

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Wean Foundation continues community focus with recent round of grants**

*Warren, February 8, 2010* — The Raymond John Wean Foundation, in an effort to increase the capacity for change in the Valley, has awarded more than \$100,000 in grants to neighborhood organizations working to change the communities in which they live.

With its most recent round of grantmaking, the Neighborhood SUCCESS Grants Program continues its support of small community development projects that will expand resident participation and leadership, encourage communication among residents, and/or build on the resources that exist in the community.

One organizing receiving funding this year is L.O.S.S. (Living withOut Someone Special) Support Group at Jefferson Elementary in Warren. The program received \$3,149 from the Foundation to provide developmentally appropriate support groups for children who have experienced the death, separation, or incarceration of a loved one. This project is designed to provide children with a safe, supportive environment for them to work through their feelings of loss and grief, and to learn more effective coping skills and behaviors.

Another organization that received support to continue its work in Youngstown is the Idora Neighborhood Association. The groups received a \$2,000 grant for the Idora Mural Project. The mural project will reflect the history and character of the Idora neighborhood and with its design and implementation, the Association hopes to bring new life to the Idora Neighborhood.

A complete list of grantees is attached. For more information, please contact Jennifer Roller at 330-394-3203.

### **About The Raymond John Wean Foundation**

The Raymond John Wean Foundation was created by Warren industrialist Raymond John “Jack” Wean in 1949 with assets and annually gives approximately \$3.5 million to nonprofit organizations with a majority of those funds earmarked for nonprofits in Mahoning and Trumbull Counties.

The mission of The Raymond John Wean Foundation is to enhance the community well-being and vitality in the Mahoning Valley through grant making, convening, advocating and providing leadership with a focus on economically disadvantaged people and neighborhoods. Please visit [www.rjweanfdn.org](http://www.rjweanfdn.org) to learn more about the Foundation.

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## **Warren Grantees**

Beatitude House, Neighborhood Outreach After-School Program for Children  
\$4,000- To reach out to children in the neighborhood by offering an after-school program of nutritious meals and enrichment activities that will enhance the development of the children in the aspects of body-mind-spirit. Children within walking distance of Beatitude House will be invited to join the children living at Beatitude House in the following ways: beginning training in karate; music education; and art classes.

Dandee's Lion of the Field Ministry, Stabilizing the Family  
\$2,650- To provide stable housing, employment, linkage with local agencies, counseling, and support to homeless women and men recovering from substance abuse.

Deliverance Temple of the Apostolic Faith, Northwest Warren Hunger Initiative  
\$3,264- A site of Gleaners Food Distribution, The Deliverance Temple Church provides both perishable and non perishable food items to anyone expressing need in the Warren Community. Due to limited space, storage and refrigeration is needed. As a result of the wear and tear of setting up and use during the food distribution, funds are also need to buy new tables.

Family Tree Entertainment, Family Gathering Barbeque & Talent Showcase  
\$2,255- To encourage pride in Warren and the use of its resources (Amphitheater) by underrepresented groups. Encourage positive energy among the residents through the BBQ and school supply give away. A talent show will help to bridge perceived gaps in ethnicity and generation.

Mind Body & Soul Asset Development Center, Youth Entrepreneurship Program  
\$3,000- To provide an interactive, hands-on program for students to improve communication skills, apply math to daily living, insight into career options and selection, and increase social competencies.

Nate Adams Boxing, The CHAMPS Program  
\$2,100- To use the sport of boxing to help children learn self-discipline and anger management. Classes teach boxing techniques, physical fitness and nutrition. School grades, attendance and conduct will be monitored and documented. A bi-annual showcase will highlight the talents and skills learned throughout the program.

New Jerusalem Fellowship Mentoring Program, Community Mentoring Program  
\$2,040- To develop social and life skills in youth (ages 7-16) by hands on demonstration and mentoring.

Stop One Place Help is Available, Inc., Funding Direct Assistance to the Needy  
\$2,100- To provide direct monetary assistance along with 'packaging' assistance from other agencies and churches to meet the most urgent client needs. The majority of these requests are utility shut-offs.

#### T.N.R. of Warren, Northwest Warren Feral Cat Blitz

\$2,500- To reduce the over population of feral cats within Northwest Warren - determine problem areas; assign trapper; trap, test for disease; spay/neuter, vaccinate, house during recovery; determine care giver colony; isolate and adopt non feral cats/kittens; re-introduce feral cats back into managed colonies.

#### The Village

\$2,086- A hands on program that functions as a support group for young mothers. Through the activities associated with home economics (cooking, budgeting, sewing, interior decorating) the program will provide classes that will sync valuable parenting skills along with fellowship with other mothers.

#### Warren Athletic Club, Burbank Park Renovation Project

\$2,500- To continue the ongoing renovation and upgrade in facilities at Burbank Park, located on the Northwest Side of Warren. The requested funds will be used to upgrade fencing at Circo Field located in the back of Burbank Park, and will allow the organization to utilize more space at the park without jeopardizing the safety of participating youth.

#### Warren Baseball Club, Volunteer Field Storage Barn

\$3,500- To complete an active project of a storage barn at Volunteer Field. The storage barn will be utilized for field maintenance equipment, team equipment, lockers etc. Volunteer Field is the home of the WGH Raiders high school baseball.

#### Warren Wrestling Club

\$2,200- To promote discipline and to teach young people how to manage aggression. The Club also participates in various community related volunteer activities, including clean-ups, clinics, and wrestling demonstrations. Students also receive assistance applying for athletic scholarships to college.

#### Warren City Schools Jefferson Elementary, L.O.S.S. (Living withOut Someone Special) Support Group

\$3,149, To provide developmentally appropriate support groups for children who have experienced the death, separation, or incarceration of a loved one. This project is designed to provide children with a place to clarify and work through their feelings of loss and grief. The group setting will provide a safe, supportive environment for children to learn more effective coping skills and behaviors.

#### Williamsburg Concerned Neighbor United, Community Beautification

\$2,346- To cut grass regularly and groom hedges on vacant lots and vacant properties to eliminate blight within the community as according to city ordinances. Also to remove snow from the sidewalks to allow easy passage for school children during the winter months.

## **Youngstown Grantees**

Altrusa Club of Youngstown, Ohio Foundation, Inc., 4th Annual Book Fair of Youngstown

\$2,500- To coordinate the 4th annual book fair that includes free educational activities, family fun and free books for children. Author visits and local talent present entertaining programs centered on the love of reading. Special guests include characters from educational television that pose for pictures, story tellers and Youngstown agencies educating the public about their support.

Bennington Block Watch, Bennington Block Watch Community Garden and Beautification Program

\$2,000- To transform three lots on the Eastside of Youngstown to combat urban disinvestment and to provide fresh vegetables for neighborhood residents in the Bennington Block Watch area.

Beulah Baptist Church, Operation Food Basket

\$3,000- Resident Volunteers will continue to gather food and produce and pass out bags once per month to supplement households. Bags will include handouts and information on various financial literacy programs and agencies.

Boulevard Park Block Watch, Beautiful Boulevards of Rush and Euclid

\$2,250- To create a plan for beautification which can be replicated on each of the corridor blocks. This phase will renew the gateway boulevards of Rush and Euclid and clean up the dying and dangerous trees of the curb lawns in the first block of each boulevard. This project will renew the neighborhood identity and the neighborhood spirit of working together.

Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., Mahoning County Community Apiary Project

\$2,500- In partnership with the Ohio State University Extension, Ohio State Beekeepers Assoc., and the Natural Resource Conservation Service this project will customize a successful beekeeping project in Mahoning County with a focus on urban youth. Youth will learn the responsibility of caring for hives of bees, earn the reward of harvesting and help community gardens thrive by providing pollinators in the urban communities.

Ebony Ladies Golf & Youth Foundation, Ebony Ladies Golf Junior Academy (Parto's Pals)

\$2,500- To continue to offer a sixteen-week introductory junior golf program. Students will receive indoor and outdoor golf instruction, golf rules and etiquette, life skills, golf course and range access, transportation and equipment for each individual.

Idora Neighborhood Association, Idora Mural Project

\$2,000- This mural project is directed at bringing new life to the Idora neighborhood with its design and implementation. The goal is to create and hang a mural that reflects the history and character of the Idora neighborhood.

Lincoln Knolls Block Watch, Operation Playground

\$2,500- To rebuild a playground for the neighborhood children, ages 2-18. To provide a playground within walking distance for children in the area where none currently exists.

Market Street Muppets

\$2,500- A community based learning program for middle and high school students, using “black light puppetry” to improve trade and artistic skills. The overall focus of the project is to develop life, vocational, academic, and civic skills.

Northside Knights Organization, Knights Youth Mentorship

\$1,000- Teaching children responsibility for future leadership skills as well as maintaining physical and mental fitness.

Organizacion Civica y Cultural Hispana Americana, Inc., Hispanic/Latino Cultural Education Project

\$2,664- To help students with homework at P. Ross Berry Elementary School. Latino dance classes and cooking instruction will also be conducted. Through 10 sessions, students will also learn about Hispanic/Latino culture.

Pride Youngstown, Gay Pride 2010

\$2,500- To provide a three-day event, an awards reception, a parade and festival and an open community picnic. The festival will encourage diversity by including a variety of people, social service organizations and vendors. Live performers and artists presenting positive images of the LGBT community.

Rising Star Baptist Church, Rising Star Pantry

\$3,500- To continue service to needy people on fixed incomes, with a special focus on disabled seniors who are not typically able to participate. This program includes items that cannot be purchased on the Ohio Direct Card and is available to qualifying city residents.

Sisters of Serenity Mentoring Corp., S.O.S.

\$1,870- Mentoring at-risk girls 11-16 years of age. Enhancing self esteem, participating in community service and cultural enrichment activities to broaden their minds outside of their environment.

Sojourn to the Past

\$2,000- Youngstown city high school students in conjunction with students from California will “Sojourn to the Past” under the leadership of Jeff Steinberg of San Francisco. This is a ten day trip to the Civil Rights sites in the South where they will meet veterans of the Civil Rights Movement.

Southside Ministries, Inc., God's Little Princesses

\$1,260- To teach girls, six to twelve years of age, how to become productive citizens in today's society. The focus is on respect, etiquette, history, self-esteem, imagination and creativity through self expression (poetry) dance and crafts.

St. Patrick's Church of Youngstown, Y-Town Garden Partners

\$2,890- To provide additional soil enhancement to land currently used for a community garden to reach optimum productivity with the hope of making the garden a scenic and inviting 'green space' for local residents.

The Emmanuel Group, Good Shepherd Community Doctors Office

\$2,600- To provide access to quality healthcare as well as education on preventative health measures to all who need it regardless of race, religion, or economic status. These services will be provided voluntarily by community health professionals.

The Partnering Neighbors of Delason, Partnering Neighbors

\$1,900- Over the past 15 + years, various neighbors have individually done their part (2 to 4 lots at a time) with the thought of "collectively, we can do more" the group will purchase equipment and supplies to clean up and maintain empty lots on Delason Avenue between Rosedale and Glenwood and also lawn maintenance for elderly and single mothers during Winter. The group's ultimate goal is to build trust and relations to form a block watch.

Youngstown City Schools - Character Education Ambassadors

\$1,800- High Schools students will team up with the elementary student from the school district to work together on service-learning projects in their schools and the community. The High School students will also go into the classrooms and teach character education lessons to the elementary students.

Youngstown City Schools - East High School, School Pride

\$2,500- Tenth, 11th & 12th graders will mentor twenty ninth grade students. The students will work together on using positive media for the community. They will use video/pictures to capture study tables, board meetings, sporting events, etc. The project will promote awareness and participation between parents, students, and schools.

Youngstown City Schools - Parent Patrol

\$5,000- YCS enforces a dress code for students. Uniforms are provided through the district at a cost. Parents who cannot afford this fee have an option to volunteer hours in exchange. A background check is mandated by the state and is costly. Funds are requested to offset this fee so that parents can serve as productive school volunteers.

YCS - The Governor's Initiative on Increasing the Graduation Rate, Chaney High School Peer Mentor Program

\$1,000- Fifty students will be selected to participate in the mentoring process. The students will mentor 5th and 9th grade students. The students will be trained in Peer

tutoring, mediation, life skills and personal growth activities. These students will also be coached during the school year by a teacher from the district.

Youngstown City School District, Project Drama Innovations

\$4,000- A program for school age students to focus on presentations, experience solving challenges, and project management. The project will use the Destination Imagination Curriculum and participate in the regional, state and ultimately the global Destination Imagination Tournaments. The students will select challenges from the DI curriculum that will inspire creativity, teamwork and problem solving components to make a dramatic presentation at the tournaments.

Youngstown Afterschool Alliance, Advisory Board of the Afterschool Alliance

\$3,000- To offer enrichment activities to (40) 7th and 8th graders at Alpha and (40) 7th and 8th graders at Volney in an afterschool program. YAA will be responsible for providing a broad array of enrichment activities to include: Drama, dance, entrepreneurship, sports activities, service learning, swimming, nutrition, etc. Activities will be offered in a way to engage students and boost cooperative learning skills.