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CONTACT:

Jennifer Frighetto, jennifer@frighettocommunications.com, 847.702.5304

**IMPACT 100 CHICAGO AWARDS \$652,000 TO
CHICAGO AREA NONPROFITS**

Palatine, Ill., June 30, 2017 – Impact 100 Chicago, a women’s philanthropic organization, awarded \$652,000 to 11 Chicago area nonprofit finalists, including six individual \$100,000 Impact grants and five merit awards. The awards were presented at Impact 100 Chicago’s annual Grant Award Celebrations in May and June.

More than 200 area nonprofits applied for an Impact 100 Chicago grant during the 2016-2017 grant cycle. Impact 100 Chicago members—women from across the city and suburbs— pool their \$1,000 membership donations and vote to select the \$100,000 Impact grant winners. Since its inception in 2010, Impact 100 Chicago has awarded more than \$2.5 million in high impact grants that have a transformative effect on the receiving organizations and those they serve.

The six \$100,000 Impact grants were awarded to:

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC) is a community-based, nonprofit organization serving a working class neighborhood on Chicago's Southwest side. BPNC's mission is to create a safer community, improve the learning environment at public schools, preserve affordable housing, provide a voice for youth, protect immigrant rights, promote gender equality, and end all forms of violence.

Cabrini Green Legal Aid

Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) provides criminal and civil legal services, integrated with social work support, to individuals facing barriers stemming from an encounter with the criminal justice system. The organization provides services in areas of acute need, including criminal records relief, defense, family and housing law.

CASA of Cook County

CASA of Cook County speaks up in court for children who have experienced abuse and neglect and ensures that children live in safe, permanent homes. CASA of Cook County's trained volunteers research cases and provide valuable information to the court. Judges rely on this additional information to make the best decisions about children's futures. CASA dedicates one volunteer advocate to champion one child, ensuring that the child's voice is present in court even if the child is not.

Chicago Debate Commission

The Chicago Debate Commission (CDC) reaches high school and middle school students from throughout the city of Chicago, from all kinds of schools, from all racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, and from across the academic spectrum — including those who start school as high performers and those who start with academic challenges. The debate program advances their skills and college readiness — and transforms their lives. The Chicago Debate Commission has grown into the largest and most successful of the 22 urban debate leagues around the country, serving approximately 1,300 students each year from 60-70 schools.

Chicago House and Social Service Agency

Chicago House and Social Service Agency serves individuals and families who are disenfranchised by HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ marginalization, poverty, homelessness, and/or gender nonconformity by providing housing, employment services, medical linkage and retention services, HIV prevention services, legal services, and other supportive programs.

The People's Music School

The People's Music School delivers access to the benefits of high-quality, tuition-free music education. Through intensive instruction and performance, students achieve excellence in music that transfers to other areas in life. They grow musically, socially, emotionally and intellectually, and develop a foundation of responsibility, self-esteem, resilience and purpose.

Merit awards were presented to [Eversight Illinois](#), [Juvenile Protective Association](#), [Logan Square Neighborhood Association](#), [Evanston Scholars](#) and [Maywood Fine Arts Association](#).

“To say we are impressed by the work these nonprofits are doing to better the lives of disadvantaged individuals in our Chicagoland communities is an understatement,” said Michele Polvere, board chair, Impact 100 Chicago and one of the organization's founders. “We congratulate all of the Impact grant and merit award winners and look forward to partnering with them to turn their projects into reality.”

Women interested in learning more about Impact 100 Chicago should visit www.impact100chicago.org or contact info@impact100chicago.org. Nonprofits interested in applying for an Impact grant during the 2017-2018 cycle can view more about our process at <http://www.impact100chicago.org/apply-for-a-grant/about-our-grant/>. Nonprofit letters of inquiry will be accepted in fall 2017.

About Impact 100 Chicago

Impact 100 Chicago is a 501(c)(3) all volunteer, women's philanthropic nonprofit that awards transformational grants to local nonprofits while empowering women to improve lives through philanthropy. For more information visit www.impact100chicago.org.

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