

Through Chicago Tribune Charities, \$430,000 in Grants Awarded to Youth Education & Employment Programs in the metropolitan Chicago area

Chicago, July 15, 2011 — The Robert R. McCormick Foundation and the *Chicago Tribune* have announced \$430,000 in funding through Chicago Tribune Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund, which will help 10 local agencies provide a board range of academic and vocational support for at-risk children and youth.

"Helping Chicago's under-served youth through educational programs will provide a foundation for improved performance in the classroom" noted Tony Hunter, president, publisher and CEO of the Chicago Tribune Company.

"Needs are so great in our community and resources so limited," said David Hiller, president and CEO of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. "Thanks to Chicago's caring neighbors and the momentum provided by the *Chicago Tribune*, we can help low-income families and children improve their lives and help strengthen our communities and future."

The 2011 youth education and employment grant recipients include:

- **Alternatives, Inc.** will receive **\$20,000** for the Career and Employment Services program, which provides individual case management support, workforce preparation workshops and intensive skill development opportunities for low income youth.
- **Chicago Youth Programs, Inc.** will receive **\$40,000** for the Volunteer and Family Centered Early Reading Initiative, which pairs trained volunteers and parents to teach reading skills to K-to-3rd grade students.
- **ChildServ** will receive **\$15,000** for the Project Interweave program, which provides home visits, counseling, and linkages to community services to elementary and high school students at-risk of academic failure due to truancy.
- **El Valor Corporation** will receive **\$40,000** for the STARS Reading program, offering intensive after school tutoring in reading and math using individualized lesson plans, computer software programs and parental support.
- **Erie Neighborhood House** will receive **\$40,000** for READS, an intensive reading improvement and individualized tutoring initiative for 1st to 6th grade students reading below grade levels.
- **Howard Area Community Center** will receive **\$40,000** for the After School Literacy program, which provides literacy skill development through individual and group sessions.
- **Reading in Motion** will receive **\$45,000** for the Benchmarks Reading program, which provides two years of training and support for Chicago Public School primary grade teachers, helping them use drama and music as tools to engage students in reading activities.

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- **Umoja Student Development Corporation** will receive **\$75,000** for general support. Umoja partners with staff and students in nine under-performing schools to support student retention, prepare students for graduation, and help students transition to college.
- **Youth Guidance** will receive **\$75,000** for the Community and After School programs, which provide academic enhancement activities and social service resources to over 1,500 youth in 8 high schools.
- **Youth Job Center of Evanston, Inc.** will receive **\$40,000** for general support. Youth Job Center of Evanston provides job readiness, placement and employment support in partnership with employers for youth ages 14-25.

Since 1990, over 4,600 grants totaling more than \$98 million has been granted through Chicago Tribune Charities to nonprofit organizations providing support to those in need across Chicagoland. The McCormick Foundation matches all gifts at 50 cents on the dollar, increasing the impact of individual contributions. The Foundation and *Chicago Tribune* pay all campaign and administrative costs, ensuring that 100 percent of all donations, plus the match, is granted to local nonprofit agencies with programs that improve the lives of children, families and adults across Chicagoland.

To learn more about Chicago Tribune Charities, go to
<https://donate.mccormickfoundation.org/netcommunity/sslpage.aspx?pid=204>.

About the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

The McCormick Foundation is committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens. Through philanthropic programs, Cantigny Park and museums, the Foundation helps develop citizen leaders and works to make life better in our communities. The Foundation was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest foundations, with more than \$1 billion in assets.

The McCormick Foundation continues McCormick's legacy by partnering with media outlets, such as the *Chicago Tribune*, sports teams and philanthropic organizations across the country, to encourage local giving, inspire civic involvement and address human needs.

To learn more about the McCormick Foundation visit www.McCormickFoundation.org.

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