

For Immediate Release

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THE GATEWAY CENTER FOR GIVING RECOGNIZES GRANTMAKERS AT *FUNDING GONE WILD*, ITS 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

ST. LOUIS, January 28, 2013- The [Gateway Center for Giving](http://www.centerforgiving.org) held its 2012 Annual Meeting luncheon this past Friday at the Saint Louis Zoo. The theme of this year's meeting was *Funding Gone Wild*, in keeping with the wildlife surroundings of the Zoo, and gently promoting innovative and forward-thinking action among grantmakers and nonprofits in the region. The event brought together 160 grantmakers and nonprofits to look at the state of the Center and celebrate the generosity of our community.

During the business meeting portion of the meeting lead by incoming Board Chair Jane Donahue of Deaconess Foundation, Center members welcomed in new board members and gave their thanks to outgoing board members. New additions to the Gateway Center for Giving Board include **Amelia Bond** of the Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation, **Jeanne Dalba** of the Robert J. Trulaske, Jr. Family Foundation, **Lisa Dinga** of the Innovative Technology Education Fund, **Debbie Schirmer** of Maritz, and **David Stiffler** of Equifax. **Jane Donahue** of the Deaconess Foundation will serve a second term as the Board Chair in 2012. The Center thanked its outgoing board members which included **Sue Schlichter**, formerly of Express Scripts, **Kristy Biehle** of the Herman T. & Phenie R. Pott Foundation, **Lyle Brizendine**, formerly of Bank of America, **Kasey Bergh** of the Nestle Purina PetCare Company, and **Cimmy Medart** of The Bland Family Foundation. Outgoing board members each became Zoo Parents: a donation was made in each of their names to fund the care of a specific zoo animal at the Saint Louis Zoo.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of the Excellence in Grantmaking Awards. Each fall, the Gateway Center for Giving solicits nominations from nonprofits in three categories and the awards are handed out to the grantmakers at the Annual Meeting. The 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 award winners each received a framed image thought to be meaningful and representative of the grantmakers' work, signed by leadership and staff of the nominating nonprofits.

The three award winners were:

The **Assistance League of St. Louis** was nominated for the *Giving is On Time* award by **Boys Hope Girls Hope**; the Assistance League responded to immediate needs of the Boys Hope Girls Hope group home by supporting the purchase of new refrigerators, dryers, and toilets for the scholars. **Jan Wacker** (Development Director of BHGH) presented the award to **Sandy Johnson** (President of the St. Louis Assistance League).

The **Sunnen Foundation** was nominated for the *Giving is On Going* award by **YMCA of Greater St. Louis**; for over 65 years, the Sunnen Foundation's commitment to the YMCA has allowed generations of visitors to benefit from projects, events, and improvements to Trout Lodge and Camp Lakewood. **Gary Schlansker** (President & CEO of YMCA) presented the award to **Kurt Kallaus** (President of the Sunnen Foundation).

The **Dana Brown Charitable Trust** was nominated for the *Giving is Far Reaching* award by two nonprofit organizations, **The Saint Louis Zoo**, and **The Nine Network of Public Media**; Dana Brown Charitable Trust named and endowed the Saint Louis Zoo's top leadership position to help start the Zoo's Living Promise Campaign, and provided the gift that enabled the Nine Network's new Center of Public Engagement. **Cynthia Holter** (VP of External Relations at the Saint Louis Zoo) and **Jack Galmiche** (President and CEO of the Nine Network) presented the award to **Daniel Watt** (Chairman of the Dana Brown Charitable Trust).

Visit the Gateway Center for Giving [Facebook page](#) over the coming weeks to see pictures from the meeting.

About the Center

The Gateway Center for Giving is a membership organization made up of grantmakers in the St. Louis region. Founded in 1970 as the Metropolitan Association for Philanthropy (MAP), the Center's members include corporations, donor-advised funds, foundations, trusts and professional advisors actively involved in philanthropy.

The Center's 2013 Board includes Amelia Bond (Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation), Cynthia Curry Crim (Commerce Bank), David Stiffler (Equifax), Debbie Schirmer (Maritz), Jane Donahue (Deaconess Foundation),), Kirby Burkholder (IFF), Jeanne Dalba (Robert J. Trulaske, Jr. Family Foundation), John Fort (John and Mary Kaye Fort Family Fund), Kathy Gardner (United Way of Greater St. Louis), David Krauss (Commerce Family Office), Matt Oldani (Build-a-Bear Workshop), Lisa Dinga (Innovative Technology Education Fund), Mary Swan (Ameren Missouri), Ann Vazquez (Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis), and Michael Yarbrough (St. Louis Rams).