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Community Foundation competitive grants total \$1.9 million for Results in 2011

Cycle 2 awards \$937,500 to 24 organizations working on two Results: 1) Communities are sustainable, livable and vibrant and 2) Individuals and families are economically secure

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham has announced **\$937,500 in grants to 24 organizations** working on two Results – that **communities are sustainable, livable and vibrant** and **individuals and families are economically secure**.

This is the second round of Community Fund grants for the Community Foundation in 2011. Last May, grants of **\$974,000** were awarded to organizations working on two other aspects of the Community Foundation's overall Results Framework, that **people can lead healthy lives** and **children are successful along the education pipeline**. In total, the Community Foundation has awarded \$1,911,500 in 2011 supporting strategies to reach these goals for greater Birmingham.

“Our nonprofit partners continue to provide strong proposals in line with our chosen strategies to achieve these Results that our community has said it wants,” said James McCrary, Vice President Grants and Evaluation. “Together, we know we can drive positive change in greater Birmingham.”

Current strategies to make communities sustainable, livable and vibrant are:

- Expanding access to arts and cultural opportunities
- Improving the natural environment
- Expanding and improving public green space
- Further developing vibrant city center for Birmingham

Current strategies to make individuals and families economically secure are:

- Improving housing stability
- Increasing public policy changes and direct services that positively impact low-income individuals and families

The **grant process for 2012** has already begun, with nonprofit organizations serving Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Blount and Walker counties applying for Cycle 1 grants to support strategies for the health and education results. The deadline for Brief Proposals is Jan. 16, 2012. The Cycle 2 process opens June 4 for proposals to reach results on communities and economic security. To find out more, contact James McCrary at 327-3812 or go to www.foundationbirmingham.org.

Details on grants awarded in Cycle 2 for 2011

RESULT: Communities are sustainable, livable and vibrant (\$647,500 in grants total)

STRATEGY: Expand access to arts and cultural opportunities through **\$135,000** in grants to the following organizations:

- **Shelby County Arts Council**, \$100,000 over two years to help expand its base of donors toward construction of a performing arts and community education facility.

- **UAB/Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center**, \$25,000 toward Phase I of ArtPlay's weekly education outreach program, ARTreach, serving 100 homeless families living in YW Woodlawn residences.
- **Seasoned Performers**, \$10,000 toward the cost of replacing the touring van which currently transports actors and props to more than 64 performances for underserved seniors and school children annually.

STRATEGY: Expand and improve public green space through **\$262,500** in grants to the following organizations:

- **Railroad Park Foundation**, \$50,000 over two years for improvements to safety and park usage, including additional security cameras, tables, chairs, plantings and maintenance services.
- **Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens**, \$100,000 over two years toward Phase 1 of a Conservatory Master Plan which will allow this historic gem to be reopened as hands-on classroom of rainforest and desert plants.
- **Birmingham Urban Mountain Pedalers**, \$12,500 as a match for funding to build a single-track trail system at Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park, serving mountain biking, hiking, trail running and nature enthusiasts.
- **The University of Montevallo**, \$100,000 over two years to expand an existing trail into a state-of-the-art one-mile Par/Course/Fitness Trail as part of a planned 35-acre Eco Park.

STRATEGY: Further develop vibrant city center for Birmingham through **\$175,000** in grants to the following organizations:

- **Birmingham Business Alliance Foundation/City of Birmingham**, \$50,000 over two years as a match for funding to improve gateways from highway corridors into the city center.
- **Alabama Moving Image Association**, \$15,000 to improve the Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival experience with components such as outdoor staging, special event lighting and live entertainment.
- **Innovation Depot**, \$75,000 over three years toward building out the current facility in order to achieve full occupancy and self-sustainability.
- **Red Mountain Theatre Company**, \$20,000 toward a strategy to position this as the premier destination for family entertainment.
- **YouthServe**, \$15,000 toward operations of Urban Service Camps in downtown Birmingham, bringing young people throughout the metro area to experience life downtown and form relationships across race, class and neighborhoods.

STRATEGY: Improve the natural environment through **\$75,000** in grants to the following organizations:

- **Black Warrior Riverkeeper**, \$20,000 toward the work of the organization in watershed protection, from patrols to education.
- **Cahaba River Society**, \$50,000 over two years toward policy advocacy and education work to improve development practices, restore drinking water supplies and the Cahaba's natural values in concert with economic growth.
- **Coosa Riverkeeper**, \$5,000 toward the program to improve environmental quality in the Coosa Valley through patrols, monitoring and education.

RESULT: Individuals and families are economically secure (\$290,000 in grants total)

STRATEGY: Improve housing stability through **\$125,000** in grants to the following organizations:

- **AIDS Alabama**, \$50,000 over two years toward rehabilitating housing facilities for low-income, HIV-positive persons and their families to HUD Housing Standards and implementing tenant training on how to care for homes.
- **SafeHouse of Shelby County**, \$50,000 over two years to help survivors of domestic violence and their children in Residential Services Program learn to become self-reliant and get help with financial needs before moving to permanent housing.
- **Greater Birmingham Habitat for Humanity**, \$25,000 toward creation of a Homeowner Education Center with hands-on learning stations and classrooms, with the goal of helping more people prepare to move toward homeownership.

STRATEGY: Increase public policy changes and direct services that positively impact low income individuals and families through **\$165,000** in grants to the following organizations:

- **Gateway**, \$50,000 over two years for direct services, follow-up and outreach to the economically unsecure, including clients who need longer-term financial counseling to stabilize their financial situation and build assets.
- **Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama**, \$50,000 over two years toward efforts to facilitate economic integration with its immigrant constituents, including financial literacy program and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance services.
- **Magic City Harvest**, \$10,000 to support a full-time refrigerated truck driver serving Jefferson and Shelby counties.
- **Aletheia House**, \$30,000 toward an innovative workforce training program to prepare adults who did not finish high school for administrative and support positions through education, supportive services and on-the-job training.
- **The Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham**, \$15,000 toward public policy reform strengthening women's economic security through "Stepping Up" – including a report, community listening sessions, public policy campaign and future ideas for implementation.
- **Norwood Resource Center**, \$10,000 for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, to help low-and moderate-income families with financial literacy, Earned Income Tax Credit and banking accounts as a means to homeownership.