

The Raymond John Wean Foundation
March 2008

Caritas Communities, a partnership between Catholic Charities Housing Opportunities and Humility of Mary Housing Ministries runs Eastwood Village, a housing complex on the East side of Youngstown. The group hopes to more fully utilize the capacity of the housing with the assistance of a \$17,500 grant from the Foundation.

The Foundation has granted \$15,000 to **Coleman Professional Service** in support of its “Homeless Transition Youth Rental Subsidy Program” which will provide assistance for homeless transitional youth ages 18-22.

As part of its Early Care and Development Focus, the Foundation will make a grant of \$25,000 to **Community Solutions Association**. The funding will support the development of a program to benefit young children in Warren through a collaboration of community organizations and the Warren City School District.

A group that has created a national model fighting foreclosures will receive \$50,000. The group, based in Cleveland and known as the **East Side Organizing Project**, brings subprime lenders to the table through organizing. Homeowners who have mortgages with ballooning payments are then offered an opportunity to renegotiate their loan. The money will be used to hire an organizer for the Mahoning Valley.

The **Greater Warren Youngstown Urban League, Inc.** has received a grant of \$30,000. The funding will support the development of a strategic plan which will be responsive to the agency’s service to both Trumbull and Mahoning Counties.

The Foundation is providing a grant to **Habitat for Humanity** (\$35,000) to support their ReStore program. This will be an attempt to raise funding for the organization through the operation of a business selling secondhand building materials and furnishings.

Junior Achievement of the Mahoning Valley will receive \$16,848 to help fund a part-time program manager to work directly with both the Warren and Youngstown school districts. By linking these districts to entrepreneurial education, the program will benefit urban kids most in need of this type of education.

Lien Forward is Mahoning County’s effort to return vacant lots to usage. After the properties become abandoned, the County Treasurer is able to pass the lots on to local residents who own adjacent property and are seeking to use the lots. A grant of \$50,000 will allow Lien Forward to expand its outreach capability.

The **Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children** received a grant of \$14,040 to support attendance by child care providers in Mahoning and Trumbull counties at its annual conference in Columbus.

Three groups in Youngstown will receive funding to hire community organizers. These grants are part of a neighborhood organizing initiative that the Foundation is supporting. The **Northeast Homeowners and Concerned Citizens Assn.** will receive \$65,000, and on the North side a group of stakeholders will oversee an organizer (\$60,000), as well as the **7th Ward Citizens Coalition** (\$60,000) on the City's Southeast side.

The board approved a capacity-building grant of \$55,000 to **Tru-Mah-Col Association for the Education of Young Children.** This membership organization of child care providers focuses on promoting professional development and improving the quality of care for young children in the Mahoning Valley.

Trumbull Lifelines will expand its services targeted for improving the emotional and behavioral health of young children with a \$45,000 grant from the Foundation.

Volunteer Services Agency, Inc. mobilizes and coordinates volunteer activity principally in Mahoning County, but a grant of \$60,000 from the Foundation will allow the group to expand their services into Trumbull County.

The **YMCA of Youngstown** will receive \$40,000 to enable children in Warren City Schools to experience hands-on learning at Camp Fitch through its school camping program. A portion of the grant will also be targeted as scholarship assistance for Warren children to attend Camp Fitch during the summer.

The **Youngstown-Downtown Revitalization Committee** is a project to bring residents and stakeholders together to discuss improving Wick Park. A grant was made to support Youngstown Cityscapes' involvement in the process. The Kent State Urban Design Coalition will also be a resource to the group in its efforts (\$70,000).