

## BUSH FOUNDATION GRANTS BENEFIT HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH, EDUCATION AND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Saint Paul, Minn. (Aug. 3, 2007)**—Students in St. Paul high schools are already benefiting from a Foundation-funded counseling program designed to better meet their needs and improve their graduation rates. At its July meeting, the Bush Foundation's Board of Directors approved an additional grant of \$1,249,919 to **Independent School District #625 – St. Paul** to continue the Connected Counseling program that began in 2002; it shifts the counselors' approach from one-on-one to group sessions that reach more students more often. Graduation rates in St. Paul have already improved from 57.2 percent in 2002 to 65.9 percent in 2006.

In all, the Board approved 53 grants totaling \$12,811,583. A sampling of grants is listed below. For a complete listing, visit the Bush Foundation website at [www.bushfoundation.org](http://www.bushfoundation.org).

The **Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation**, which is working in cooperation with the Cristo Rey High School project in South Minneapolis, received a grant of \$750,000 toward its capital campaign for the Colin Powell Youth Center. The **Dakota County Public Health Department** was granted \$847,580 to replicate its Dakota Healthy Families program in other parts of the Twin Cities metro area. The program provides home visits for first-time parents with newborns in high-risk situations. **Dillard University** in New Orleans received a grant of \$998,400 to replace faculty lost to other institutions in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In Minneapolis, the **Headwaters Foundation for Justice** will use a \$250,000 grant to continue environmental justice work, and the **Great Plains Windustry Project** will use a grant of \$333,590 to expand its efforts to speed the development of community-owned wind energy projects in Minnesota and the Dakotas. The **American Indian OIC, Inc.** received \$290,000 to increase administrative capacity and improve external relations. **American Indian Neighborhood Development Corporation** was granted \$50,000 for the West Broadway Athletic Center in North Minneapolis.

In the arts, grants to small or emerging arts organizations included \$70,000 to **The Cedar Cultural Center, Inc.** for a new executive director position and \$11,760 to the **Minnesota Fringe Festival** for a strategic plan to consider year-round programming; both organizations are in Minneapolis. The Foundation also gave \$46,080 to the **Franconia Sculpture Park** in Franconia, Minn., to develop a strategic plan and for partial support of a new position.

In Greater Minnesota, grants were approved for general operating support and to match new and increased contributions to the **Duluth Art Institute Association** (\$35,000) and for the **Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Chorale** (\$98,375) to hire a full-time marketing director. The **Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota** (located in St. Cloud) and the **Boys & Girls Club of the Bemidji Area** received grants of \$350,000 and \$62,000, respectively. The funds will go to construct a new facility in St. Cloud and to hire a teen services director in Bemidji.

Also in Bemidji, a \$150,000 grant was made to **Evergreen House** for an after-care program for male adolescents who are chemically dependent. **Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters, Inc.** (REACH) in Hawley was granted \$40,000 for a capital campaign, and **North Shore Horizons, Inc.** of Two Harbors will use \$160,000 to rehab a building that will house programs for victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. The **White Earth Land Recovery Project** in Callaway was granted \$195,000 for a financial director and other staff positions. **Northern Connections, Inc.** in Perham received \$150,000 for an employment counseling program, and **Advocates for Family Peace** in Grand Rapids was granted \$150,470 to work with men who have committed domestic violence.

In the Rapid City, South Dakota area, the **Black Hills Area Community Foundation** received \$64,000 for strategic planning and **First Peoples Fund** was granted \$52,500 for its first year in the Regional Arts Development Program II. The organization will focus on deepening its presence in tribal communities and forging new market opportunities for Native artists.

The **Red Cloud Indian School**, located on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, was granted \$75,368 to complete an inventory of its large collection of Native American art.

In Sioux Falls, **South Dakota Voices for Children** will use a grant of \$310,000 to expand its Early Childhood Education and Care Project. The **Aberdeen Area Career Planning Center** received \$48,684 for a diversion program aimed at helping youth develop skills to reduce high-risk behaviors and increase their employability.

Grants that benefit North Dakota include \$132,323 to **Family Recovery Home, Inc.** in Williston. It will expand culturally appropriate services for Native American clients. In Fargo, the **Neuropsychiatric Research Institute** received \$40,000 to adapt evidence-based mental health treatments for Native American children. The **YWCA Cass Clay** received a grant of \$52,824 for a community nurse for its homeless shelter. The **North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations, Inc.** was granted \$23,475 to implement strategies to increase membership. **Ducks Unlimited, Inc.** of Bismarck will receive \$310,000 toward the Living Lakes Initiative, which will protect and restore shallow lakes in Minnesota. The **Red River Basin Commission** in Moorhead, Minn., received \$192,885 to complete a comprehensive plan for land and water management in the Red River Basin.

The **Bush Foundation** is a private grantmaking organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life in our region by strengthening organizational, community and individual leadership. Established in 1953 by 3M executive Archibald Bush and his wife, Edyth, the Foundation supports programs and efforts to sustain communities through the promotion of healthy people, thriving cultural life and economic vitality.