



PRESS RELEASE *For Immediate Release*

Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina Awards \$95,000 More in Grants

(COLUMBIA, S.C., DECEMBER 22, 2011) - The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina has awarded five grants, totaling \$95,000, to nonprofit organizations serving the underserved in South Carolina. Organizations receiving grants are Columbia Free Medical Clinic, Healthy Learners, Lowcountry Food Bank, Oliver Gospel Mission and Teach My People. These grants come just after the Foundation awards \$167,500 in other funding.

The Columbia Free Medical Clinic receives a grant for \$10,000. Primarily serving patients from Richland and Lexington counties, the Columbia Free Medical Clinic provides health care—at no cost—to individuals and families who cannot pay for services and who have no health insurance.

Healthy Learners, a nonprofit organization meeting the health care needs of economically disadvantaged school children, receives \$50,000. By working with school nurses and health care providers, Healthy Learners provides access to health care for uninsured and underinsured children. The program is serving children in multiple school districts in Richland and Lexington counties as well as programs in Allendale, Dillon, Greenwood and Georgetown counties.

Lowcountry Food Bank receives \$10,000 to help feed the poor and hungry in the ten coastal counties of South Carolina. The food bank solicits and distributes healthy food and grocery products to nonprofit agencies serving the poor and educates the public about the problems of and solutions to domestic hunger.

The Oliver Gospel Mission, serving homeless men in downtown Columbia, receives \$5,000. The Oliver Gospel Mission provides meals, shelter and spiritual direction for the community's homeless.

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Five December Grants/2

Teach My People, a faith-based nonprofit organization serving at-risk children in Georgetown County, receives \$20,000. Teach My People offers a high quality, no-cost after-school program for 85 elementary, middle and high school students, from low-income homes, along with an eight-week summer enrichment program. The program provides spiritual nourishment, academic accountability, homework assistance, community service projects for students, life skills, nutritional education, fitness programs, SAT and ACT preparation, project oversight and assistance for school assignments, parental coaching and support and cultural enrichment.

“The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina’s vision is that families in this state have the resources to live out of poverty,” said Tom Keith, president of the Foundation. “These five organizations are addressing poverty in South Carolina through their programs and services. We hope this funding will help strengthen and support their work as they serve those in need.”

Organizations wishing to apply for funding should visit the Foundation’s Web site, sistersofcharitysc.com, for information on the application process. The next grant application deadlines are March 6 (Strategic Grants) and April 3 (Caritas Grants).

About the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina

The Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina, established in 1996, is a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System. The Foundation is committed to addressing the needs of the poor and underserved in all 46 South Carolina counties, and strategically uses resources to reduce poverty through action, advocacy and leadership.

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