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\$60,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO DETROIT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP FIGHT BLIGHT

DETROIT – June 22, 2010 - Community Legal Resources awarded mini-grants to 16 Detroit community-based organizations as a program of the Detroit Vacant Property Campaign (DVPC). Totaling \$60,000, the grants will help residents maintain and protect vacant properties in their neighborhoods. The grants were awarded through the Community and Property Preservation (CAPP) program, which is funded by The Kresge Foundation.

The 16 organizations approved for CAPP grants are: Creekside Community Development Corporation, St. Ignatius Nonprofit Housing Corporation, Safe in Woodbridge, Citizens with Challenges, Emmanuel Community Housing, University Commons, Sherwood Forest, Sacred Heart/St. Elizabeth CDC, Evergreen/Lahser 7-8 Mile Community Council, Prevailing Community Development Corporation, Arden Park, Green Acres, Nortown Community Development Corporation, Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation, Corktown Residents' Council, CEM Business Association.

This is the third round of the CAPP program, which provides supplemental financial assistance to community-based organizations that are incurring costs due to do resident initiated vacant property maintenance and security initiatives. The CAPP

program helps stabilize Detroit neighborhoods experiencing negative effects from increasing numbers of vacant properties and declining vacant property conditions.

Community Legal Resources received dozens of grant applications. The applicant pool was very diverse, representing different kinds of organizations and neighborhoods.

Organizations applied for funding for security and maintenance activities including 1) mowing and maintaining front yards, 2) removing debris from vacant properties, 3) boarding vacant properties, 4) plowing snow, and 5) installing exterior lights on vacant properties.

Several organizations proposed innovative strategies that build upon on pre-existing community visions like Prevailing Community Development Corporation's Community Hope Adopt-a-Block Initiative which will engage local businesses, residents, and volunteers to strengthen the economic base and quality of life of neighborhoods in the Southwest Central Area of Detroit. St. Ignatius Nonprofit Housing Corporation is using an innovative multi-strategic approach that builds upon a neighborhood Flight Blight Campaign that proposes to increase local resident involvement to stabilize six residential blocks in the neighborhood.

The CAPP program is funded by the Kresge Foundation and administered by Community Legal Resources (CLR). CLR is a nonprofit legal services provider and the lead organization on a collaborative project called the Detroit Vacant Property Campaign (DVPC). The DVPC is an initiative of Detroit Local Initiatives Support Corporation and involves community groups, city residents, faith-based organizations, Community Development Advocates of Detroit, and the University Of Michigan Taubman College Of Architecture and Urban Planning. The purpose of the campaign is to empower Detroit residents to reduce the negative effects of vacant properties and turn vacant properties into neighborhood assets. For more information, please see www.detroitvacantproperty.org.