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## **Lilly Endowment Reports on Grants 'Embracing Traditions. Engaging New Ideas'**

INDIANAPOLIS –J. K. Lilly Sr., who founded Lilly Endowment in 1937 with his sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., encouraged leadership that was conservatively progressive: an approach that valued tradition and the lessons it offered, while seeking continuous improvement.

Nearly 80 years later, the Endowment still strives both to honor tradition by supporting enduring institutions and to stay alert to changing dynamics and needs that call for innovation. These contrasting convictions are reflected in the Endowment's 2015 Annual Report, "Embracing Traditions. Engaging New Ideas." The report highlights how Endowment grants are helping organizations use the lessons and results from earlier efforts to develop new ways to expand their impact and improve effectiveness.

Stories in the report feature how:

- **Purdue University** is building on the success of its Discovery Park in transforming its colleges of engineering and technology to develop capacity, encourage collaboration and help its graduates become leaders in solving real-world problems.
- **United Negro College Fund** is applying lessons learned from an Endowment-funded initiative for Indiana colleges and universities to help historically black colleges and universities and predominantly black institutions across the country strengthen their college-to-career pathways so that graduates will find meaningful, sustaining employment.
- **The Children's Museum of Indianapolis'** success with its groundbreaking exhibit on world religions, National Geographic Sacred Journeys, encouraged the Endowment to approve major grants to strengthen the long-term interpretation of religion at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and its National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- **Church-related organizations** across the nation are building on successful efforts in Indiana to help alleviate financial challenges facing pastors.
- **Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis** is extending a successful outreach model to Girls Inc. affiliates throughout Indiana and the Girls Inc. national organization is

learning more about the girls its affiliates serve through new data collection and analysis.

- **United Way Worldwide** is helping United Ways across the nation develop and execute strategies that address giving trends they learned about in part from an Endowment-funded research collaboration with the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.
- **Indiana Historical Society and Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust** are acknowledging Indiana's bicentennial and 14 Indiana arts and cultural organizations are engaged in a variety of initiatives to strengthen their financial well-being for the long term.

Since the Endowment began in 1937, it has disbursed \$8.9 billion in grants to 9,382 charitable organizations, most of them in Indiana. Of the \$8.9 billion, \$3.6 billion supported education initiatives (40 percent), \$3.0 billion supported community development initiatives (34 percent) and \$2.3 billion supported religion initiatives (26 percent). At the end of 2015 the Endowment's assets totaled approximately \$11.8 billion.

During 2015, the Endowment paid grants totaling \$435.5 million. Community development grants accounted for \$200.4 million (46 percent), religion grants accounted for \$124.1 million (29 percent) and education grants accounted for \$111.0 million (25 percent).

Most grants were paid to organizations in Indiana – a total of \$257.8 million (59 percent). Of the payment total of \$435.5 million, \$107.9 million (25 percent) was paid to non-Marion County grantees in Indiana and \$149.9 million (34 percent) to Marion County (Indianapolis) grantees. Organizations outside of Indiana received \$177.7 million (41 percent). Most of these grants paid outside of Indiana were religion grants.

The annual report includes a complete list of 2015 grants, and it is available on the Endowment's website, [www.lillyendowment.org](http://www.lillyendowment.org).

#### **About Lilly Endowment Inc.**

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly and his two sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., with gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical company. Gifts of stock in Eli Lilly and Company remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment. It is, however, a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. The Endowment, which maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis and its home state, Indiana, is primarily committed to the causes of community development, education and religion.