



FOELLINGER FOUNDATION

Contact: Cheryl Taylor, Foellinger Foundation, 422-2900
Steve Cebalt, 416-0222 (work)

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Foellinger Foundation announces \$1.5 million in grants to the community to celebrate its 50th anniversary and benefit Allen County residents

Fort Wayne, August 27, 2008 – With actions that could provide further momentum for downtown development and support creative leadership in dozens of nonprofit organizations, the Foellinger Foundation today announced grants to commemorate the Foundation’s history and celebrate its future. It was on this day exactly 50 years ago that the Foellinger family incorporated the Foundation that has since provided over \$130 million in grants to benefit Allen County residents. The Foundation today awarded a total of \$1.5 million to 23 area organizations. The Foundation’s vision with these gifts was to make a difference in a way that enables the memory of the Foellinger family to live on into the future. The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department received \$1 million to be used for capital improvements to the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory and the Foellinger Outdoor Theatre. Separately, special 50th anniversary Inspire Grants were awarded to 22 nonprofits with grants totaling a half-million dollars.

Background Information on the Grants

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory and the Foellinger Outdoor Theatre

The \$1 million capital grant to the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department will be used to ensure that the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory and Foellinger Outdoor Theatre continue to receive the utmost care and be maintained at their world-class standards.

Building the Botanical Conservatory was a perfect way for Helene Foellinger to honor her mother and co-founder of the Foellinger Foundation, Esther, an ardent gardener. Esther had envisioned a botanical conservatory and Helene made it a reality. In 1979, Helene Foellinger partnered with the Frank Freimann Charitable Trust and the Lincoln National Life Foundation to secure the funds to build the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory and operate the facility for years to come. This downtown landmark serves as a lasting memory of the Foellinger family and the bond between Esther and Helene.

The Outdoor Theatre was built in 1949 at the request of Foellinger Foundation co-founder Helene Foellinger in memory of her father, Oscar. The Outdoor Theatre serves as a unique type

of entertainment space – an informal, open-air community gathering and performing area, molded into a grassy hillside in the park.

Barbara Burt, Board Chairman of the Foellinger Foundation, said, “As we celebrate the Foellinger Foundation’s 50th anniversary, we realize how the history of the Foellinger family is interwoven into the history of Allen County. It is the Foundation’s hope that this grant of \$1 million to the community will bring benefits to all Allen County residents.”

Inspiring the Inspirers

“The Inspire Grants, created especially for the Foellinger Foundation’s 50th anniversary, enable the Foundation to honor its founders, Esther and Helene Foellinger, by focusing on the nonprofit leaders of today who strive to provide vision and guidance for the community just as Esther and Helene Foellinger did in the past,” said Foellinger Foundation President Cheryl Taylor.

22 nonprofit organizations in Allen County were awarded Inspire Grants today, with grant amounts totaling a half-million dollars. These grants have two phases: the Inspire Phase and the Action Phase. During the Inspire Phase, leaders will have an opportunity to look beyond their daily duties, to renew their energies and to provide development opportunities for key board and staff leaders. During the Action Phase, the results of this newfound inspiration will be put to work to make their nonprofits stronger.

Taylor said, “Based on 50 years of experience, the Foellinger Foundation has learned that investing in strong leaders is among the most effective long-term uses of foundation grants. A lot has changed in the last 50 years, but the need for strong leadership in our community is eternal, and these grants are intended to support and strengthen the leaders of today to help pave the way for Allen County’s future.”

See attached sheet for a list of recipients of the Inspire Grants.

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About the Foellinger Foundation:

The Foellinger Foundation, Inc. is a private charitable foundation created in 1958 by Helene R. Foellinger, *The News-Sentinel* publisher from 1936 to 1980, and Esther A. Foellinger, her mother.

2008 Inspire Grantees

AIDS Task Force

American Red Cross of Northeast Indiana

ARCH

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana

Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana

Catholic Charities

Center for Nonviolence

Early Childhood Alliance

Embassy Theatre Foundation

Fort Wayne Civic Theatre

Fort Wayne Dance Collective

Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra

Fort Wayne Rescue Mission Ministries

Fort Wayne Urban League

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Lifeline Youth and Family Services

Mustard Seed Furniture Bank

Northeast Indiana Innovation Center

The Salvation Army

Turnstone Center for Disabled Children and Adults

Wellspring Interfaith Social Services

YWCA