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

Minneapolis, Minn. – Kicking off a season of good cheer for schools and nonprofits across the Twin Cities, the Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi (RKMC) Foundation for Children today announced 14 grants totaling \$1,345,000.

The grants will support schools, innovative education programs, and other nonprofits serving Minnesota’s children—from high-performing schools with a strong track record of serving low-income children and students of color to organizations pushing for system-wide education reform.

“Minnesota’s opportunity gap is a crisis we can’t ignore,” said Michael Ciresi, Board Chair of the RKMC Foundation for Children. “We’re investing in schools and organizations that are working full-bore to make sure that *all* of our students get an excellent education.”

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 14 grants will support:

Organization	Amount
Children’s Theatre Company	\$50,000
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School	\$50,000
Educators 4 Excellence	\$100,000
Friendship Academy	\$75,000



Hiawatha Academies	\$150,000
Mastery School (Harvest Network of Schools)	\$100,000
MinnCAN	\$125,000
Minnesota Comeback	\$100,000
Northside Achievement Zone	\$120,000
Parent Aware for School Readiness	\$150,000
St. Paul Promise Neighborhood	\$50,000
Think Small	\$125,000
Way to Grow	\$75,000
YWCA of Minneapolis	\$75,000

Since 1999, the Foundation has made nearly \$20 million in grants to Minnesota nonprofits, including the awards announced today. More than three quarters 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. “Achieving educational equity is one of the biggest challenges we face in the Twin Cities,” said Sandra Vargas, President and CEO of The Minneapolis Foundation. “The RKMC Foundation for Children provides crucial support to the many parents, students, teachers, and other leaders who are working to close the gaps that exist in our community today.”

The RKMC Foundation for Children 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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