Northwestern Mutual Committed to Improving Milwaukee Education with $1.6 Million in Grants

Funding will support collaborative education programs

MILWAUKEE, Sept. 8, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Access to a quality education lays the groundwork for a strong community. As part of its commitment to its hometown of Milwaukee, Northwestern Mutual, through its Foundation, today is announcing $1.6 million in grants to educational programs across the city.

"The future of our city is dependent on the quality of education we provide our youth," said John Schlifske, chairman and CEO of Northwestern Mutual. "A well-educated community builds the foundation for a skilled and responsible workforce."

These grants support programs that display measurable impact and create positive change within the community, with an emphasis on third-grade reading proficiency as well as college and career readiness. Additionally, Northwestern Mutual fosters the pursuit of higher education by supporting post-secondary education scholarships, specifically for students in the Amani, Metcalfe Park and Muskego Way neighborhoods, which the company supports.

"Quality education is one of the best tools we can provide our children to help prepare them for success," said Eric Christophersen, president, Northwestern Mutual Foundation. "We support a strategy that works alongside community members, educators and leaders to ensure this success transcends the classroom into our community."

SPOTLIGHT: SaintA's *Teacher Capacity: Assessing the Impact* Program

This year, one of the Foundation's new initiatives is SaintA's *Teacher Capacity: Assessing the Impact* program. Education leaders recognize that one significant barrier to providing optimal education is exposure to traumatic events that physically or emotionally cause harm and adversity, which can ultimately have a detrimental effect on students' developing brains. Students who struggle with these experiences require more time and attention from teachers. The *Teacher Capacity: Assessing the Impact* program, trains education staff on the core concepts of brain science, teacher capacity, secondary trauma and trauma sensitive education in order to not only better address the learning needs of children affected by trauma but also the needs of teachers and other school staff who work with these students.

The Northwestern Mutual Foundation's education strategy is backed by national and local data that urges community collaboration in schools. Milwaukee consistently ranks as one of the lowest performing cities in third-grade literacy, with only 16 percent of third-graders reading at a proficient level*, a statistic that is driving the foundation's commitment to Milwaukee education.

2016 Education Grant Recipients

Organization	**Program**
Reading Foundations and Applications	
Arts @ Large	Building Professional Learning Communities to Advance Literacy
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee	SPARK Early Literacy
COA Youth & Family Centers	Burke Early Education Center Literacy Programming in Amani
First Stage Milwaukee	Literacy Plus
Marquette University	Milwaukee Summer Reading Project 2016
Milwaukee College Preparatory School	Literacy Coaching
Milwaukee Public Library	Super Reader Summer Reading Program
Next Door Foundation	Multi-Sensory Language and Literacy

Penfield Children's Center	Early Education and Care
St. Marcus Lutheran School	Literacy Support
SHARP Literacy Inc.	Building Elementary School Literacy Skills
United Community Center	Leyendo Juntos (Reading Together)
Culture & Climate	
City Year Milwaukee	City Year Milwaukee's Whole School, Whole Child
Schools That Can Milwaukee, Inc.	Improving third-grade reading scores through whole-school transformation
Teach For America-Milwaukee	Teach For America-Milwaukee
Community Collaboration	
Milwaukee Succeeds	Cradle to Career Collective Impact Model
Milwaukee Public Schools	5-in-1 Collaborative at Carver Academy
The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System on behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	5-in-1 Collaborative at Carver Academy
Innovation / Replication	
MPS Reimagining High Schools	Web-based instructional writing program
Carmen – Pulaski Partnership	Project Co-Director and Evaluator
Partners Advancing Values in Education	PAVE Community Schools Initiative
SaintA	Teacher Capacity: Assessing the Impact

In addition to strengthening Milwaukee education, Northwestern Mutual is committed to improving the lives of local children and families in need through its neighborhoods portfolio, making Milwaukee a great place to live, work and play through its destinations portfolio and curing childhood cancer.

*Milwaukee Succeeds 2015 Annual Milestone Report

About Northwestern Mutual Foundation
The mission of the Northwestern Mutual Foundation is to improve the lives of children and families in need. The Foundation has given more than $300 million since its inception in 1992 and is designed to create lasting impact in the communities where the company's employees and financial representatives live and work. We accomplish this by combining financial support, volunteerism, thought leadership and convening community partners to deliver the best outcomes. Our efforts are focused nationally on curing childhood cancer, and locally on education, neighborhoods and making our hometown of Milwaukee a great destination.

About Northwestern Mutual
Northwestern Mutual has been helping families and businesses achieve financial security for nearly 160 years. Our financial representatives build relationships with clients through a distinctive planning approach that integrates risk management with wealth accumulation, preservation and distribution. With $238.5 billion in assets, $27.9 billion in revenues and more than $1.6 trillion worth of life insurance protection in force, Northwestern Mutual delivers financial security to more than 4.4 million people who rely on us for insurance and investment solutions, including life, disability income and long-term care insurance; annuities; trust services; mutual funds; and investment advisory products and services. Northwestern Mutual ranks 100 on the 2016 FORTUNE 500, and is recognized by FORTUNE as one of the "World's Most Admired" life insurance companies in 2016.

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