

For Immediate Release

## **Wean Foundation Issues March Grants**

### **Latest round of giving totals more than \$1 million dollars**

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*March 30, 2009/Warren-* The Raymond John Wean Foundation of Warren, Ohio announces its latest round of philanthropic giving to Mahoning Valley nonprofit organizations.

The “March grants”—as they are collectively known—total \$ 1,033,325. In keeping with the Wean Foundation’s priorities and philosophies, the bulk of the giving was directed toward early childhood development initiatives, grass-root volunteer efforts and capacity building for nonprofits that have demonstrated the ability to effect change in the most underserved neighborhoods in the greater Youngstown/Warren area.

The largest of the “March grants”—\$500,000 was awarded to the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative. The Wean Foundation was instrumental in the MVOC’s founding less than one year ago...and, already, the organization has been highly effective in drawing public attention and funding to the problem of rampant blight in Valley cities.

The Raymond John Wean Foundation makes grants four times a year based on a competitive application process. These grants go exclusively to nonprofits that work for the betterment of the Mahoning Valley.

The Wean Foundation was started in 1949 by industrialist Raymond John “Jack” Wean, who headquartered his pioneering rolled steel operations in Warren. Gordon B. Wean, grandson of the founder, is the current chairman of the Wean Foundation Board of Directors. Since its inception, the Foundation has given away more than \$90 million dollars in grants, with annual disbursements today averaging around \$3.5 million dollars.

## MARCH GRANTS:

As part of its focus on Early Childhood Development, the Foundation approved a grant to the **Center for Community Solutions**. The group will receive a grant of \$40,000 towards building a long-term commitment to quality early childhood development in Ohio by providing research and communications.

A grant of \$176,125 over three years will provide funding for **Community Solutions Association** to provide Project KIND to all kindergarten children in Warren City Schools. Project KIND is an educational life skills program that teaches social and behavioral skills.

The Foundation has awarded a grant of \$32,000 to **HandsOn Volunteer Network**, formerly Volunteer Services Association. The funding will support efforts to build stronger volunteer practices within the Mahoning Valley region, with a focus on training and orientation of volunteer leaders.

**Hope House Visitation Center** is the recipient of an \$11,400 grant to develop a strategic plan for continued financial and programmatic sustainability. The Center provides supervised visitation in Mahoning County for children and parents as a result of divorce, separation, or family violence issues.

A group focused on regional economic development called **Jumpstart** will receive \$100,000 over two years to support the development of minority entrepreneurs in the Mahoning Valley.

In support of continued programming in the urban districts of Youngstown and Warren, **Junior Achievement Mahoning Valley** will receive \$12,800. An existing part-time manager will work directly with both school districts.

The **Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative** will receive \$500,000 to support its work to engage neighborhood residents. The Foundation recognized the group's record of success over the past year in working with residents and groups in Warren and Youngstown.