



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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\$0 - \$32.5 Million in Just One Year of Grantmaking

James Kimmey, M.D., president, envisions positive change in healthcare

St. Louis, August 8 – The Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) announces its one year grantmaking anniversary today Friday, August 8, 2003. More than \$32.5 million have been awarded to community organizations in the Foundation’s service region, an area encompassing 84 northern and southern Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis. Of the \$32.5 million, \$17.8 million have gone to organizations within the St. Louis Metro area.

Grantmaking was initiated started in May of 2002, when the foundation announced its funding initiatives. In just a few weeks, applications came pouring in. “We were a staff of about 15, and we were buried with more than 250 applications. We anticipated on onslaught of proposals once we were open for business, but no one foresaw such a landslide,” said James Kimmey, MD, president and CEO of MFH.

Staffing continued to grow with the demands of the work, an updated Web site was launched and the Foundation relocated its offices to the Grand Central Building in the Union Station complex.

Now the Foundation has rolled its grantmaking into five priority areas of interest: elimination of health disparities, promotion of improved access to care; support for disease prevention and health promotion; strengthening the health care safety net and enhancing the health of children. Grantmaking continues at a steady rate of about 40 applications received per month.

Kimmey’s vision for the Foundation’s potential is vast. “In the next 10 years, we’ll see positive change in the direction of healthcare in Missouri – part of this will be attributed to our grants and the work of our grantees – the other in part to our work and impact in health policy and public information.”

MFH is the second largest conversion foundation in the country, the third largest health foundation in the U.S. This year alone, the Foundation has given out awards in excess of \$22 million, with a projected goal of at least \$35 million awarded by the end of the year. Unique aspects of the Foundation reside in its commitment to open and honest dialogue with the community and its grantees and its willingness to be held to the Missouri Open Meetings Law, making all meetings and documents public record, excluding those dealing with personnel and finance issues.

For additional information regarding MFH, contact the Foundation at (314) 345-5500, (800) 655-5560 or visit the Web site at www.mffh.org.

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