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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spirit of St. Louis Women's Fund Grants \$209,333 to 12 Local Nonprofits

St. Louis, May 23—The Spirit of St. Louis Women's Fund (SOS) is making grants today totaling \$209,333 to twelve nonprofit organizations at their annual Spirit Awards event. Board president Amy Inman said, "As a collective giving grant maker, we are proud to support nonprofits working to support critical needs in St. Louis."

The organizations and the grant amounts are:

Second year of a three-year grant:

Lydia's House, \$33,333 installment of \$100,000 total grant to train unemployed, financially struggling women for work in the culinary field, giving them immediate income and security.

One-year grants:

Annie's Hope, \$17,500 to offer free, in-school support services to disadvantaged children grieving the death of someone significant.

City Greens Market, \$24,000 to revive a mobile vegetable market to reach elderly residents and disadvantaged families from low-income neighborhoods.

Crime Victim Advocacy Center, \$10,000 supports and expands a free mental health counseling program focusing on women and children who are victims of crime.

GlobalHack, Inc., \$20,000 to increase the number of youth interested in technology careers through a summer camp program with a focus on under-represented backgrounds, including girls, minorities, and individuals with disabilities.

Home Sweet Home, \$10,000 to assist in providing expanded warehouse space for basic household furnishings to help families experiencing poverty and toxic stress.

Home Works! The Teacher Home Visit Program, \$20,000 to improve the overall learning experience for underperforming students by providing classroom teacher home visits.

iFM Community Medicine, \$14,000 to provide a school-based nurse practitioner to offer free vaccinations and general healthcare to recent immigrant and refugee children.

Lift for Life Gym, \$10,000 to support a program for low-income school children which includes sports, fitness, nutrition and education classes after school and during the summer.

Magdalene St. Louis, \$20,000 to supports women who have survived abuse, sexual exploitation, and addiction by providing a workplace dedicated to teaching sustainable job skills and financial literacy.

The SoulFishers Ministries, \$18,000 to expand a program for women involved with the criminal justice system by providing housing and services that support successful re-entry to a life free from drugs, alcohol and criminal activity.

Throwing and Growing Foundation, \$12,500 to provide a free character development program for economically disadvantaged girls to enhance overall mental and physical well-being and improve self-esteem.

The **Girls Giving Fund**, the youth initiative of the Spirit of St. Louis Women's Fund, involved 30 girls from eight area high schools, and awarded \$3,100 in grants this year. These include: \$1600 to the **Center for Social Empowerment** to fund STEM learning resources as well as food supplies for their Saturday Academy. **Earth Dance Farms** received \$500 to enable youth to explore an organic farm in the heart of Ferguson. The **Ferguson Youth Initiative's** \$1000 will fund an entrepreneurial program for middle school youth.

The Spirit of St. Louis Women's Fund is the largest all-volunteer women's collective giving and grant-making network in St. Louis. With a theme of "giving together, turning good into greater good," SOS members have invested almost \$2.3 million in the St. Louis region since 2007. A component fund of the Saint Louis Community Foundation, SOS receives administrative and technical support from the foundation staff.

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