Wean Foundation Awards $112,500 in New Grants

(June 6, 2013, Warren, Ohio) The Raymond John Wean Foundation, at its June board meeting, announced $112,500 in grants to three local organizations: Community Solutions Association, Power of The Arts and the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation. These grants support initiatives that focus on early education, economic development and community revitalization.

“This round of grant awards represents our Foundation’s continued focus on a set of key priorities that are building organizational and community capacity for change,” explained Jeffrey M. Glebocki, Foundation president. “We are proud to engage in these initiatives that explore solutions to educational barriers during early childhood, the growth of our local arts and culture sector as an economic force, and efforts to revitalize distressed areas of the community.”

Community Solutions Association (CSA), a service agency that provides services and programs designed to strengthen and improve the well-being of children, adults, families and the community, was awarded a total of up to $52,500 to continue their work through two vital initiatives: Project KIND will allow CSA to help kindergarten-level students in Youngstown City Schools overcome impediments to learning; and Warren SPARK, which helps families better prepare children ages 3-6 for kindergarten.

$40,000 was awarded to Power of the Arts for their Moving Forward initiative, which aims to create and sustain a collaborative structure for the arts and culture community to effectively participate in our region’s revitalization and economic development. The Fine Arts Council of Trumbull County (FACT) will serve as fiscal sponsor.
Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC), which works to strengthen economic development and strategic reinvestment in Youngstown’s neighborhoods, was awarded $20,000. The grant will be used to ensure effective community engagement in the US 422 Corridor Redevelopment Plan study which will evaluate approximately three miles of the Corridor from Madison Avenue Expressway in Youngstown to Liberty Street in the City of Girard. The redevelopment study will consider opportunities for economic development, neighborhood revitalization and restoring public access to the Mahoning River.

The Raymond John Wean Foundation June 2013 Grant Awards

Community Solutions Association
Project KIND: $20,000
Warren SPARK: Up to $32,500

Power of the Arts (Fine Arts Council of Trumbull County, fiscal sponsor)
Power of the Arts Moving Forward: $40,000

Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation
US 422 Corridor Redevelopment Plan: $20,000

About The Raymond John Wean Foundation

Inventive and enterprising industrialist Raymond John Wean established The Raymond John Wean Foundation in Warren, Ohio, in 1949. Having achieved success in the flat-rolled steel processing industry, Wean created a foundation that would serve the communities in which he had achieved his success. The Foundation seeks to build strong resident leaders involved in critical community issues and organizations; build strong organizations delivering impact on critical community issues;
and build capacity to improve the community and create opportunity for all Mahoning Valley residents.

More information about The Raymond John Wean Foundation can be found at www.rjweanfdn.org.

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# Market Block Building Receives State Recognition

(May 29, 2013, Warren, Ohio) The Market Block Building at 147 West Market Street in Warren, Ohio, home to The Raymond John Wean Foundation, has been recognized with the Best Commercial Rehabilitation Award by Heritage Ohio. The award is presented to the best storefront, interior and/or total building improvement project in the State of Ohio based on proper preservation techniques.

Located on Warren’s Courthouse Square, the historic building was completely restored by The Chesler Group, Inc. from July 2011 to May 2012. The renovation conjoined three separate buildings, originally built in 1868, to incorporate a more functional and creative layout for the new office and meeting spaces, while properly restoring and preserving the historic features of the building. This statewide recognition was made at Heritage Ohio’s Annual Awards Luncheon in Columbus on May 23, 2013.

The Foundation’s offices, located on the building’s second floor, offer a contemporary take on the historical architecture. The offices also feature a rotating collection of artwork on loan from the permanent collection of The Butler Institute of American Art.
Furthering the Wean Foundation’s goal of bringing together and engaging community residents, much of the space in the building is available for community use. The Western Reserve Room on the ground floor of the building, as well as other smaller meeting rooms throughout the facility, are used extensively as community meeting spaces, where dozens of Mahoning Valley organizations and civic groups have held over 115 meetings and events including workshops, board meetings, planning sessions and community forums. A licensed catering kitchen is available for use during events.

The Foundation’s incubator space, primarily located in the building’s Garden Level, hosts nonprofit organizations and programs in their initial years of development, expansion or re-invention. Tenants have individual offices and access to a shared workroom, conference room and lunchroom. Current tenants include the Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership, Mahoning Valley College Access Program, Tech Belt Energy Innovation Center and FracTracker Alliance.

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More information about The Raymond John Wean Foundation can be found at [www.rjweanfdn.org](http://www.rjweanfdn.org).

**About Heritage Ohio**

As Ohio’s official historic preservation and Main Street
organization, Heritage Ohio fosters economic development and sustainability through preservation of historic buildings, revitalization of downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts and promotion of cultural tourism.

More information about Heritage Ohio can be found at www.heritageohio.org.

About The Chesler Group, Inc.

The Chesler Group, Inc. is a vertically integrated redeveloper of commercial buildings with a special emphasis on the adaptive reuse of historic structures. The Ohio-based company specializes in turnkey real estate development, inclusive of design, architecture, engineering, construction management and leasing.

More information about The Chesler Group, Inc. can be found at www.cheslergroup.com.

Wean Foundation Releases Capacity Building Events Schedule

(May 13, 2013, Warren, Ohio) The Raymond John Wean Foundation has officially released the 2013 calendar of Capacity Building Events available to all nonprofit organizations in the Mahoning Valley.

The Raymond John Wean Foundation is committed to offering capacity building experiences with the belief that a stronger nonprofit sector bolsters the entire community. The 2013 Capacity Building Events are designed to respond to current
community interests of the Mahoning Valley as well as to regional and national trends in the nonprofit field.

The 2013 Capacity Building Events provide nonprofit organizations with learning opportunities for personal and organizational growth, strengthening operations, and advice from experts in a variety of fields. These events begin in May and focus on key issues such as financing, fundraising, revenue growth, professional grantwriting, marketing and board development and engagement.

The highlight of the 2013 schedule is on September 19 with the 2013 Annual Nonprofit Summit, a day-long event featuring stimulating dialogue and presentations on many nonprofit capacity building topics all designed to teach, inspire and connect the Mahoning Valley nonprofit community.

The brochure has been distributed widely to local nonprofit organizations. Anyone who has not yet received the mailing is encouraged to call Lori Wiebe, Office Manager at The Raymond John Wean Foundation at 330.394.5600, ext. 100 or visit www.rjweanfdn.org to download a copy of the 2013 Capacity Building Events brochure.

The Raymond John Wean Foundation’s vision is empowered residents creating a healthy, vibrant and economically stable Mahoning Valley with equal opportunity for all.

The Foundation pursues this vision by providing a combination of grant, technical and training support across a set of high-priority issues.

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Leadership Transition at The Raymond John Wean Foundation

Jeffrey M. Glebocki, President of the Raymond J. Wean Foundation since 2011, will be stepping down from that position later this summer. Mr. Glebocki initiated discussion with the Foundation’s Board and has agreed to stay on for 90 days to ease the transition, ensure the organization’s community change work continues and so that a search for a successor can be launched.

Mr. Glebocki and Foundation Chairman of the Board, Gordon Wean, will be available for phone or in-person media interviews per the schedule posted below. Please contact the Foundation office at 330.394.5600.

Background

Soon after assuming the position of President of The Raymond John Wean Foundation in July of 2011, Mr. Glebocki saw that the Foundation had been highly successful in building organizational capacity for a great many of its partners. It also became clear it was time for The Raymond John Wean Foundation to increase its efforts to build its own internal capacity to sustain its community change efforts.
Working with the Board, Mr. Glebocki made it a priority to implement new internal strategies and enhance many of those already in place. Due to the hard work of the staff and the leadership of the Board, over the last two years the Foundation has experienced tremendous organizational development and the groundwork for a sustainable future has been laid. Some of these accomplishments include:

- The historic restoration of 147 W Market St. on Courthouse Square in Warren, the Foundation’s new home
- Conducting a strategic review process of the Foundation’s efforts that provided a focus on its five issue priorities and three key strategies
- Strengthening the Foundation’s internal infrastructure, management and grantmaking process
- Revamping the Neighborhood SUCCESS and Leadership Program
- Revitalizing the Mahoning Valley College Access Program
- Initiating and partnering on the Mahoning Valley Economic Competitiveness Project
- Filling the Foundation’s nonprofit incubator space to near-capacity
- Partnering with Inspiring Minds, City of Warren and Warren City Schools to launch a community planning effort on after-school and youth leadership efforts in Warren
- Building the on-site Western Reserve meeting space into a well-utilized community asset.

As the organization moves forward and builds upon the platform now established, the Foundation is entering a new phase in its development. Mr. Glebocki believes this next phase calls for a successor with a different bundle of interests and experience.

The Foundation’s Board is deeply disappointed about this transition, but understands the organizational evolution of the Foundation, and is appreciative of Mr. Glebocki’s desire to help ease the coming transition. The Foundation’s Board and
Mr. Glebocki stress the Foundation’s core values and strategies will remain the same in going forward.

Mr. Glebocki will be returning to his home base of Tucson, AZ to expand Strategy + Action Consulting, LLC, a company he founded that serves as an advisor to philanthropic institutions around the country.

The Raymond John Wean Foundation Builds on Its ‘Big Bets’ Strategy as It Awards $837,500 in Grants

WARREN, Ohio — The Raymond John Wean Foundation has announced $837,500 in grants to eight organizations for their work in the Mahoning Valley. The awards include support for three key partners that are mainstays for the Foundation’s Big Bets initiative to engage residents as leaders, build the capacity of community organizations and foster collective efforts and impact.

The three Big Bets organizations, Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative (MVOC), Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) and Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership (TNP), were awarded a total of $712,500. Their projects include developing model blocks for neighborhood improvement, addressing vacant property issues, providing fresh produce through urban agriculture and much more. These three organizations, with the Foundation’s prior support, have recorded significant achievements in community revitalization, economic opportunity and public and civic sector leadership,
and are poised to build upon them.

“The level of our grant support for this core grantmaking strategy remains a remarkable demonstration of how small foundations can create significant change in communities,” said Jeffrey M. Glebocki, Foundation president.

“The Foundation’s theory is that if residents are empowered to work on high priority issues, and organizations are given financial and technical support to increase their effectiveness, pursue best practices and build networks based on a common agenda, then an adaptive, healthy, vibrant and economically stable Mahoning Valley is likely to follow,” said Glebocki.

MVOC, which connects grassroots organizing with impact on policy, systems and community change, was awarded $300,000 over nine months for general operating support; YNDC, which works to rebuild market confidence in Youngstown’s neighborhoods and strengthen community development and revitalization, $262,500 over nine months for strategic neighborhood transformation; and TNP, which works to empower residents through programming and projects that improve the quality of life in Warren’s neighborhoods, $150,000 over nine months for general operating support.

The Foundation also awarded $125,000 to five other organizations:

- $35,000 to the Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley for the Mahoning Valley Economic Competitiveness Project, an initiative to promote inclusive talent development
- $35,000 to The Harwood Institute for the Mahoning Valley Beacon Community project, to build positive organizational and community change and leadership;
- $20,000 to Neighborhood Ministries for the Academic Excellence Intensive, to help address educational needs
of K-6 children;
- $10,000 to the Ohio Organizing Collaborative for organizing around the impacts of fracking in local communities;
- $25,000 to the Warren City School District for support of school improvement efforts.

About The Raymond John Wean Foundation
Raymond John Wean, after having achieved success in the flat-rolled steel processing industry, in 1949 created the Foundation that bears his name in Warren. Since then, The Raymond John Wean Foundation has made more than $100 million in grants to a broad variety of non-profit organizations. The Wean Foundation has evolved from a small, board-managed organization with informal grantmaking procedures to a strategic, professionally staffed Foundation. Gordon B. Wean, a third generation of the Wean family, serves as chairman. For more information, please go to www.rjweanfdn.org.

The Raymond John Wean Foundation March 2013 Grant Awards

Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley Mahoning Valley Economic Competitiveness Project, $35,000

The Harwood Institute
Mahoning Valley Beacon Community, $35,000

Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative
General Operating Support, $300,000, over nine months

Neighborhood Ministries
Academic Excellence Intensive, $20,000

Ohio Organizing Collaborative
Fracking Organizing in Ohio, $10,000
Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership
General Operating Support, $150,000, over nine months

Warren City School District
School Improvement Efforts, $25,000

Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation
Youngstown Rising: Strategic Neighborhood Transformation, $262,500, over nine months

The Raymond John Wean Foundation Makes First Grants in Re-imagined Neighborhood SUCCESS and Leadership Program

WARREN, Ohio—The Raymond John Wean Foundation has awarded 30 grants totaling almost $110,000 under its Neighborhood SUCCESS and Leadership Program, a five-year-old effort that has been re-imagined to cultivate leaders as well as to engage residents of Warren and Youngstown in grass-roots projects.

Examples of this year’s recipients and award amounts include the Hispanic Heritage Planning Committee, to promote Hispanic cultural awareness in Youngstown City Schools, $1,500; Central City Gardeners, for the Central City Unity Garden and bike racks in Warren, $4,529; and St. John’s Episcopal Church–Red Door Pantry in Youngstown, to offset expenses and to encourage participants’ involvement in its leadership committee, $2,400.
The original program, now designated the Neighborhood SUCCESS and Leadership Program, has two distinct, yet overlapping components: Neighborhood SUCCESS 1.0: Engaging Residents and Neighborhood SUCCESS 2.0: Cultivating Leaders. These components concentrate both on the Foundation’s five issue priorities—early childhood, educational opportunity, economic opportunity, community revitalization and public and civic sector leadership—and on projects with an intentional focus on encouraging, cultivating and supporting resident engagement and leadership development.

Under Neighborhood SUCCESS 1.0, a maximum of 30 grants between $500 and $5,000 will be made at the beginning of each year. A Resident Council, made up of residents from Warren and Youngstown, guides the Foundation’s funding of the projects.

The program was designed to support grassroots groups in small community development projects that improve the quality of life in Warren and Youngstown. As a way to connect residents to each other and resources, grantees will participate in a year-long series of convenings, check-ins and a shared learning event at the end of the year.

“We found that folks thrived on the opportunity to come together, network and learn from one another,” said Jennifer E. Roller, program officer for urban affairs and neighborhoods. “We took what we learned worked best about the program and added a more hands-on approach.”

Neighborhood SUCCESS 1.0 and 2.0 aim to include meaningful and informed resident participation in decision-making that affects their neighborhoods and communities. Neighborhood SUCCESS 2.0 is designed to build fundamental leadership skills through focused learning—workshops, technical assistance and convenings.

“Both cities have a lot to offer, starting with the residents and their knowledge of how to get things done,” said Roller.
“Residents have shown through the projects we have funded that they know how to attract other resources, establish relationships and get really creative in instances where they have had to make do.”

“They are also able to tap into public resources, such as obtaining services from the city councils and the parks departments,” said Roller. More information may be found at https://rjweanfdn.org/NeighborhoodSuccess.aspx.

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The Raymond John Wean Foundation
2013 Grant Awards
Neighborhood SUCCESS and Leadership Program

Bennington Block Watch, Youngstown
Bennington Block Watch Community Garden, $1,515

Boulevard Park Block Watch, Youngstown
Beautiful Boulevards of Rush and Euclid, $4,180

Central City Gardeners, Warren
Central City Unity Garden, $4,529

Earth Angel Farm, Warren
Education and Job Skills Training, $4,280
Fifth Avenue Community Church, Youngstown
Freedom from Addiction, $5,000

Gregg’s Gardens, Warren
Gregg’s Garden-Garden District, $5,000

Hispanic Heritage Planning Committee, Youngstown
Hispanic Cultural Awareness, $1,500

Idora Neighborhood Association, Youngstown
Glenwood/Warren Gateway Project, $5,000

Lakewood Community, Youngstown
YEAST (Youth Elders and Adults Serving Together) $2,000

Oak Hill Collaborative, Inc., Youngstown
Business Incubator, $5,000

Precious Ones Family Resource Center, Youngstown
Proceed to Lead Leadership and Wellness Training, $2,148

Price Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, Youngstown
Summer Bridge Literacy Program, $3,550

Pride Youngstown
Fifth Annual Gay Pride Festival, $3,840

Project Linus, Warren
Quilts from the Heart, $5,000

Rocky Ridge Neighborhood Association, Youngstown
Strengthening Our Roots, $3,362

South Side Community Garden, Youngstown
Year 2/3 Plan, $2,944

Southside Ministries Inc., Youngstown
Summer Educational Enrichment Program, $3,050

Spotlight Performing Arts Studio, Youngstown
Community Enrichment Project, $4,392
St. John’s Episcopal Church—Red Door Pantry, Youngstown
Food Pantry, $2,400

St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Warren
2013 Bicycle Rodeo, $2,705

Stop One Place Help is Available Inc., Warren
Direct Assistance to Residents, $4,500

T.N.R. of Warren, Inc.
Southeast Warren Cat Blitz, $5,000

The Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past, Youngstown
Sojourn to the Past, $5,000

The Youngstown Playhouse
Glenwood Neighbors Mural Initiative, $5,000

Warren Interfaith Community Action Committee
Warren Interfaith Park and Southeast Community, $1,000

Warren City Schools – Jefferson PK-2 Pod
Jefferson Reaching for the Stars, $5,000

West Side Community Center, Youngstown
Science Fair 2013, $4,382

Westside Citizens Coalition, Youngstown
Oakwood Gardens, $4,171

Youngstown City Schools – East High School
East High School Panthers Garden Club, $3,400

Youngstown City Schools – Youngstown After School Alliance
YAA Service Learning Projects, $809