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November 17, 2014

Contact:

Sarah Lemagie
PR & Communications Officer
The Minneapolis Foundation
612-672-3877
slemagie@mplsfoundation.org

Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi Foundation for Children Awards \$1.35 Million in Grants

Minneapolis, Minn. – The Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi (RKMC) Foundation for Children today announced more than a dozen grants totaling \$1.35 million, which will support an array of high-performing schools, innovative education programs, and other nonprofits serving Minnesota’s children.

Recipients of the grants range from initiatives geared toward system-wide education reform to Minneapolis schools with a proven track record of educating low-income children and students of color.

“Minnesota needs schools and educational programs that prepare *all* students for college and careers, regardless of their race, family income, or neighborhood,” said Michael Ciresi, Board Chair of the RKMC Foundation for Children. “These grants are investments in organizations that are serious about making change and getting equitable results for all of our children.”

The grants – which represent the bulk of the Foundation’s anticipated grant-making for the current fiscal year – 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 13 grants are as follows:

Organization	Amount
Hiawatha Academies	\$150,000
Mastery School (Harvest Network of Schools)	\$150,000
Parent Aware for School Readiness	\$150,000



MinnCAN	\$125,000
Northside Achievement Zone	\$125,000
Think Small	\$125,000
Education Transformation Initiative	\$100,000
Educators 4 Excellence	\$100,000
Minneapolis College Preparatory School	\$100,000
Teach For America	\$100,000
Students for Education Reform	\$50,000
Way to Grow	\$50,000
Children's Theatre Company	\$25,000

Including the awards announced today, the Foundation has given more than \$17.7 million in grants to Minnesota nonprofits since 1999. More than three quarters of that amount has gone to education-related causes, with most of the remainder dedicated to public health and social justice.

The RKMC Foundation for Children partners closely with The Minneapolis Foundation to leverage their investment services, operating support, and community expertise. "For nearly 100 years, The Minneapolis Foundation has helped generous Minnesotans use their creativity and resources to build a better community for all of us," said Sandra Vargas, President and CEO of The Minneapolis Foundation. "Giving our children the opportunities they need to thrive is part of our shared vision, and the Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi Foundation for Children has been a key partner in that work."

The RKMC Foundation for Children was created 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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