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Clark Lienemann Executive Director Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center Call or text 317-294-1246 clienemann@maryrigg.org

Kimberly Coveney
Director of Development & Communications
Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center
Call or text 317-645-7900
kcoveney@maryrigg.org

Lilly Endowment Awards \$7.5 million Grant to Establish Permanent Endowment for Strengthening Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center's Mission and Operations

**Indianapolis, IN:** Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center (MRNC) has been awarded a \$7.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of its longstanding commitment to help charitable organizations that strive to improve the lives of individuals and families with low incomes.

Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center will use the grant to establish a permanent endowment fund to support its inner-city mission. This grant will strengthen the long-term sustainability of the 105-year-old nonprofit organization on Indianapolis' southwest side.

"We are very fortunate to have a large network of partners, volunteers, donors and neighbors who believe in Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center as a trusted source of help and hope in our community, and who support our mission to serve individuals and families in inner-city southwest Indianapolis. The transformational grant from Lilly Endowment recognizes the permanent need for Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center to be able to serve the Indianapolis community with its special mission. We are grateful for Lilly Endowment's vision, leadership, and generous support to strengthen our mission over the long term" said Clark Lienemann, executive director and CEO at Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center.

Board president Mary Jo Sashegyi stated that "Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center provides life-changing help and hope to youth, adults, and families living in inner-city Indianapolis. This special endowment grant will help cover many of the essential business and overhead expenses of our mission. That will allow us to focus other community and philanthropic support directly to the programs and services that empower individuals to create a better future for themselves and their families."

Lilly Endowment is making a total of \$100 million in grants to 15 organizations through this initiative to help them enhance their long-term impact by building stronger financial futures. These grants complement the Endowment's regular support for human service organizations, including grants to United Way of Central Indiana.

"The grants offer transformative opportunities for the organizations to secure strong financial futures," said Ace Yakey, Lilly Endowment's vice president for community development. "Unlike support for day-to-day operations, these funds will help each organization strengthen its financial infrastructure so it can serve more people over the long-term and weather unexpected financial challenges. These grants do not alleviate the need for the organizations to attract ongoing support for their efforts. Indeed, we hope the grants will help them more effectively attract support for their important work."

About Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center: The nonprofit organization has been serving and collaborating with the Indianapolis community since 1911, originally formed as part of the settlement house movement. It was also one of the original members of Community Chest, which became United Way of Central Indiana. Today the center is one of Indianapolis' largest and most effective community centers -- and a leader in adult education and job training services; youth and community school programs; family emergency help services; and community collaboration. Last year, the center, along with its donors, collaborative partners, volunteers, and neighbors served more than 7,700 individuals and families in Indianapolis – providing help and hope for a better community. It also operates as a Center for Working Families site, a United Way community partner agency, and a member of the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities. For more information, visit maryrigg.org.

**About Lilly Endowment Inc.:** Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly and his two sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., with gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical company. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

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# EMBARGOED UNTIL NOON, Jan. 13, 2017

Contact: Judith Cebula 317.916.7327| cebulaj@lei.org

# Lilly Endowment Makes Grants to Strengthen the Financial Sustainability of Human Service Agencies

INDIANAPOLIS – As part of its support for efforts that improve the quality of life in Indianapolis and in Indiana, Lilly Endowment Inc. has announced \$100 million in grants to 15 human service organizations to help them enhance their long-term impact by building stronger financial futures.

The grants, which complement the Endowment's regular support of human service organizations through direct grants and its grants to United Way of Central Indiana, reflect the Endowment's long-standing commitment to help charitable organizations that strive to improve the lives of low-income individuals and families and build social capital in communities across the city and state.

The organizations - many of which are undercapitalized for the level of services they are called upon to provide - will use these grants to invest in sustainability plans they have developed. Their plans include the creation of endowments and strategies to strengthen organizational capacity.

While there are many exemplary organizations that support human services in central Indiana, the Endowment has selected organizations for this particular initiative that are critical to community efforts to serve at-risk residents in their neighborhoods. By serving the needs of individuals and families, these anchor institutions help build the social capital of their neighborhoods, which is critical for addressing a range of challenges they face.

Ten of the organizations receiving grants are neighborhood community centers across Indianapolis that provide comprehensive services to help children, families and seniors thrive. The other organizations, which frequently collaborate with community centers, include an organization that provides counseling and other mental health

services for individuals and families; two hunger relief agencies that provide meals and groceries through social service agencies across central Indiana; and an organization that provides a range of services during the daytime to help homeless individuals and families.

These organizations have been working – in some cases since the 19<sup>th</sup> century - to help individuals and families overcome poverty and attain self-sufficiency. For example, many offer the Center for Working Families program of comprehensive case management to help low-income workers gain the employment and life skills needed to move their families up the economic ladder.

"The grants offer transformative opportunities for the organizations to secure strong financial futures," said Ace Yakey, the Endowment's vice president for community development. "Unlike support for day-to-day operations, these funds will help each organization strengthen its financial infrastructure so it can serve more people over the long-term and weather unexpected financial challenges. These grants do not alleviate the need for the organizations to attract ongoing support for their efforts. Indeed, we hope the grants will help them more effectively attract support for their important work."

Fourteen of these organizations will use portions of their grants either to establish an endowment or significantly fortify an existing endowment. With endowments, these agencies will be able to have more flexibility and greater capacity to work strategically.

The amounts of the grants, which vary depending on the annual operating budget of each organization and other factors, are \$5 million, \$7.5 million and \$10 million. Besides supporting the establishment or strengthening of endowments, the grants will fund a variety of efforts to strengthen the organizations' long-term sustainability and effectiveness, including technology and building improvements; investments in staff development and retention; strengthening fundraising and community engagement; and strategic planning.

One of the organizations, Goodwill Industries of Central and Southern Indiana, will not use any of its grant to add to an endowment. It will, however, use some of its grant funds to support a five-year capacity-building initiative in connection with the recent merger of Goodwill Industries of Central Indiana and Goodwill of Southern Indiana.

Goodwill plans to expand and improve its retail store presence across both regions so it can increase the revenue that supports its work in education, employment and health services. In addition, the grant will fund expansion of Goodwill's work with the Nurse-Family Partnership, an evidence-based program that pairs registered nurses and first-time, low-income mothers so they can have healthy pregnancies and receive

parenting support until their children turn two. By supporting family stability, the program furthers Goodwill's mission to help low-income individuals and families facing barriers to employment, limited education attainment and inadequate access to health resources.

The following charitable organizations, 13 of which are United Way agencies, are receiving grants through this initiative:

**Christamore House:** \$5 million **Concord Center:** \$5 million

Edna Martin Christian Center: \$5 million

Flanner House: \$5 million

Hawthorne Community Center: \$5 million

Horizon House: \$5 million

La Plaza: \$5 million

Southeast Community Services: \$5 million

Families First: \$7.5 million

Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center: \$7.5 million

**Second Helpings:** \$7.5 million

**Shepherd Community Center:** \$7.5 million

Gleaners: \$10 million

Goodwill Industries of Central and Southern Indiana: \$10 million

John H. Boner Community Center: \$10 million

## About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based, private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly and his two sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., with gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical company. The Endowment is primarily committed to the causes of community development, education and religion and has a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and its home state, Indiana.

# **Human Services Initiative FAQs**

#### What is it?

As part of its support for efforts that improve the quality of life in Indianapolis and in Indiana, Lilly Endowment Inc. has announced \$100 million in grants to 15 human service organizations that serve serving the at-risk, low-income individuals and families to help them enhance their long-term impact by building stronger financial futures. This funding is provided in addition to the Endowment's normal grantmaking to support the provision of human services.

## Why do the grants focus on financial matters?

Long-term financial viability and sustainability are universal concerns for charities working with at-risk Hoosiers. Most are undercapitalized and this support will help them weather unexpected financial challenges. The Endowment has a long history of grants that help organizations build capacity, enhance programming and strengthen their operations.

## How will the organizations use the grants?

Fourteen of the 15 organizations will use the bulk of their grants either to establish an endowment or significantly fortify an endowment. The endowments will be structured to operate in perpetuity. With endowments the organizations will have more flexibility and greater capacity to work strategically. Grant funds also will be used to strengthen the organizations' long-term sustainability and effectiveness through technology and building improvements; investments in staff development and retention; strengthening fundraising and community engagement; and strategic planning.

# What does this say about the Endowment's commitment to the provision of human services?

From its founding, the Endowment has a long-standing commitment to help charitable organizations that strive to improve the lives of low-income individuals and families and build social capital in communities across the city and state.

## Why these specific organizations?

While there are many exemplary organizations that support human services in central Indiana, the Endowment has selected organizations for this particular initiative that are critical to community efforts to serve at-risk individuals and families in their neighborhoods.

Ten of the grants support community/neighborhood centers, and five of the organizations receiving grants frequently collaborate with community centers. They include an organization that provides counseling and other mental health services for individuals and families; two hunger relief agencies that provide meals and groceries through social service agencies across central Indiana; an organization that provides a range of services during the daytime to help homeless individuals and families; and an organization that works in education, employment and health services.