



St. Charles City-County

LIBRARY FOUNDATION

www.stchlibraryfoundation.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Gift to Help Get Kids Ready to Read

(St Peters, MO – June 3, 2014) A recent gift for early literacy allows more kids to prepare for reading. The St. Charles City-County Library Foundation received a \$7,500 grant from the General Motors Foundation to benefit children served by the Ready to Read literacy initiative. The program works to ensure that every child is ready to learn to read by the time they begin kindergarten.

“Children who are strong readers perform better in school and become lifelong learners. Yet studies show that nearly 40 percent of fourth grade students are not proficient in reading. We are thankful to have the GM Foundation grant to help us take steps to change that. We focus on pre-readers, from birth to kindergarten, and help them build critical early literacy skills so that they can succeed when they get to school,” said Kristin Williams, Executive Director of the Library Foundation.

The Library Foundation is honored to be a recipient of the GM Foundation's Plant City Grant. Kristin Williams accepted a check on behalf of the Ready to Read program at a May 30th ceremony.

For additional details about the Ready to Read literacy initiative, visit the Library Foundation online at www.stchlibraryfoundation.org or contact Kristin Williams at kwilliams@stchlibrary.org or 636-441-2300, extension1582.

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The following [news release](#) was issued by the GM Foundation on Friday, May 30th and can also be found on the Library Foundation's website www.stchlibraryfoundation.org. A photo is available upon request.



For Release: Friday, May 30, 2014, 8:45 a.m. (Central)

GM Foundation Donates \$75,000 to Seven St. Louis Area Organizations through Plant City Grants Program

Foundation funding in support of community totals more than \$700,000 over last seven years

WENTZVILLE, Mo. – The General Motors Foundation today announced grants totaling \$75,000 to seven area organizations supporting education, child welfare, community service, and environmental programs. The donation was marked by an

event at Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis' headquarters, led by team members of GM's Wentzville Assembly.

The GM Foundation's total funding in support of the St. Louis community totals more than \$700,000 over the last seven years.

"This year, the GM Foundation will provide more than \$1.7 million in funding to 209 organizations in 45 plant cities where GM employees live and work," said GM Foundation President Vivian Pickard. "Through these grants, the GM Foundation continues its mission to give back and build stronger communities."

The GM Foundation distributed grants to the following organizations:

- United Way of Greater St. Louis
- Make-A-Wish Foundation Missouri
- Greenway Network
- Earth Force
- **St. Charles City County Library Foundation**
- United Services for Children
- Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis

"Part of our commitment is to help support local agencies that do so much good work here," said GM Wentzville Plant Manager Nancy Laubenthal. "We are proud to be part of this community. Wentzville is not only where our employees come to work each day, it is where our families, friends and neighbors live."

"We're really proud of how the GM Foundation supports our neighbors," said Mike Bullock, Chairman, UAW Local 2250. "As we continue to add jobs and grow our business in Wentzville, it's exciting to see how the rest of community benefits as well."

Laubenthal presented the Plant City Grants to representatives from the seven nonprofits during an event held at Junior Achievement's BizTown Center in Chesterfield.

"We would like to thank the GM Foundation for this donation and the employees at GM Wentzville Assembly for their commitment to invest in our community," said Lori Jacob, President and CEO, Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis, whose facility hosted today's check presentation. "We're proud of our work in the Greater St. Louis area to educate young people about work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. We are positive that the seven community organizations represented here today will benefit greatly from your financial support, and appreciate everything you've done and continue to do in the region."

The GM Foundation grants are given to a wide variety of organizations across the country that families rely on to provide much needed services, improve education and impact the quality of life within their respective communities. The grants to these organizations and institutions will make these communities even greater places to work, live and grow. General Motors Wentzville Assembly has been a proud part of the St. Louis area economy since 1983, providing jobs and community support for 30 years.

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About the GM Foundation

Since its inception in 1976, the GM Foundation has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to American charities, educational organizations and to disaster relief efforts worldwide. The GM Foundation focuses on supporting Education, Health and Human Services, the Environment and Community Development initiatives, mainly in the communities where GM operates. Funding of the GM Foundation comes solely from GM. The last contribution to the GM Foundation was made in 2001. For more information, visit www.gm.com/gmfoundation.

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Recipient Grants/Backgrounds:

United Way of Greater St. Louis (\$30,000)

United Way of Greater St. Louis helps about 1 million people in 16 counties in Missouri and Illinois, and is committed to using donations wisely, locally and effectively to make a positive difference in the lives of people in the Greater St. Louis community.

Make-A-Wish Foundation Missouri (\$10,000)

Make-A-Wish® Missouri grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Its chapter volunteers are part of a nationwide network of nearly 25,000 caring people dedicated to making wishes come true.

Greenway Network (\$7,500)

Greenway Network is a grassroots volunteer based organization. Its mission is to conserve natural resources, encourage sound management of the watersheds and protect the quality of life for the residents of the Greater St. Louis area.

Earth Force (\$7,500)

Earth Force is a leader in networking community partners, and training local groups, and providing curriculum resources to run service-learning and civic action programs in their community. Earth Force engages young people as active citizens who improve the environment and their communities now and in the future.

St. Charles City-County Library Foundation (\$7,500)

St. Charles City-County Library Foundation's Mission is to ensure excellent library programs, services and facilities for all people by developing and encouraging community investment and participation, today and tomorrow.

United Services for Children (\$7,500)

United Services for Children is a nationally accredited, nonprofit organization that provides developmental learning and pediatric therapy services to children of all abilities. Specializing in serving preschool-age children, we are recognized leaders in providing educational and therapeutic programs for children with special needs.

Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis (\$5,000)

Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis (JASTL) is the fifth largest JA USA operation in the nation. We educate young people about work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy with hands-on, engaging programs.