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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINI-GRANTS HELP SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN DETROIT

DETROIT – September 11, 2013 – Michigan Community Resources (MCR) announced the next round of its mini-grants to support neighborhood stabilization and security projects in Detroit.

The Security Alternative Funding and Empowerment (SAFE) program will support community-initiated activities with nearly \$50,000 in mini-grants to help eliminate blight, reduce the negative effects of vacant property, and promote neighborhood safety. This round of the SAFE mini-grant program was made possible through funding from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation.

To kick off the application process, MCR will host an orientation meeting for potential applicants. The meeting will discuss in detail the purpose and goals of the SAFE mini-grant program and address frequently asked questions about the application process.

“We deliberately applying for a grant as accessible and simple as possible for interested organizations, because we want to reach those working on the ground, who know best what their community needs are,” said Dalton Roberson, Jr., education & outreach program manager at MCR. “This allows us to support grass-roots projects that typically would not receive funding.”

Grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$5,000, and for this round are awarded only to community-based organizations located and working in the Southwest and North End Detroit neighborhoods.

Typical projects funded include: boarding vacant properties, removing graffiti, establishing a neighborhood watch program, or neighborhood cleanup projects. A wide range of community-based organizations – including block clubs, homeowner/neighborhood associations, churches and nonprofits – may apply for the mini-grants. The deadline is 5 p.m., Thursday October 3rd.

The SAFE Orientation meeting will be held on Thursday, September 12th at Boulevard Temple, 2567 W. Grand Blvd. Detroit, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. To attend, contact Dalton Roberson Jr. at 313-969-7197. More information and applications are available at www.mi-community.org.

About Michigan Community Resources

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, Michigan Community Resources supports and empowers nonprofit community organizations in Michigan that serve low-income individuals and communities – with an emphasis on community and

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economic development – by providing pro bono legal services and technical assistance. Founded in 1998, MCR has provided over \$12 million in free legal assistance to over 1,200 nonprofits in Michigan and vacant property related assistance to over 200 community organizations in Detroit. Learn more at www.mi-community.org.

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