



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eagan Foundation awards a record \$20,000 in grants to strengthen work of Eagan community groups

EAGAN, Minn. — The Eagan Foundation has awarded a record amount of \$20,010 in grants to 23 non-profit organizations to meet critical community needs. This year's awards reflect a focus on shelter and housing for the homeless, services for at-risk youth, food and nutrition, services to help move low-income families toward stability, and youth development — programs that provide a significant boost to those who are struggling. The awards also include funding for the arts and education, in keeping with the Foundation's mission of making Eagan the best place to live, learn, work and play.

"We are proud of the mix of our grants this year serving a large variety of community initiatives" says Grants Chair David Lutz. "While we are supporting basic needs in Eagan, such as food and housing for people in need, counseling and support for homeless youth and shelter to victims of domestic violence, we also provided funding to organizations that contribute to the arts in the community." Lutz also noted, the "record dollar amount of grants awarded made possible by donors and local businesses such as Affinity Plus which funded this year's Youth Philanthropy Initiative."

Returning for its second year, the Youth in Philanthropy Initiative focused its grantmaking on organizations serving other youth. Affinity Plus provided extra funds allowing youth to evaluate requests and direct 25% of the total grants funding to initiatives they felt were most important to Eagan youth.

Since 1990, the Eagan Foundation has invested over \$2 million in the Eagan community through student scholarships and community grants to advance the work of nonprofit organizations. Raising funds to support an annual grant program is an ongoing goal for the Eagan Foundation.

The grants will be distributed at the Community Grants Breakfast on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 7:30 a.m. at Easter Lutheran Church By the Lake 4545 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan, MN 55122.

The following is a list of funded programs:

- **360 Communities** Partners for Success, a program for at risk students
- **Advent Cares** 8th annual community Day of Service
- **Art Works Eagan** general community art programming
- **Bowls for Brain Power** student/community event to create hand-made pottery for fundraising
- **Caponi Art Park** support Super Saturdays program of interactive experiences for children/ families
- **Dakota Woodlands** homeless children services including daycare and activities
- **DARTS** multicultural books for the Learning Buddies program

- **Eagan Art Festival** materials for the hands-on art activities and artist demonstrations
- **Eagan Men's Chorus** for concerts in Eagan and nearby communities
- **Eagan High School AVID** support for college campus visits for first generation college students
- **Eagan High School English Language Learners** college visits for English Language Learners
- **Eagan High School Team 2200 Blue Twilight First Robotics** support for robot camp for culturally diverse and economically disadvantaged students
- **Eagan High School Women's Empowerment Club** support for a Menstrual Access Project and general support
- **Kids N Kinship** funds for recruiting, training and matching adult volunteer mentors to youth who will benefit from having a caring role model
- **Loaves and Fishes** support for the Eagan dining site that serves healthy meals to people in need
- **Meals on Wheels in NW Dakota County** funds to provide hot meals to elderly and infirm
- **Midwest Special Services** visits for Eagan clients to Root 21 Farms
- **Open Door** operating support for the food pantry
- **Reaching Up** math tutoring for middle and high school students
- **Reading Across Generations** purchase of books, bussing for students, and other costs for an intergenerational reading program
- **The Link** Suburban Rapid Rehousing Program for youth experiencing homelessness, support and counseling to transition homeless youth into stable housing
- **TreeHouse, Inc.** mentoring for at-risk, homeless teenagers
- **Wilder Foundation/Lincoln Place** support for youth shelter staff & youth personal needs (clothing and groceries)

For more information on any of these nonprofit organizations, or to inquire how to volunteer or become a board member with the Eagan Foundation, please contact admin@eaganfoundation.org or visit www.eaganfoundation.org.

About the Eagan Foundation The Eagan Foundation is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, community-building organization, with a vision to make Eagan the best place to live, learn, work, and play. Its mission is to invest in Eagan's future by providing community connections, grants and scholarships. The Eagan Foundation, founded in 1990, encourages, supports and enhances ideas, funding and collaborative action to meet community needs. To date, the Foundation has raised and reinvested over \$2 million in the community through scholarship, community initiatives and community grants programs. For additional information, visit www.eaganfoundation.org or email admin@eaganfoundation.org

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