

MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
February 18, 2009**

Community Foundation Awards over \$17,000 In Neighborhood Grants

Rockford, IL – The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois awarded \$17,765.00 in grants to 10 Neighborhood Organizations Tuesday, February 17, 2009. The grant presentation was held at the Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center located at 415 N. Church Street, Rockford at 5:30 pm.

Terrie Hall, Community Foundation Trustee and Chair of the Neighborhood Grant Fund presented the checks to the following organizations:

1. **\$1,500 to the Calvin Park Boulevard Association** for the beautification of the planting beds on Calvin Park Boulevard.
2. **\$2,500 to the City of Gardens** which will supply trees for planting to residents.
3. **\$1,650 to the City of Gardens** to assist Washington Park neighbors by establishing a community garden on the grounds of Washington Park Community Center. The project will provide a community garden and teach people to grow their own vegetables and other plants.
4. **\$1,100 to the Cunningham Street Block Club** for Ethnic Village Neighborhood signage and floral planters.
5. **\$750 to Ethnic Heritage Museum** will enhance the landscape entrance to the South Rockford business district.
6. **\$2,500 to the North End Commons Business Association** will support the Magnolia Festival held in April 2009.
7. **\$1,615 to the North End Square Neighborhood Association** will support the cleaning and planting of 18 end-cap gardens on the boulevard. In addition, the grant will support the association's website and quarterly newsletter.
8. **\$2,400 to the North Highland Square Neighborhood Association** will pay for a large neighborhood sign in a highly visible area of the neighborhood.
9. **\$1,250 to the Rockton Township Historical Society** will pay for a series of neighborhood meetings to educate Rockton residents about the significant natural and historical features that make the village unique. Discussion will center on ways to preserve and promote the heritage of the area.
10. **\$2,500 to Tullock's Woods Neighborhood Association** for new signs for the subdivision entrance and the Pow-Wow Club, the neighborhood's gathering place.

At the end of the presentation, Terrie Hall told the neighborhood groups, "Your enthusiasm is catching. After hearing about your projects, I feel like I'm just glowing and really ready for spring."

The Neighborhood Grant Program is an endowed program of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. Since the program's inception in 1995, more than \$471,000 has been awarded to neighborhood based groups and organizations working to improve the

quality of life in their neighborhoods. In total, 369 grants have been awarded. “Our neighborhoods are a most important component of our community,” said Gloria Lundin, President of the Community Foundation. “Their vitality and their partnership serve as examples of how we can all work collaboratively, and everybody wins!”

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois serves as the area’s leading non-profit provider of grants and scholarships. The Foundation is the second largest community foundation in the state of Illinois and stewards assets of \$50 million on behalf of generous individuals, families, businesses, non-profits, and service organizations, wanting to give something back to their community.



2009 Neighborhood Grant Recipients