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**Subject: CFO awards grants to Springfield-Greene County educators for classroom needs**

**Contact: Bridget Dierks, CFO, [bdierks@cfozarks.org](mailto:bdierks@cfozarks.org); or Louise Knauer, CFO, [lknauer@cfozarks.org](mailto:lknauer@cfozarks.org); (417) 864-6199**

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks has awarded eight grants totaling \$19,574.15 to nine Springfield-Greene County schools to address needs and fund projects that will enhance students' learning opportunities.

The grants are made possible by donors who have made gifts that are unrestricted or designated for educational purposes. The successful proposals were selected by a volunteer grant committee comprised of Mike Brothers, Julie Brown, Shara Cash, Julie Leeth and Lisa Spragg.

"These grants help supplement and enhance the public funds available for schools," said Bridget Dierks, the CFO's Vice President of Programs. "Public funds often aren't available for the 'extras,' such as these innovative project ideas from teachers, that can create dynamic learning opportunities."

This year's grants were awarded to:

- **Arc of the Ozarks and Rivendale Institute of Learning, Springfield:** \$1,842 for the "Rivendale Snack Cart" to provide pre-vocational and vocational experiences in a natural environment to students with autism.
- **Field Elementary School, Springfield:** \$2,500 to purchase the Literacy Footprints kit for a first-grade classroom to help students become life-long readers.
- **Kickapoo High School, Springfield:** \$2,500 to teach American Sign Language to a pilot class and program communications devices for severely disabled students to expand communication across all students and staff.
- **Republic Middle School:** \$2,500 for "Physical Therapy Toy Challenge" where students will work in groups to design and construct toys and equipment to use in physical education and special education classes.
- **Sherwood Elementary School, Springfield:** \$1,600 to create two project-based learning units for 100 fourth-grade students to take two field trips and install a garden at the school.
- **Westport Middle School, Springfield:** \$2,500 to provide financial assistance for families to purchase accident protection for students' Chromebooks.
- **Wilder Elementary, Springfield:** \$2,500 for "Wilder Kindergarten Theatre Integration," which will invite instructors from Springfield Little Theatre to teach kindergarten students.

- **Willard Intermediate North School:** \$1,132.15 for “Growing the Essentials,” which will use a tower garden to learn science skills and grow food, including teaching alternative gardening methods to students and community members.
- **Willard Special Services:** \$2,500 for “A Sensory Path – Enhancing Student Development through Movement,” which will create a sensory path at Willard Central Elementary to help all students with movement and enhance motor, sensory processing, academic growth and attention to task.

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks is a regional public charitable foundation established in 1973 that provides asset and resource development, grantmaking and public leadership through a network of donors, 49 affiliate foundations and some 600 nonprofit partners across central and southern Missouri.

**Community Foundation of the Ozarks**

**425 E. Trafficway**

**Springfield, MO, 65806**

**(417) 864-6199**

**Fax (417) 864-8344**

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