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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPACT 100 CHICAGO TO AWARD \$142,000 IN GRANTS TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

Chicago, IL – Feb. 2012 - Impact 100 Chicago, a philanthropic women’s organization, will award \$142,000 in grants to Chicago-area charitable organizations on June 12, 2012 at its 2nd annual Grant Award Celebration. By pooling the contributions of its individual members, Impact 100 Chicago can once again provide high-impact grants that reach under-served populations and highlight unmet needs in the Chicagoland area.

Representing the combined giving of 142 women, the grant funding for 2012 is a 13% increase over last year. “It is a great way to use the power of collective funding for the relatively smaller amount that each individual gives,” stated president and co-founder Marybeth Lernihan. “Our members have the opportunity to be educated about the work the nonprofits are doing in our community,” she added.

In a two-step grant process, initial Letters of Inquiry are submitted in one of five focus areas: Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Family and Health & Wellness. These are examined by the focus area committees and narrowed to those deemed suitable for submitting full grant applications. Members then closely scrutinize the grant applications, examine financial reports and make site visits. A finalist is chosen in each focus area and the finalists present their appeal to the entire membership at the Grant Award Celebration. Each member votes to decide the awarding of the \$100,000 grant and smaller finalist grants. The 2011 recipients were Chicago Lights Urban Farm for the \$100,000 grant which will provide a hard-shell greenhouse in the Cabrini-Green area; and the finalists each receiving \$6500 operating grants were Almost Home Kids, the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund and the St. Martin de Porres House of Hope.

Impact 100 Chicago is a 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to award membership funded transformational grants to local nonprofit organizations while empowering women to improve lives through philanthropy. For more information, please visit www.impact100chicago.org.

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