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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**McCormick Foundation and Chicago Tribune Grant Nearly \$800,000 to Help Low-Income Adults Find Pathways to Education and Employment**

**Chicago, January 27, 2012** — The [Robert R. McCormick Foundation](#) and the [Chicago Tribune](#) have announced nearly \$800,000 in funding through [Chicago Tribune Charities](#), a McCormick Foundation Fund, which will help 33 local nonprofit organizations to connect low-income adults with the support they need to achieve self-sufficiency through Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.

“With more than 800,000 adults in the Chicago area in need of basic literacy skills, these 33 nonprofit organizations located throughout Illinois, provide services to improve literacy, while connecting individuals to opportunities in their communities,” commented Tony Hunter, Publisher of the *Chicago Tribune* and CEO of Tribune Publishing.

“Language skills are essential both to getting a job and being an engaged citizen. Unfortunately, far too many individuals lack opportunities to learn basic reading and language skills necessary to put them on a pathway for success,” said David Hiller, president and CEO of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. “The work supported by Chicago Tribune Charities will help low-income adults gain these critical skills and truly improve their lives.”

Since 1990, over 5,000 grants totaling more than \$99 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 100 percent of donations, plus the match, is granted to local nonprofit agencies with programs designed to improve the lives of individuals across Chicagoland.

The grant recipients include:

1. [Albany Park Community Center, Inc.](#) will receive **\$25,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides small group classes and one-on-one tutoring for individuals of different ethnic backgrounds with low literacy levels.
2. [Aquinas Literacy Center](#) will receive **\$10,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which offers individualized tutoring, small group instruction, conversation skills classes, computer learning, and workplace skills seminars to more than 200, predominantly Latino, adult learners.
3. [Asian Human Services, Inc.](#) will receive **\$25,000** for the Literacy Education for Adults and Families (LEAF) program, providing family literacy services, including early childhood education, after-school programs and adult education to recent immigrants.
4. [Association House of Chicago](#) will receive **\$20,000** for the Out of School Time English Language Arts program, providing reading and literacy instruction to children ages 6-12.
5. [Centro Romero](#) will receive **\$25,000** for the After School program, which offers academic support, literacy instruction, and tutoring to 60 students, ages 7 to 16.
6. [Changing Worlds](#) will receive **\$15,000** for the Literacy and Cultural Connections Training program, which trains teachers to use its reading and writing curriculum to improve student literacy levels.

7. [Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition](#) will receive **\$35,000** for the Training and Collaboration project, which provides training sessions for 60 literacy staff on STAR, an evidence-based instruction model, and convenes learning communities among various local public, private and government practitioners.
8. [Chicago Commons Association](#) will receive **\$20,000** for the Adult Education and Training Center, which offers ABE, GED, and ESL classes to students in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago.
9. [Chicago Lights](#) will receive **\$10,000** for the Tutoring Program's Literacy Initiative, which provides one-on-one, after-school tutoring and literacy instruction for low income students
10. [Children's Home & Aid Society of Illinois](#) will receive **\$25,000** for the Summer Reading Enrichment program, which provides a researched-based literacy curriculum to 3rd-8th grade readers from 2 underperforming Chicago Public Schools.
11. [Christopher House](#) will receive **\$25,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which offers beginner, intermediate, advanced, and conversational ESL classes to low income and working poor immigrant and native-born adults.
12. [Dominican Literacy Center Aurora](#) will receive **\$30,000** for the Women's ESL Tutoring program, which provides weekly tutoring instruction, conversation and grammar classes, child care and literacy software programs to low income and immigrant women in the western suburbs.
13. [Erie Neighborhood House](#) will receive **\$30,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides ABE classes, Spanish speaking GED preparation courses, and five levels of ESL classes to primarily working-poor Latino adults with limited English proficiency.
14. [Family Focus, Inc.](#) will receive **\$15,000** for the Program Evaluation Capacity Building project, which will implement an independent reading grade level assessment tool to measure outcomes for 50 students reading at below grade levels at four after school literacy programs.
15. [Family Matters, Inc.](#) will receive **\$15,000** for the Evening Tutoring and IREAD programs, providing literacy instruction and activities for 1st-through-8th grade students with low reading scores.
16. [Friends of McHenry County College Foundation](#) will receive **\$20,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides 24 free ESL/ABE classes at eight community locations to more than 600 students in McHenry County.
17. [Glen Ellyn Community Resource Center](#) will receive **\$20,000** for the After School Literacy program, which provides tutoring and academic instruction for primarily African and Southeast Asian refugee students, ages 6 to 14, who are at risk for school failure.
18. [Heartland Human Care Services, Inc.](#) will receive **\$35,000** for the Adult Literacy program, providing ESL instruction through classes, small groups, and one-on-one tutoring for immigrants and refugees.
19. [Howard Area Community Center](#) will receive **\$30,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides ABE, ESL and GED preparation classes for adults seeking to improve their English proficiency and employment opportunities.
20. [Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Inc.](#) (DBA: RefugeeOne) will receive **\$25,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which offers classroom instruction, field trips, computer-based learning and individual tutoring for immigrants and recently resettled refugees.
21. [Jane Addams Resource Corporation](#) will receive **\$20,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides one-on-one tutoring and small group instruction to ESL and ABE learners.
22. [Korean American Resource and Cultural Center](#) will receive **\$15,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides ESL instruction and conversation classes to beginning and intermediate-level students.
23. [Learning Center House of Connections](#) will receive **\$25,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides daytime and evening classes in adult basic education, ESL and GED preparation classes.
24. [Literacy Chicago](#) will receive **\$15,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which serves low income learners with low literacy levels in English and in their native languages.
25. [Literacy Connection](#) will receive **\$20,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides one-on-one tutoring and small group instruction for adults in the northwest suburbs.

26. [Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley: A Proliteracy America Affiliate](#) will receive **\$20,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides one-on-one tutoring and individualized lesson plans to ABE and ESL adult learners in Kane County.
27. [Literacy Volunteers of America - DuPage, Inc.](#) will receive **\$25,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides ESL and ABE instruction to adult learners who can't attend classroom-based programs due to employment and child care commitments.
28. [Morton College](#) will receive **\$30,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which offers ABE classes on campus and ESL classes at community high schools to more than 1,000 learners in the Berwyn, Cicero, Stickney, and Lyons neighborhoods.
29. [Oakton Community College Educational Foundation](#) will receive **\$25,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides individual and small group ESL instruction to adults at 33 sites throughout northern Cook County.
30. [Pui Tak Center](#) will receive **\$40,000** for the Adult Literacy program, which provides six levels of ESL instruction to Chinese immigrants who want to improve career opportunities and become more involved in their communities.
31. [Safer Foundation](#) will receive **\$45,000** for the Adult Literacy program, offering ABE and GED preparation to youth offenders and adults at Cook County Jail.
32. [San Miguel Febres Cordero School, Inc.](#) will receive **\$30,000** for the Literacy and Language Arts After School program, which provides 15 hours of literacy a week as part of the core curriculum for 8th graders to graduate on track.
33. [World Relief Corporation of National Association of Evangelicals](#) will receive **\$15,000** for the Adult Literacy program, providing intensive ESL instruction for recent refugees.

#### **About the Robert R. McCormick Foundation**

Robert R. 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 Col. 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](http://www.McCormickFoundation.org).

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