



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MCGREGOR FUND GRANT TO BOLSTER COLLEGE AND CAREER PROGRAMMING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

DETROIT, November 1, 2016 -- The McGregor Fund recently awarded \$250,000, a two year grant, to Mercy Education Project (MEP) to expand their College and Career Readiness programming for women and girls and to support the non-profit through a recent leadership transition.

The grant will fund enhancements to MEP's College & Career Readiness Program to foster a stronger college and career knowing culture among MEP's students. This project includes exposure to both broad options for vocational training, trades apprenticeships, community and/or four year college experiences, and career opportunities, as well as in-depth, individualized work with women and girls to foster self-awareness, build on strengths, work on limitations and improve soft skills.

By expanding current college and career readiness services for at-risk high school girls the end goal is to increase the number of students who are prepared upon graduation to successfully enter and complete studies at college, technical school or a vocational training program and to offer increased support & services to current and alumnae students as they prepare for college and/or careers. For MEP's women's adult education program this funding will provide for enriched programming to prepare students to enter true career pathways that offer family-sustaining wages and opportunities for advancement. According to Kathryn Tanner, Executive Director, "The enhancements will provide a more comprehensive experience for women in our education programs to prepare for and make informed decisions about their post GED next steps."

MEP is the only agency in southwest Detroit providing a gender-specific, one-to-one, after-school tutoring program for girls in grades 1-12, and the only adult basic education, tutoring and GED preparation program that works exclusively with women. Most of the students live far below the poverty level. Many students in the Girls' program are the first generation to complete high school and to have a real chance of going to college.

MEP is committed to helping break the cycle of poverty by empowering women and girls who have limited access to resources to break down barriers and improve their lives through education and become self-sufficient. Tanner says, “MEP’s current strategic plan strives to bring greater depth of service to the women and girls served to help them develop the life and career skills needed to successfully transition to post-secondary educational opportunities, job training and employment”.

After ten years of dedicated service, in the spring of 2016, Amy Amador announced her intention to step down as Executive Director of Mercy Education Project. Following an executive search, MEP’s Board of Directors named Kathryn Tanner as Amador’s successor in July of this year. The transition funds awarded by the McGregor Fund will allow Tanner and MEP leadership to steward the organization into its next chapter. Mercy Education Project has been a vital resource for women and girls for 25 years and McGregor is committed to assuring that they remain strong and continue to serve and grow during this leadership transition phase.

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The McGregor Fund is a private foundation established in 1925 by gifts from Katherine and Tracy McGregor “to relieve the misfortunes and promote the well-being of mankind.” The foundation awards grants to organizations in the following areas: human services, education, health care, arts and culture, and public benefit. The area of principal interest of the foundation is the City of Detroit and Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. The McGregor Fund has granted nearly \$235 million since its founding and had assets of \$162 million as of June 30, 2016. Visit www.mcgregorfund.org for additional information.

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