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IMPACT 100 CHICAGO AWARDS $100,000 GRANT TO A SAFE PLACE

Chicago, IL – June, 2012 - Impact 100 Chicago, a women’s philanthropic organization, awarded $142,000 in grants to four Chicago-area nonprofit organizations on June 12, 2012 at its annual Grant Award Celebration. A Safe Place, a Lake County-based women and children’s shelter was voted by the membership to receive the annual $100,000 grant to fund their new mentoring program to help children who witness domestic violence and the construction of a new playground at the shelter. Noelle Moore, Interim Executive Director and Director of Development for A Safe Place, tearfully thanked IMPACT 100 CHICAGO members stating, “This means so much to all the children who will be impacted by your generosity.”

Four finalist nonprofit organizations presented their proposed projects to the over 150 members and guests who attended the gala celebration at Arlington Park. Members then cast their votes to decide the awarding of the $100,000 grant, and the recipients were announced at the end of the evening. The three other finalist organizations each received a $14,000 grant to help fund their operating costs and Wish Lists. These organizations included Family Health Partnership Clinic, Woodstock; Hyde Park Neighborhood Club, Chicago; and the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras.

By pooling the contributions of its members, Impact 100 Chicago provides high-impact grants that reach under-served populations and highlights unmet needs in the Chicago land area. Marybeth Lernihan, president and co-founder, stated, “We’re able to do much more collectively than we would if we each donated $1,000 to an organization of our choice.” The grant funding for 2012 represents a 13% increase over last year. “Our members have the opportunity to be educated about the work the nonprofits are doing in our community,” Lernihan added. Prior to the celebratory evening, over 60 members of Impact 100 Chicago volunteered their time to serve on focus area and financial review committees which evaluated the grant proposals, examined financial reporting and conducted site visits to evaluate each of the nonprofit organizations selected as semifinalists.

Impact 100 Chicago is a 501(c)(3) public nonprofit 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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