

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information contact:
Heidi Alcock, (313) 963-3495

**United Community Housing Coalition Awarded McGregor Fund Grant
To Prevent Eviction and Tax Foreclosure**

Detroit, MI, October 10, 2017 – The McGregor Fund is pleased to announce a \$500,000 grant to the United Community Housing Coalition (UCHC) to help 1,000 households facing tax foreclosure and eviction avoid displacement and homelessness over the next two years. UCHC will use the grant to pay a portion of the lump sum deposit required for 600 homeowners to initiate a payment plan for back taxes. The grant will also preserve homeownership by funding a skilled trades consultant to teach families how to do basic repairs and weatherization. The skilled trades consultant will also help up to 400 renters occupying homes in foreclosure to purchase and repair their homes, including 80 families participating in a recently announced UCHC pilot program funded by Quicken Loans Community Investment Fund.

“Each foreclosure and eviction prevented means a family avoids the devastation of homelessness. Homeownership gives families an opportunity to thrive and grow equity in their homes. But when foreclosed homes are purchased by investors at the tax auction, occupants are evicted, investor-owned homes are often neglected and blighted, and neighborhoods quickly destabilize,” said Ted Phillips, UCHC Executive Director. “Keeping families in their homes directly benefits the families, their neighborhoods, and the city.”

UCHC has led foreclosure and eviction prevention in Detroit for over 15 years, providing a full suite of services that includes: housing counseling, relocation assistance, legal representation, homeowner education, outreach, and housing inspection services. This year, UCHC’s tax foreclosure prevention outreach touched 40,000 households. While UCHC acts quickly each year to intervene and prevent as many tax foreclosures as possible, it also supports homeowners’ long-term success by helping with maintenance, weatherization, and utilities.

“What renters in Detroit have long known, and as the *Detroit News* investigative report recently illustrated, Detroit’s rental housing market can be both financially and physically punishing to very low-income tenants,” said Kate Levin Markel, McGregor Fund President. “UCHC has been at the forefront of preventing tax foreclosures and helping responsible tenants access clean, safe and affordable housing. The McGregor Fund is proud to support their efforts to secure people in their homes.”

A complete list of all grants recently approved by the Fund includes:

	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	YEARS
<u>BASIC NEEDS</u>			
Accounting Aid Society	Tax preparation assistance program	\$300,000	3
Michigan Organizing Project (Michigan United)	Support to those impacted by the termination of DACA	\$35,000	1
Southeastern Michigan Health Association	Wayne Children's Healthcare Access Program	\$315,000	3
United Community Housing Coalition	Tax foreclosure & eviction prevention	\$500,000	2
<u>RECOVERY & RESTORATION</u>			
Dawn, Inc.	Holistic substance abuse recovery for Wayne County residents	\$75,000	1
Mariners Inn	Eugene A. Miller sabbatical plan for David Sampson	\$50,000	2
<u>SKILL BUILDING</u>			
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit	Mentoring for youth enrolled in SER Metro training program	\$72,000	2
Friends of the Children - National Office	Launch long-term mentoring program for vulnerable youth in Detroit	\$300,000	3
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights	Strategy work to end chronic unemployment	\$100,000	1
Heritage Works	Youth internships and work readiness in the performing arts	\$100,000	2
SER Metro Detroit - Jobs for Progress Inc.	Skilled trades training for disconnected youth	\$175,000	1
United Way for Southeastern Michigan	Work based learning opportunities for students in four Detroit high schools	\$400,000	2

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 humankind.” The geography of principal interest is the city of Detroit and Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, and grantmaking prioritizes basic needs, recovery and

restoration, and transformational skill building opportunities for teens and adults living in poverty. The McGregor Fund has granted over \$250 million since its founding and had assets of nearly \$172 million as of June 30, 2017.

#