

## **JESSIE BALL duPONT FUND SUPPORTS GREEN PROJECTS FOR FIVE FLORIDA GIRL SCOUT COUNCILS**

February 24, 2010

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – Trustees of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund awarded \$132,000 to **Girl Scouts of the USA**, New York, New York, to pilot environmental projects in five Florida Girl Scout councils.

The grant was among 14 awards, valued at \$1.9 million, made by the trustees during the February meeting. Four of those awards, valued at more than \$530,000, went to support work in Florida.

In recent years, the Girl Scouts have developed Forever Green, a nationwide signature program designed to increase girls' environmental literacy and awareness and give them the tools needed to become leaders of environmental projects in their schools and neighborhoods. In 2009, the Girl Scouts launched a pilot version of this program in 10 councils across the country with excellent results -- girls designing projects, leading projects, and gaining experience in organization and team building.

In 2010, the pilot program expands to 36 councils. The grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund will enable participation by Gateway Council -- Jacksonville, Gulf Coast Council - Sarasota, Florida Panhandle Council -- Tallahassee, Citrus Council -- Orlando and Tropical Council -- Miami. (The grant also enables participation by the Chesapeake Bay Council in Wilmington, Delaware.)

Girls in these councils will be encouraged to develop environmental programs addressing issues of air quality, waste management, water conservation, energy conservation, and green spaces. Girl Scouts is working with the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Green Building Council to help develop the projects and metrics for assessment.

The trustees also awarded \$175,000 to the **University of Florida**, Gainesville, Florida, to support development of a community database for agencies serving children in Alachua County, Florida.

The grant to the University of Florida provides two years of operating support to enable development of the database, which will allow data-sharing among child-serving agencies as well as provide connections to public data on crime, demographics, transportation and community resources. The database will allow participating child serving agencies to determine whether all relevant services are being provided to the children, as well as tracking the progress of the children as they move through the social welfare system.

The effort grows out of the desire to reduce the number of foster care placements in Alachua County. By creating a more complete picture of services being provided to children and their families, and identifying gaps in services, the University hopes to reduce the number of children entering foster care, lessen their length of stay, and improve the quality of services.

In addition, the trustees awarded:

\$150,000 to the **Archdiocese of Miami**, Miami Shores, Florida, to work with the Southeast Pastoral Institute in training Hispanic people to organize and sustain social outreach efforts to the needy.

\$75,000 to **Rollins College**, Winter Park, Florida, to support installation of electric submeters on campus to better monitor and control energy use.

The Jessie Ball duPont Fund makes grants to more than 330 eligible organizations identified by Mrs. duPont in her will. The Fund has assets of more than \$265 million and has awarded \$291 million in grants since 1977.

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