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Sheltering Arms Foundation announces 2017-18 slate of grantees, awards \$455,000 to 38 Minnesota nonprofits serving children

MINNEAPOLIS, August 24, 2017 — The Sheltering Arms Foundation today announced its 2017-18 financial support of 38 nonprofit organizations that are working hard to deliver high-quality programming to our state’s most vulnerable children. Sheltering Arms will invest \$455,000 in innovative direct service programs in early childhood and out-of-school-time youth development, as well as statewide advocacy campaigns designed to improve Minnesota’s policies that impact children and their families.

“In recent years, more and more organizations across Minnesota have been addressing the social and emotional learning of children as a proven way to help toward school success. This year we are seeing a number of programs tailor their SEL curriculums to address the affects of trauma,” said Denise Mayotte, executive director of the Sheltering Arms Foundation. “Quality early childhood and out-of-school time programs help build resiliency in children who have experienced trauma, and the Sheltering Arms Foundation is proud to support programs from Rochester to Duluth that are doing exactly this.”

One grantee adding trauma-informed services to its programming is Minneapolis’ **People Serving People**, the largest and most comprehensive, family-focused homeless shelter in Minnesota. As part of a new strategy to intervene to help families before they require the services of a shelter, in spring of 2017 People Serving People opened the Center for Excellence in the Phillips community in Minneapolis, a neighborhood of concentrated poverty. The center will serve children six weeks to five years old and will provide community meeting spaces for trauma-informed training and education. Sheltering Arms funding will support training staff and the broader community, curriculum development, and assessments developed with the University of Minnesota’s Institute of Child Development.

“Every day, People Serving People works with children who have experienced significant trauma in their young lives,” said Daniel Gumnit, CEO of People Serving People. “Research shows that trauma can have long-term negative health consequences. We also know that in a trauma-informed early childhood classroom that focuses on developing executive functioning and social emotional skills, children can build their resiliency. The Sheltering Arms Foundation’s support for People Serving People’s Center of Excellence helps ensure the youngest learners in our community have the stability and support they need to develop their full capacity to thrive.”

More grantees helping children build resiliency to deal with trauma include Duluth’s **Center City Housing Corporation**, which provides supportive housing to homeless families and has expanded to Rochester and now is broadening the services of its Tots of Tomorrow program there, whose programming uses a mental health lens addressing the effects of trauma and homelessness on the children; **Domestic Abuse Project** in Minneapolis, which provides programming to end the inter-generational cycle of domestic violence, is continuing to develop its new programming for children ages 0-3; and **EMERGE** in north Minneapolis is providing arts activities and a social-emotional learning

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curriculum to a vulnerable group of previously homeless youth who live in EMERGE's supportive housing.

In Sheltering Arms' early childhood funding category, 17 grantees received a total of \$217,000. In addition to Center City, Domestic Abuse Project, and People Serving People, other early childhood care and education grantees include:

- **CHUM** in Duluth is building its Grow-Up group for parents and children from pre-natal to age two by conducting culturally inclusive training for staff and participants, participation as a group in culturally diverse experiences, and integrating Circles of Security into the Grow-Up group work.
- **Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board** is helping informal providers of childcare to low-income children, often called "family, friend and neighbor" care, by connecting them to five high-quality childcare centers that can give them support and assistance to help get the children in their care ready for kindergarten
- **Montessori American Indian Childcare Center** in St. Paul is expanding their parenting program, the Family Parenting Nest, to support social-emotional learning development via indigenous language and spiritual practices.

In Sheltering Arms' youth development funding category, 21 programs received a total of \$238,000 in grants. In addition to EMERGE, more after-school and summertime programs supported by Sheltering Arms can be found throughout the state:

- **Project FINE** in Winona is creating the Kid's Cultural Club to help children ages 5-12 increase their knowledge and acceptance of other cultures and form relationships with youth from other cultures.
- **NorthStar Youth Worker Fellowship** in St. Paul, which prepares youth workers for leadership by advancing policy, afterschool advocacy and professional development, is increasing the geographic and racial composition of its cohort of fellows, expanding e-study opportunities, and sponsoring Practice to Policy Convenings in the metro area and in Greater Minnesota.
- **St. Croix Family Resource Center** based in Stillwater, which provides social services for low-income families in the St. Croix Valley area, is expanding its youth music and tutoring program to add a second day of program activities and to nearly double in the number of youth served.

This year's funding includes \$55,000 in advocacy/public policy grants, continuing the foundation's work to improve systems and policies that affect Minnesota's children. Areas served by the 38 Sheltering Arms grantees include Brooklyn Center, Duluth, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Northfield, Plymouth, Richfield, Rochester, St. Paul, Stillwater and Winona.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The complete, annotated list of 2017-2018 grantees is available here:

http://www.sheltering-arms.org/index.asp?page_seq=34

About the Sheltering Arms Foundation

The mission of the Sheltering Arms Foundation is to invest in the lives of children and help them reach their full potential. Based in Minneapolis, the foundation funds nonprofit organizations and supports policies that benefit Minnesota children and their families who have the least access to resources. Since its inception as a grantmaking foundation in 1983, the foundation has provided more than 1,150 grants totaling over \$15.2 million. The next deadline for grant applications is in January 2018, with grant applications from Episcopal congregations due on April 1, 2018. For information about submitting a grant request, volunteering, or donating to the foundation, visit <http://sheltering-arms.org> or call 612-871-9210 (toll-free: 866-871-9210).