



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi Foundation for Children Awards More than \$1.3 Million in Grants**

Minneapolis, Minn. – Bringing year-end cheer to schools and nonprofit organizations throughout the metro area, the Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi (RKMC) Foundation for Children today announced 18 grants totaling \$1.35 million.

The grants will support a variety of organizations that serve Minnesota children—from schools with a demonstrated ability to educate low-income children and students of color to neighborhood-based education initiatives that provide families with wraparound support.

The grants reflect three key priorities:

- Expanding **high-performing schools** and school networks;
- Increasing **parent demand** for schools that provide excellent educational outcomes for all students; and
- Creating a **sense of urgency** to address the extreme disparities that exist in educational outcomes between students of color and white students in the Twin Cities.

The 18 grants will support:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Banyan Community	\$20,000
Children’s Theatre Company	\$50,000
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	\$60,000
Educators 4 Excellence	\$75,000
Friendship Academy of the Arts	\$50,000
Mastery School (Harvest Network of Schools)	\$100,000
Hiawatha Academies	\$125,000
KIPP Minnesota	\$25,000



Minnesota Comeback	\$100,000
Northeast College Prep	\$50,000
Northside Achievement Zone	\$120,000
Page Education Foundation	\$75,000
Prodeo Academy	\$75,000
Risen Christ Catholic School	\$50,000
Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood	\$75,000
Summit Academy OIC	\$100,000
Think Small	\$100,000
Way to Grow	\$100,000

One grant recipient, Northeast College Prep, is a Minneapolis charter school that has shown impressive results since it opened in 2014. After just one year, the school doubled the number of its students who could read at grade level and was recognized for its MCA math scores on the Star Tribune’s “Beating the Odds” list of high-performing metro-area schools. The school, which is expanding rapidly, recently moved to a new location in Northeast Minneapolis. “To do a move like that is really a heavy lift for the whole school community,” said Carl Phillips, the school’s co-founder and director. With help from the RKMC Foundation for Children, he said, “We’ve been able to weather those costs without cutting staff or cutting into our program, which is a huge accomplishment and something we’re extremely grateful for.”

“Minnesota’s future depends on our work *today* to close the opportunity gaps that divide our community,” said Michael Ciresi, Board Chair of the RKMC Foundation for Children. “We’re proud to support organizations that are helping children on the path to college, careers, and lives that are full of options.”

Since 1999, the Foundation has made more than \$21 million in grants to Minnesota nonprofits, including the awards announced today. More than 80 percent of that total has gone to education-related causes, with most of the remainder dedicated to public health and social justice.

The RKMC Foundation for Children is a private foundation that partners closely with The Minneapolis Foundation to leverage their investment services, operating support, and community expertise. It was started in 1998 with a \$30 million commitment from the law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi. That initial gift was a result of fees earned from the \$6.6 billion settlement of the Minnesota tobacco lawsuit.

The Foundation’s mission is to serve as a catalyst for creative, innovative, and systems-changing programs to achieve long-term impact in promoting equitable education and opportunities for Minnesota’s children and youth. Learn more at <https://rkmcfoundationforchildren.org>.

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