



Pacers Foundation Awards Grants Totaling \$82,500
-- Includes 3-Year Commitment to ISO's Metropolitan Youth Orchestra --

INDIANAPOLIS – At its most recent quarterly meeting, the Pacers Foundation board of directors awarded \$82,500 in grants to 17 youth-serving organizations throughout the state of Indiana.

The grants included an award of \$25,000 as the first of a three-year, \$75,000 commitment to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (MYO).

The MYO serves approximately 250 youth from IPS schools and Center Township and emphasizes life skills, character development and pursuit of post-secondary education while the children also learn to play and perform.

"The board was impressed by the MYO's mission of using the arts and music as platforms for the youth to acquire a broader set of skills that can help lead them to productive lives as adults," said Pacers Foundation Board Chairperson Rick Fuson.

"The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra is so grateful for the generosity of our supportive partners at the Pacers Foundation, said ISO CEO James M. Johnson. "Young people growing up with a strong foundation in musicianship build lifelong skills in teamwork, problem solving, and creative thinking - not unlike student athletes. This gift will ensure the mission of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra continues to impact the youth and families of Indianapolis in positive ways."

The Pacers Foundation also continued its statewide outreach by awarding grants to organizations in Fort Wayne, Kokomo, Columbus, Bloomington, Connersville and Martinsville in addition to Indianapolis.

In addition to MYO, grants were given to:

- Arts For Learning, Indianapolis, for supplemental arts instruction in IPS schools reading programs.
- Boys & Girls Club, Fort Wayne, Project Learn.
- Brooke's Place for Grieving Young People, Indianapolis, for its Outreach Program.
- Carver Community Center, Kokomo, after-school academic assistance.
- Child Advocates, Indianapolis, Older Youth Services program.
- College Mentors for Kids, Indianapolis, Reach Across Indiana program.
- Dayspring Center Family Emergency Shelter, Indianapolis, meals and programming for homeless children.
- Family Service, Inc., Columbus, Child Abuse Prevention.
- Girls Inc. of Monroe County, Bloomington, non-traditional sports clinics.
- Hope Center, Connersville, I Decide For Me program.
- Jump IN For Healthy Kids, Indianapolis, Warren Township Schools program.
- Martinsville Youth Development Center, Martinsville, STEM after-school program.
- Minority Engineering Program of Indianapolis, STEM workshops.
- Nine13 Sports, Indianapolis, Kids Riding Bikes program.
- Starfish Initiative, Indianapolis, Leadership Camp.
- S.U.P.E.R School Inc., Indianapolis, health and fitness initiative.

ABOUT PACERS FOUNDATION: Pacers Foundation, Inc., the public charity founded by Pacers Sports & Entertainment, is dedicated to improving the lives of Indiana's young people by assisting projects and programming that benefit Indiana's youth. Since its inception in 1993, Pacers Foundation has awarded more than \$7 million in grants, scholarships, donations, and Pacers and Fever tickets to youth-serving organizations. To learn more, go to pacersfoundation.org.

For more information about the Foundation, please visit www.pacersfoundation.org.

