

## West Bend awards more than \$60,000 to non-profit organizations

**WEST BEND, WI (February 6, 2014)** – West Bend Mutual Insurance Company announced donations to seven non-profit organizations supported by our independent agents. Through the Independent Agents' Fund, grants were awarded to:

**ArtHaus** is Decorah, Iowa's home for the arts, bringing visual, performing, and literary art together under one roof, and offering creative programs for all ages. Kristen Underwood and Lea Donhowe Lovelace opened ArtHaus in 2008 to provide a bright and beautiful venue for quality art education and experiences in the heart of downtown Decorah. ArtHaus aims to be accessible to everyone in the community, regardless of ability to pay, and offers full or partial scholarships to all youth upon request.

**The SEDOL Foundation** (Special Education District of Lake County) provides education and educational assistance up to age 22 for physically, mentally, and emotionally disabled children in Lake County, Illinois. SEDOL was created in 1960 to help special-needs children and their families overcome difficult challenges and create hope and new possibilities. Located in Gages Lake, today this cooperative system serves more than 2,600 students in 35 Lake County school districts.

The mission of the **Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin** is to improve the lives of those affected by autism by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals throughout their lives, and providing the latest information about treatment, education, research, and advocacy.

The **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation** (JDRF) is the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes research. JDRF's goal is to progressively remove the impact of type 1 diabetes, and eventually eradicate it.

**Project for Pride in Living** (PPL) is dedicated to helping low-income individuals and families throughout the Twin Cities develop the tools they need to achieve self-sufficiency through a broad range of programs and services. PPL provides affordable housing, employment training, support services, and education programs to more than 14,000 people annually. PPL also partners with local mental health organizations to address the need for human wellness, employment mentoring, self-sufficiency for both youth and adults, assistance with chemical dependency, homelessness, and meals programs.

**Neighborhood House** was founded in 1897 to help Eastern European Jewish families settle in the Saint Paul, Minnesota area. They help people, families, and organizations develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence to thrive in diverse communities by meeting basic needs and offering lifelong learning opportunities that create pathways out of poverty. Neighborhood House has supported families from more than 50 cultural and ethnic populations in times of transition or need.

**Roots for the Home Team** is a kid-run organization that's tossing up salads created and taste-tested by youth gardeners and cooks. Using produce grown by youth from ethnically-diverse and underserved Twin Cities neighborhoods, Roots for the Home Team helps kids, grades seven through high school, create salad recipes sold at a kid-run concession stand at Minnesota Twins games. The group also supports inner-city communities' access to more fresh produce, while building self-esteem, leadership, communication skills, and business knowledge for participating youth.