchen facilities with its \$16,652 grant. The Front Porch Alliance will fund its 2010 Entrepreneurial Summer Camp for high-school-aged children with a grant of \$20,000. The Ronald McDonald House will use its \$20,700 grant to replace an aging boiler in a house used by parents of children being treated at local hospitals. Finally, reStart will use its \$25,000 grant to install a series of security cameras in its homeless shelter to improve the experience of all the people touched by its programs.

"This grant is great because it allows us to provide kids with healthy food and to "go green" by decreasing our paper plate use. Our kids will now be able to have hot meals. Our cook was actually crying that he gets to have a dishwasher! What Impact KC does is wonderful and allows people to pool resources and do projects that could not be done by individuals on their own, which is really what philanthropy is all about," said Dave Matson, President and CEO of Children's Place.

About the grant to reStart, Evelyn Craig, reStart's Executive Director, said, "This security system will benefit more than 800 children every year. We appreciate being able to say to Impact KC that we have a serious problem today keeping these children safe, and we need help. With this grant, now we can have it up in a couple of weeks. Now we can keep children safe."

Impact KC is a group of philanthropic and civic-minded professionals who seek to further their understanding of philanthropy in Kansas City through education, volunteerism, and direct funding. The membership-based organization pools individual donations into sizable grants for a greater impact on the Kansas City community.

Since its founding in 2004, Impact KC has made grants totaling more than \$450,000 to area charities including: Don Bosco Community Centers, Community LINC, the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture, Children's TLC, Niles Home for Children, CASA, Episcopal Community Services, Kansas City Hospice, Child Protective Services, the Children's Center for the Visually Impaired, Habitat for Humanity, the Ivanhoe Neighborhood, Literacy Kansas City, Truman Medical Center, and the Women's Employment Network.

"We're happy to report that, despite the challenging economy, Kansas City-area agencies that provide valuable services can still count on the philanthropic community to pull through for them. We are thrilled to award grants to five agencies that came to us with funding requests - we only wish we could help them all," said Richard Wetzel, Impact KC's president.

"Impact KC has become a model for developing a new generation of philanthropists in our community," said Laura McKnight, president and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, which partners with ImpactKC to track membership, host educational and recruiting events, and house the membership's donations.

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