



8301 Maryland Ave. Suite 350 St. Louis, MO 63105 314.721.2828 fax 314.721.2717 www.caseycomm.com

NEWS RELEASE

September 2, 2010

For more information, contact Christy Redmond or Marie Casey at 314/721-2828.

Spirit of St. Louis (SOS) Women's Fund Invites Grant Applications

200-Plus Women Philanthropists Begin Grant-Making Process for 2011 Awards

ST. LOUIS – The 200-plus members of the philanthropic **Spirit of St. Louis (SOS) Women's Fund** have kicked off their 2010-2011 grant season by inviting St. Louis area nonprofit organizations to apply for grants to be awarded in June 2011.

Groups must register online and submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) to be considered for one of SOS' 2011 grants. Total funding available is expected to exceed \$200,000. Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Granting information, organization guidelines, registration and LOI submission details are available online at www.soswomensfund.org. All LOIs must be emailed no later than Friday, Oct. 15, 2010.

In June 2010, SOS granted \$200,000 to 15 area nonprofit organizations. Nearly 90 St. Louis-area organizations requested grants exceeding \$4.5 million. The expressed need was more than double the amount requested in 2009.

LOIs help SOS members evaluate proposed project feasibility and community needs. Grant applicants must be a 501(c)3 operating in and serving the East-West Gateway Region, comprised of St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, Franklin County and Jefferson County in Missouri, and Madison, St. Clair and Monroe Counties in Illinois. SOS supports projects which focus on one of five areas: arts and culture; education; environment; health; and social services. SOS typically funds organizations addressing critical community needs with operating budgets in the range of \$1 million.

SOS member teams will notify organizations whether or not they qualify to submit full grant applications by late November. Full grant proposals are due on Jan. 7, 2011. Grant application reviews and site visits follow from January through April 2011. In May, SOS members will vote on the basis of “one member, one vote” to ensure equal and fair selection. Grants will be awarded in June 2011 at the organization’s fifth anniversary celebration.

Founded in 2006, the Spirit of St. Louis (SOS) Women’s Fund connects women across the St. Louis region to collectively strengthen the community through informed, focused grant-making. The group, a component fund of the **Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation**, has more than 200 members. Each member contributes \$1,200 a year, with 90 percent of all member gifts used to fund grants to local nonprofit organizations. In 2010, SOS achieved the \$700,000 milestone in charitable giving with a total of 51 grants to 38 nonprofits over a span of four years. To join or learn more about SOS, visit www.soswomensfund.org or call (314) 880-4968.

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Editor’s note: The **Spirit of St. Louis (SOS) Women’s Fund** is located at the **Greater St. Louis Community Foundation** at 319 N. 4th St. in St. Louis, Mo. (63102).