



Bridge Communities, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo Available – caption at end of release

Bridge Communities Receives \$10,000 Grant from The DuPage Community Foundation

Glen Ellyn, IL – June 29, 2011 – Bridge Communities is proud to announce that it has received a \$10,000 grant from The DuPage Community Foundation. The grant was presented at The DuPage Community Foundation’s annual Grant Distribution Breakfast on Wednesday, June 15 at Glen Oak Country Club in Glen Ellyn, IL.

The funds, made possible by the earnings from the John W. Squire Fund, will be used for Bridge Communities’ Transitional Housing Program. Bridge Communities works in partnership with local faith-based and community action groups to provide transitional housing to homeless families that live and work in DuPage County. Through this program, Bridge Communities and its Program Partners provide trained volunteer mentors who meet on an ongoing, regular basis with the families and help them develop life skills to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency; financial support to assist in covering the costs of renting an apartment and associated services; and furniture and household items, if needed.

“The families we serve are facing even more severe challenges as a result of the State’s recent funding cuts, so receiving generous support from organizations like the DuPage Community Foundation is more critical, and more appreciated, than ever,” says Mark Milligan, Co-Founder of Bridge Communities.

“There are so many wonderful not-for-profits providing critical health and human service projects to DuPage residents and we are pleased to support the work they do,” says Barb Szczepaniak, Director of Grants for The DuPage Community Foundation. “The recipient organizations are providing extremely valuable services to the community, and we’re proud to be a partner in helping them expand their overall efforts in improving the quality of life in DuPage County.”

Established in 1986, The DuPage Community Foundation is a publicly-supported 501 (c)(3) organization to which contributions are tax deductible. It was created to benefit the people of DuPage County and receives contributions and bequests into a permanent endowment from individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations wishing to make lasting contributions to the people of DuPage. The earnings on these funds are then used, in accordance with donor wishes, for the Foundation's grantmaking and community leadership activities.

The DuPage Community Foundation seeks to raise the quality of life throughout DuPage County by fostering philanthropy, connecting donors to area needs and building community partnerships. Based on the American virtues of volunteerism and philanthropy, the Foundation fosters a legacy of support for the people of DuPage County by making grants to not-for-profit organizations working in the areas of arts and culture, education, environment, health, and human services. Since its inception the Foundation has built its endowment to more than \$38 million in assets and awarded nearly \$12 million in grants to not-for-profit agencies serving the residents of DuPage County and beyond.

Bridge Communities, Inc., (Bridge) is a dynamic, grassroots, nonprofit organization committed to transforming the lives of homeless families in DuPage County through partnering with talented, resourceful individuals and groups in our community. Its program of transitional housing, mentoring and supportive services empowers the families to increase life skills and earning power to promote self sufficiency, sustain permanent housing, and to break the cycle of poverty within the family unit. What began by co-founders Mark Milligan and Bob Wahlgren when they decided, in 1988, to begin to help homeless families, has now become a powerful current of change in the lives of hundreds of extremely low to low income at-risk families. For more information about Bridge Communities, please visit www.bridgecommunities.org or call Mark Milligan at (630) 545-0610, ext. 10.

Photo caption: Bridge Communities Executive Director Joyce Hothan receives the grant from The DuPage Community Foundation Grant Committee Member, Pat de Rosset

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