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Deaconess seeks $250,000 in Community Investment Opportunities
Foundation providing low-interest capital for non-profit organizations

St. Louis, MO (August 31, 2018) – Deaconess Foundation is accepting applications for mission-related investment opportunities of up to $250,000. The funding is open to social impact organizations, including service providers, advocacy groups, community development financial institutions (CDFIs), credit unions, nonprofit financial intermediaries and social enterprises. The intent is to expand access to financial capital, thus building community capacity, while yielding dividends to support the Foundation’s mission, strengthening the region’s capability to achieve positive outcomes for children.

“We want to leverage all our assets including the investment portfolio to achieve equitable outcomes for children and youth,” said Rev. Starsky Wilson, Deaconess Foundation president and CEO. “By making low-interest capital available to community organizations we hope to increase economic mobility for families, advance community development through social capital projects and creatively resource innovative ideas.”

Recognizing that significant gaps in civic infrastructure, resources and power inhibit the health and well-being of children and families in the St. Louis region, Deaconess makes grants and investments with diverse partners to catalyze sustainable actions for the region’s most vulnerable children and youth. Mission-related investments are a part of Deaconess’ commitment to socially responsible investing. Their investment policy calls for more than $1 million in community investments.

The strategy is not new for Deaconess Foundation. Current investment partners include Justine Petersen and IFF. Justine Petersen is a community development financial institution, which provides alternatives to payday loans, credit building, homeownership and small business service. IFF is a mission-driven lender, real estate consultant, and developer that helps communities thrive by creating opportunities for low-income communities and people with disabilities.

To be selected for Deaconess Foundation’s mission-related investments, organizations must demonstrate:
- proposed use of capital aligned with Deaconess policy priorities to advance well-being for metropolitan St. Louis children and families;
- organizational strength and readiness for borrowing;
- a track record of lending or investment; and
- a clear business model for repayment of the investment.

More information about the investment opportunity, is available here. Applications will be available September 1, 2018 at www.deaconess.org and are due October 19, 2018.

Deaconess Foundation invests in the well-being of children, engages our region around the plight of youth, and advocates for change. The Foundation envisions a community that values the health and well-being
of all children and gives priority attention to the most vulnerable. Deaconess believes this community can only exist if the allocation of power and distribution of resources, benefits, opportunities and burdens are not predictable, nor determinable by race. To accomplish this vision, Deaconess pursues child well-being through public policy and racial equity.

A ministry of the United Church of Christ, Deaconess has invested more than $80 million to improve the health of the St. Louis community since 1998 and believes healthy, hope-filled futures for children benefit the entire region. The Foundation’s grantmaking footprint includes St. Louis, St. Louis, Jefferson, St. Charles and Franklin Counties in Missouri and Madison, St. Clair and Monroe Counties in Illinois.

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