

BUSH FOUNDATION GRANTS BENEFIT TWIN CITIES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND UNIVERSITIES

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St. Paul, Minn. (Dec. 5, 2007)—Environmental groups with strategies to improve human health and develop alternative-energy programs received grants from the Bush Foundation at its November 8 meeting, as did programs to help students in Minnesota succeed and graduate from college.

The Nature Conservancy received \$350,000 to begin a new three-state chapter that will include North and South Dakota as well as Minnesota. The **Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**, an organization that uses conservation-based strategies to improve rural communities, was granted \$500,000, and **Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc.** received \$300,000 to assist immigrants and women who want to become farmers. In addition, **Great Plains Institute for Sustainable Development, Inc.** will use \$440,000 to ensure that energy policy is embraced and enacted by government and business in the Midwest. All organizations are based in the Twin Cities.

The Board of Directors also approved a \$997,300 grant to the **University of Minnesota Foundation** for a program to help prospective students at the University succeed at college-level work and \$396,100 to **Metropolitan State University Foundation** to hire advisor retention specialists for the "Power of YOU" program, aimed at improving student completion rates at Metropolitan State University, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, and St. Paul College.

In all, the Board approved 59 grants totaling \$12,514,907. A sampling of grants is listed below. For a complete listing, visit the Bush Foundation website at www.bushfoundation.org.

Arts—10 grants, totaling \$1,799,950

Twin Cities arts groups who received grants through the Foundation's program for mid-size arts organizations include \$200,000 to **Graywolf Press**, \$200,000 to **Mixed Blood Theatre Company**, \$300,000 to **VocalEssence** and \$100,000 to the **Northern Clay Center**. Smaller Twin Cities-based arts group's grants included **Illusion Theater and School, Inc.**, which received a grant of \$35,000 to assess education and outreach programs, and **The Soap Factory** of Minneapolis, which was granted \$19,700 to develop a business plan.

Two important regional musical organizations, the **South Dakota Symphony Orchestra** in Sioux Falls and the **Fargo-Moorhead Opera Company**, received grants of \$80,000 and \$90,250, respectively.

The **Rapid City Fine Arts Council, Inc.** (dba the Dahl Arts Center) was granted \$175,000 for staff expansion.

Education—8 grants, totaling \$2,909,965

In addition to the higher education grants highlighted above, the Board approved grants of \$196,500 to **Sicangu Oyate Ho, Inc.** in St. Francis, S.D., for its high school Freshman Academy Program and \$146,000 to **Mount Marty College** in Yankton, S.D., for a faculty development program.

Early childhood education needs were addressed through grants to the Institute for Infant Toddler Development and Care at **South Dakota State University** in Brookings (\$355,275) and a grant of \$355,790 to the **State of North Dakota, Department of Human Services** to support the Child Development Successor Program.

In the Twin Cities, the **Montessori Training Center of Minnesota, Inc.** received a grant of \$350,000 for a capital project, and **Washburn Center for Children** will use a grant of \$113,000 to expand programs.

Ecological Health—11 grants, totaling \$2,806,000

In the Twin Cities, two groups received grants, including \$75,000 to the **Minnesota Environmental Initiative, Inc.** for programs to influence climate change and energy efficiency and \$300,000 to the **Minnesota Environmental Partnership** to increase citizen engagement.

Environmental groups in Greater Minnesota receiving grants include \$170,000 to the **Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota** in Starbuck for an experimental agricultural program for college students, \$135,000 to the **Rural Renewable Energy Alliance** in Pine River to build capacity for solar panel installation for low-income residents and \$176,000 to **Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Inc.** in Lanesboro for a collaborative effort between six environmental learning centers to demonstrate a carbon-neutral lifestyle.

In the Dakotas, the **Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Stewardship Fund** in LaMoure, N.D., was granted \$210,000 to strengthen the organization, which helps family farmers adopt sustainable agriculture processes. **Dakota Rural Action, Inc.** in Brookings, S.D. was granted \$150,000 to further its impact on local communities and their ability to practice sustainable agriculture and alternative energy strategies.

Health and Human Services—24 grants, totaling \$3,363,992

In the Twin Cities, organizations serving youth and families received grants, including \$225,000 to **Wayside House, Inc.** in St. Louis Park to serve young mothers, \$230,000 to the **Bridge for Runaway Youth, Inc.** in Minneapolis, \$55,000 for the **Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota** for a women's center and \$127,500 for the **Minnesota Fathers & Families Network** in St. Paul.

The **Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault** was granted \$80,000 for victim advocacy programs, and the **Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome** received \$54,900 for a pilot program for women in treatment centers. Both organizations are based in St. Paul.

Among the grants made to benefit Native American communities in the Foundation's region were \$375,000 to the **Wellstone Action Fund** (St. Paul) to support a Native American Leadership program and a deputy executive director, \$85,285 to the **White Earth Tribal Council** (northern Minnesota) to strengthen its tribal government's jurisdictional capacity, \$360,000 to **The Red Lake Nation Boys & Girls Club of America** (northern Minnesota) and \$50,000 to the **Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation** (Porcupine, S.D.) for start-up expenses. **Peta Wakan Tipi**, a St. Paul social service agency, received \$75,000 for strategic planning.

In Greater Minnesota, Duluth-area grants included \$160,000 to **Men as Peacemakers** to prevent domestic violence and \$36,000 to the **Young Women's Christian Association of Duluth** for an economic self-sufficiency program for young mothers. The **Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association of SE Minnesota, Inc.** in Rochester was granted \$267,100 for a capital campaign, and **The Salvation Army Northern Division** received a grant of \$90,000 to relocate its thrift store in Mankato. **Rural Enrichment and Counseling Headquarters, Inc.** of Hawley was granted \$117,000 for two staff positions.

In North Dakota, **Mountain-Plains Youth Services Coalition** in Bismarck received a grant of \$160,000 for its work with at-risk youth. In Fargo, **Community Homes and Resources in Service to Many** (CHARISM) was granted \$195,000 for programs for at-risk refugee youth.

In South Dakota, \$150,000 was granted to **Wellspring, Inc.** for a capital campaign for a facility to treat youth in Rapid City.

Other—6 grants, totaling \$1,635,000

The **Women's Foundation of Minnesota** received \$750,000 toward the Fund>>Forward Campaign. The **Community Reinvestment Fund** was granted \$300,000 to support community development in Minnesota and South Dakota by providing capital for businesses started by emerging entrepreneurs and immigrants. A grant of \$290,000 was made to the **Citizen's League**, and the **Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation** received \$200,000 for partial funding for the National Great River Park. **Community Shares of Minnesota** will use \$20,000 to develop a grassroots evaluation project for its members. All organizations are based in the Twin Cities.

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 in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota through the promotion of healthy people, a thriving cultural life and economic vitality. The Foundation also improves these communities through its three fellowship programs that focus on the individual development of leaders, artists and physicians throughout the region.