



News Release
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Eagan Foundation Awards Grants to 10 Local Community Groups

Eagan, Minnesota – The Eagan Foundation today announced nearly \$10,000 in funding to 10 local community non-profits. The funding will support a wide variety of initiatives that help make Eagan a better place to live, learn and play.

Part of the Eagan Foundation's vision is to support efforts that strengthen the Eagan community through grant programs - creating a legacy one gift at a time. Raising funds to support an annual grant program is one of the long-term goals for the Eagan Foundation, and this year marks the largest distribution of grants by the Eagan Foundation. "I'm thrilled that we were able to support so many quality organizations this year, especially when times are tough and budgets are stretched thin," said Chair Patti Engel, President and CEO, Engage Health, Inc., of Eagan. "The Eagan Foundation exists exactly for this purpose, to further strengthen our great city."

The following is a list of selected recipients and a brief description of each funded project:

- **Caponi Art Park** – funds will support the Caponi Art Park's 2011 Summer Performance and Family Fun Tuesdays series by enhancing arts learning and cultural opportunities at the events for people of all ages and backgrounds in the Eagan community
- **Cheerful Givers** – funds will help purchase birthday gift bags, toys and treats so that community members needing the services of local shelters and food shelves may also provide gifts to their children on their special day
- **Deerwood Elementary** – funds will provide equipment so that Deerwood Elementary students can participate in a new Junior FIRST (Foundation for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League and develop skills such as research, critical thinking, construction, teamwork and imagination
- **Eagan High School** – funds will provide equipment to assist English Language Learner (ELL) students at Eagan High School (representing seven countries) in reading and enhancing their English language vocabulary
- **Eagan Lioness & Eagan American Legion Post 594** – funds will be use to complete a military statue to be erected as part of the Eagan Tribute & Memorial Plaza honoring local Armed Forces, police and firefighter heroes
- **Eagan Young Life** – funds will provide scholarships to help defray the costs for underprivileged Eagan middle and high school students to attend summer camp
- **Eagan's July 4th Fun Fest Committee** – funds will improve the success of the Fun Fest by creating a volunteer training and recruitment program
- **Friends of the Farm** – funds will build an accessible ramp to enable people with disabilities to enjoy activities offered at Holtz Farm in Eagan
- **Kids 'n Kinship** – funds will offset activity costs for local volunteer mentors and their matched youth to participate in a variety of events to help in the building of positive relationships
- **Southwest Area YMCA** – funds will help provide financial support to youth of School District 196 families experiencing hardship so that they can attend Southwest Area YMCA's before and/or after school programs in 2011

Awards are for one year and range from about \$500-\$1,800. Grants were awarded based on their ability to reach and benefit large numbers of residents and to build supportive environments that help improve Eagan residents' well being. All groups will submit a final report detailing how this funding impacted their project next August. "These groups reach thousands of people on a wide variety of initiatives, from our schools and youth programs, to large community events or memorials," said Engel. "The effects of this funding will be felt in all corners of our community next year and in some cases for many years to come.

Grant funds are made possible through the contribution of individuals and corporations who support the Eagan Foundation through tax-deductible gifts. For more information on the Eagan Foundation or to make a donation to fund future grants, visit www.eaganfoundation.com.

About the Eagan Foundation

The Eagan Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-building organization whose mission is to make Eagan the best place to live, learn, work and play. The Eagan Foundation was founded in 1990 and encourages, supports and enhances ideas, funding and collaborative action to meet community needs. To date, the Foundation has raised and reinvested over \$700,000 in the community through its scholarship, community initiatives and community grants programs. For additional information or to provide support, visit www.eaganfoundation.com or email admin@eaganfoundation.com.

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