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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE GATEWAY CENTER FOR GIVING HONORS REGIONAL GRANTMAKERS

Annual Awards Recognize Excellence in Grantmaking in the St. Louis Region

ST. LOUIS, January 24, 2014—The [Gateway Center for Giving](#), a philanthropic membership organization, today convened 160 grantmakers and nonprofits at the Center’s Annual Meeting to celebrate the generosity of donors in the St. Louis region, name new Board Members, and recognize grantmaking excellence.

The Excellence in Grantmaking Awards celebrate the work of St. Louis area grantmakers by honoring donors who fund programs, efforts, or initiatives that have made a significant impact in the region.

The three award winners are:

- **Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH)**, nominated for the “Giving is On Time” award by **Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri**. MFH provided funding to several area nonprofits for certified application counselors to provide information and assistance to the uninsured. This funding makes a substantial impact in the knowledge about and enrollment in health insurance. Tom Barry (Vice President of Development & External Relations at Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri) presented the award to Jessi LaRose (Health Policy Officer at Missouri Foundation for Health).
- **St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District**, nominated for the “Giving is On Going” award by two nonprofits, the **Missouri Recycling Association (MORA)** and **St. Louis Earth Day**. St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District funded the development of key marketing and educational materials for the Missouri Recycling Association, and supported St. Louis Earth Day in developing innovations in recycling and waste reduction in the St. Louis area. Cassandra Hage (Executive Director of St. Louis Earth Day) and Dan Imig (President of MORA) presented the award to David Berger (Executive Director of St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District).
- **Emerson**, nominated for the “Giving is Far Reaching” award by the **Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools (SLLIS)**. In addition to monetary gifts, a finance team at Emerson has donated their time, talent & intellect to review St. Louis Language Immersion School’s potential facilities options. The team is now working with local partners, developers and architects to help them select a plan that will best meet the needs of their current and prospective students. Dr. Steve Sanchez (Board Chair of SLLIS) presented the award to Pat Sly (Executive Vice President of Emerson and head of the Emerson Charitable Trust).

Outgoing Gateway Center Board Chair **Jane Donahue** of the Saint Louis Public Schools Foundation welcomed the following new additions to the Gateway Center for Giving Board of Directors:

- **Desiree Coleman** of Wells Fargo Advisors
- **Jama Dodson** of the Saint Louis Mental Health Board
- **Mike Grabenhorst** of Northern Trust
- **Lindsay Matush** of the Brown Sisters Foundation

Ann Vazquez of the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis will serve as the 2014 Gateway Center Board Chair.

Outgoing Board Members **Kirby Burkholder** of IFF, **Cynthia Crim** of Commerce Bank and the Norman J. Stupp Foundation, and **John Fort** of the Fort Family Foundation were thanked for their service.

“By working together, we help make the St. Louis region stronger, smarter, more inclusive and more liveable for everyone,” said Gateway Center for Giving CEO Deb Dubin.

The Gateway Center’s Annual Meeting was hosted by the Nine Network and supported by Emerson, Enterprise Holdings and Ameren. Visit the [Gateway Center for Giving Facebook page](#) over the coming weeks to see pictures from the meeting, and watch the video on the [Gateway Center’s Youtube page](#).

About the Gateway Center

The [Gateway Center for Giving](#) helps donors do more. We strengthen philanthropy and promote community impact by providing programming, research, technical assistance and professional development opportunities to grantmaking organizations in the St. Louis region. We provide donors with networking opportunities with other grantmakers and community leaders to share information and resources, build understanding, and foster collaboration. We offer quality information, research and skill-building programs to ensure effective and accountable use of charitable dollars. And we enhance regional leadership through information on community needs and philanthropic best practices, supporting collaborative action to help address our region’s most pressing issues. The Gateway Center for Giving was founded in 1970 (as the Metropolitan Association of Philanthropy, or MAP), and our members include corporations, donor-advised funds, foundations, trusts and professional advisors actively involved in philanthropy. To learn more, visit www.centerforgiving.org.

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