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Grand Rapids Creative Youth Center Receives $225,000 Grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., December 17, 2012 – The Grand Rapids Creative Youth Center (CYC) announced it has received a $225,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for general support over the next three years through September 2015. The funding will allow the CYC to increase its community impact by expanding program offerings, hiring full-time staff members, and renting a new space.

“We want to be a center of creativity and inspiration for kids, but also a force for highlighting the importance of writing,” said Lori Slager, co-founder of the Creative Youth Center. “We’re thrilled to have the Kellogg Foundation supporting our work.”

The CYC has been a volunteer-run organization for the past two years operating its writing and tutoring programs in collaboration with community partners such as Baxter Community Center, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities Cook Arts Center, and Grand Rapids Public Schools. The first anthology of student work, The Book of Explosions, was published last year and released with a reading and signing at Schuler Books.

"The children of CYC will most surely have their imaginations fueled and their own expressive language gently guided. They will put their own words to paper—craft a story, explain an idea, report an event, write a book! When they can do that, they'll know they can do just about anything,” said Cecile Fehsenfeld, co-owner of Schuler Books and co-founder and board member of the CYC.

Established in 2010, the Creative Youth Center is a 501(c)(3) organization that prepares kids for life’s adventures by supporting their writing and amplifying their voices. The CYC offers free creative and expository writing workshops and tutoring programs to students ages 6 to 18 and focuses on publishing student work, promoting a strong sense of identity and enthusiasm for learning. For more information, please visit www.creativeyouthcenter.org.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to
thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life.

The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Mich., and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit www.wkkf.org.

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