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Contact: Keith Hovis
keith.hovis@stpaul.gov
651.266.8571 (o)
651-308-2252 (c)

Contact: Teri Davids
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
tad@wilder.org
651.280.2471

Saint Paul One of Twenty One Communities Awarded Promise Neighborhood Grant

*Over \$750,000 to benefit children and families in the Frogtown and Summit
University neighborhoods*

SAINT PAUL – Mayor Coleman announced today that Saint Paul is one of 21 communities across the nation selected by President Obama to receive a \$500,000 Promise Neighborhood grant. The grant is intended to help communities overcome barriers to ensure every child receives the support they need to succeed. Saint Paul’s application was the 4th highest-ranked proposal, scoring 99.67 points out of 100.

“From day one, my administration has put education at the forefront of our agenda - working to build a city that surrounds our children with the tools they need to be successful in life. We knew then, as we do today, that Saint Paul’s future success is rooted in our ability to provide our children with a quality education, both in and out of school.

“In the process, we’ve become a national leader in the field for building a new model of collaboration – this grant is an investment in taking that work to the next level. But it is also recognition of the many partners who have stood with us since the beginning and those specifically responsible for this achievement. I’d like to thank the Wilder Foundation, the St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul Public Schools Foundation, Ramsey County, Sens. Klobuchar and Franken, Congresswoman McCollum, our philanthropic and neighborhood partners, as well as the President and the Department of Education for giving Saint Paul the resources to make our dream a reality,” said Mayor Chris Coleman.

With the grant, in-kind contributions and \$175,000 in matching funds from the philanthropic community, the Promise Neighborhood area will benefit from more than \$750,000 in investment designed to remove barriers to success for Saint Paul children and families.

“This grant is an investment in young people who often face barriers that can derail their efforts to get a quality education,” said U.S. Senator Al Franken (D-Minn.). “I salute the City of Saint Paul for winning this grant and working to create a better future for young people in Saint Paul.”

Inspired by the Harlem Children's Zone in New York City, The Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood is a community-wide effort to ensure all children succeed in school and in life through seamless coordination of cradle-to-career educational, family, and community resources and supports. Encompassing a 250-block area in the Summit-University and Frogtown neighborhoods, the Promise Neighborhood effort is led by The Wilder Foundation and supported by a variety of community organizations, including the following key partners: the City of Saint Paul, St. Paul Public Schools, Ramsey County, St. Paul Public Schools Foundation, Summit University Planning Council, Frogtown Neighborhood Association, and the YWCA of Saint Paul.

“The Wilder Foundation is thrilled to take a leadership role on behalf of Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood. Our collaborative efforts with the many partners will assist our community in becoming stronger and more vibrant,” Wilder Foundation President MayKao Hang said.

“This Promise Neighborhoods grant is an incredible opportunity for the Frogtown and Summit University neighborhoods,” Councilmember Melvin Carter said. “Through this initiative, we will ensure that all of our youth, regardless of family income, have the tools, resources and support they need to succeed, whatever it takes!”

“This grant will galvanize the community and bring students, parents, community organizations, the city, and the school district together to support academic and social success for all children in the Summit/University and Frogtown neighborhoods, said Michael Anderson, Executive Director of the Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation.

The news of Saint Paul’s selection came from Education Secretary Arne Duncan, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, and HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius during a press conference revealing all grants recipients across the nation.

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