

Otto Bremer Foundation

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The Otto Bremer Foundation Provides \$3 Million to Help Community Organizations Continue to Meet Emergency Needs

The supplemental emergency funding is a response to ongoing economic challenges and based on lessons from 81 community organizations

ST. PAUL, November 29, 2010—The Otto Bremer Foundation today announced 80 Bremer Emergency Fund supplemental grants totaling approximately \$3 million (see grants list below). The grants will enable community organizations in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin to continue providing emergency financial assistance to families and individuals who are struggling with basic needs such as food, warm and stable housing, health care, and reliable transportation.

The current Otto Bremer Foundation grants supplement initial funding provided to these organizations in January 2009. At that time, 81 organizations received a total of approximately \$4.2 million via the Bremer Emergency Fund, a joint response by the Foundation and Bremer Bank to the difficult economic situation. An evaluation of the impact of those initial grants led to the Foundation's decision to provide supplemental funding to organizations in the original group that are able to continue providing emergency assistance and follow-up services.

“These supplemental grants are made by the Otto Bremer Foundation in recognition of the continuing economic challenges,” said William Lipschultz, Foundation trustee. “We learned from the initial Bremer Emergency Fund grants that timely financial assistance can enable individuals and families to meet emergency needs and retain housing or jobs. Then, once a crisis is averted, people are in a better position to access community programs that can help them achieve long-term stability.”

The Foundation's emergency funding honors the legacy and vision of Foundation founder Otto Bremer, who believed that people could survive and flourish if they had help at critical times. While the Foundation is no longer accepting Emergency Fund applications, other Foundation funding is ongoing. Information about the Foundation's grantmaking programs and application guidelines are available at www.ottobremer.org.

Report on Impact of Initial Bremer Emergency Fund Grants

The Foundation is today releasing a report—*The Bremer Emergency Fund: Helping Individuals and Families Navigate Crisis*—outlining the impact of the initial emergency fund grants as well as ongoing needs identified by the 81 community organizations. Based on detailed grantee feedback, the report notes:

- *Impact on individuals and families.* Many individuals and families served with BEF funds remain in their homes with electricity, heat, and water. BEF funds enabled many to retain existing employment or take on a new job and provided resources to pay for food, health care, and necessary home repairs, among other basic needs. BEF-supported assistance also provided some intangible but important benefits, including a sense of hope and dignity, improved well-being,

and enhanced connection to the community. By meeting short-term needs, the Bremer Emergency Fund made it possible for many clients to concentrate on long-term solutions.

- *Impact on organizations.* Participation in the Bremer Emergency Fund led to many positive impacts for participating organizations, including the ability to serve more clients, increased public awareness of the organization and its services, and new collaborations with other community agencies. BEF also led to significant learning for those organizations, which in turn led to changed practices and systems and, sometimes, new services.
- *Impact on communities.* The Bremer Emergency Fund strengthened community stability by helping people remain in their homes and contributed to local economies through the funds disbursed.
- *Overall impact.* The Bremer Emergency Fund (BEF) provided a timely, flexible, and effective response to deteriorating financial conditions facing individuals and families in communities served by the Otto Bremer Foundation.
- *Ongoing needs.* The BEF experience also highlighted serious ongoing issues. Emergency needs persist as the economy is slow to recover. Service providers face a scarcity of funding. Foreclosures, difficulty in finding affordable rental units, and other housing issues place many households in unstable situations. Transportation issues can provide an obstacle to finding and retaining a job. And seniors on fixed incomes face increased financial strains in providing homes for children and grandchildren. The continuing instability and stress experienced by many have also led to an increase in violence and health and mental health issues.

A copy of the full report can be found on the Foundation's website at www.ottobremer.org.

Bremer Emergency Fund Grants

The following organizations are receiving a one-year supplemental Bremer Emergency Fund grant to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families.

MINNESOTA

The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, \$23,250
Bi-County Community Action Programs, Inc., Bemidji, \$26,400
Cass Lake/Bena Family Council, Cass Lake, \$99,800
Catholic Charities, Minneapolis, \$30,990
Central Minnesota Community Foundation, St. Cloud, \$100,000
Children's Home Society and Family Services, St. Paul, \$12,400
Church of St. Joan of Arc, Minneapolis, \$6,200
CLUES, Chicanos Latinos Unidos en Servicio, St. Paul, \$12,400
Community Action for Suburban Hennepin, St. Louis Park, \$22,103
Community Action Partnership of Ramsey Washington Counties, St. Paul, \$31,000
Dakota County Community Services, West St. Paul, \$31,000
Face to Face Health and Counseling Service, Inc., St. Paul, \$7,750
Hmong American Partnership, St. Paul, \$15,500
Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners, Wayzata, \$6,200
Jewish Family Service of St. Paul, St. Paul, \$7,750
Keystone Community Services, St. Paul, \$17,050
KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc., Grand Rapids, \$20,000
Mahube Community Council, Inc., Head Start Program, Detroit Lakes, \$100,000
Merrick Community Services, St. Paul, \$12,400
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, Minneapolis, \$7,750

Neighbors, Inc., South St. Paul, \$6,200
NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center, Inc., Minneapolis, \$15,500
Otter Tail-Wadena Community Action Council, Inc., New York Mills, \$50,000
Pillager Family Council, Pillager, \$20,000
Pillsbury United Communities, Inc., Minneapolis, \$26,350
Pine River/Backus Family Council, Pine River, \$15,000
Pope County Human Services, Glenwood, \$30,000
Red Lake Homeless Shelter, Inc., Red Lake, \$75,175
Sabathani Community Center, Inc., Minneapolis, \$10,850
The Saint Paul Foundation, St. Paul, \$31,000
The Salvation Army, Brainerd Corps, Brainerd, \$20,000 (Crow Wing County)
The Salvation Army, Fergus Falls Corps, Fergus Falls, \$35,000
The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$31,000 (Metro counties, including Sherburne, Wright, and Chisago Counties)
The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$6,000 (Aitkin County)
The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$49,000 (Alexandria, Douglas County)
The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$5,000 (Crookston, Polk County)
The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$17,000 (Detroit Lakes, Becker County)
The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$15,000 (Marshall, Lyon County)
The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$20,000 (Milaca, Princeton, Mille Lacs County)
The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$35,000 (Morris, Stevens County)
The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$6,000 (Redwood Falls, Redwood County)
The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$15,000 (Starbuck, Pope County)
The Salvation Army, St. Cloud Corps, St. Cloud, \$25,000
The Salvation Army, Willmar Corps, Willmar, \$50,000
Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency, Shakopee, \$12,400
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Inc., St. Paul, \$15,810
St. Louis Park Emergency Program, St. Louis Park, \$31,000
St. Stephen's Human Services, Inc., Minneapolis, \$24,800
Tri-County Community Action Program, Inc., Little Falls, \$48,300
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., Crookston, \$100,000
Urban Partnership and Community Development Center, St. Paul, \$15,577
Valley Outreach, Stillwater, \$17,856
West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc., Elbow Lake, \$100,000
Western Community Action, Inc., Marshall, \$100,000
White Earth Reservation Tribal Council, White Earth, \$99,923
Wilkin County Family Service Agency, Breckenridge, \$33,800
YWCA of St. Paul, St. Paul, \$15,500

NORTH DAKOTA

Community Action Partnership Minot Region, Minot, \$43,000
Community Violence Intervention Center, Inc., Grand Forks, \$3,500
Dakota Prairie Community Action Agency, Devils Lake, \$59,563
Northlands Rescue Mission, Grand Forks, \$5,000
Red River Valley Community Action, Grand Forks, \$60,000
Richland County, Social Services, Wahpeton, \$30,000
The Salvation Army, Fargo/Moorhead, Fargo, \$25,000 (Cass, Clay County)
The Salvation Army, Grand Forks, \$60,000
The Salvation Army, Minot, \$30,000

The Salvation Army, Roseville, \$100,000 (Benson, Foster, McLean, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Richland, Start, and Walsh Counties)
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Fargo, \$25,000
Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Grand Forks, Grand Forks, \$70,000
Southeastern North Dakota Community Action Agency, Fargo, \$100,000
Village Family Service Center, Fargo, \$100,000

WISCONSIN

Bayfield County, Washburn, \$25,000
Indianhead Community Action Agency, Ladysmith, \$58,000
Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Governing Board, Hayward, \$10,000
Stepping Stones of Dunn County, Inc., Menomonie, \$50,000
The Salvation Army, Balsam Lake, \$70,000 (Polk County)
The Salvation Army, Balsam Lake, \$100,000 (St. Croix County)
The Salvation Army, Amery, \$30,000 (Washburn County)
The Salvation Army, Amery, \$30,000 (Ashland and Bayfield Counties)
West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency, Inc., Glenwood City, \$100,000

About the Otto Bremer Foundation

Created in 1944, the Otto Bremer Foundation assists people in achieving full economic, civic, and social participation in and for the betterment of their communities. The Foundation's work to help build and maintain vibrant communities is based on the vision and legacy of Otto Bremer, whose commitment to the Bremer Bank communities and to those working to make their lives better continues to guide the Foundation.

The Otto Bremer Foundation owns a majority share of Bremer Bank, and a portion of the bank's profits comes to the Foundation as dividends, enabling the Foundation to invest back in the bank communities in the form of grants and program-related investments. In 2009, the Foundation provided approximately \$23.5 million in grants and program-related investments. Visit www.ottobremer.org for more information about the Foundation and its programs.

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