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Midwest BankCentre Awards $10,000 in Grants to Four St. Louis Nonprofits

Nearly 100 applications submitted for new pitch-style competition at sixth annual Nonprofit Connector event

PHOTO LINK: ***https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjD7Wam*** *(captions in descriptions)*

ST. LOUIS (Nov. 5, 2026) – **Midwest BankCentre**, the second-largest privately held community bank in the St. Louis region, awarded $10,000 in grants to four St. Louis-area nonprofit organizations through a new competition held in conjunction with the bank's sixth annual Nonprofit Connector event on Sept. 22 at Bellerive Country Club.

The competition drew strong interest, with four finalists selected to pitch their organizations' work and funding needs to a panel of Midwest BankCentre executives, who evaluated the presentations and determined the final rankings.

The grants will support programs ranging from workforce development and education to affordable lending and transitional housing.

The four grant recipients were:

- **FIRST PLACE: Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition, $4,000.** The organization plans to use the funding to help launch and expand Works Wonders, part of its Older Youth Workforce Readiness program. The initiative helps young people transitioning from foster care prepare for employment through career exploration, job shadowing, paid work experiences, transportation assistance, and mentorship.
- **TIED FOR SECOND PLACE: Justine Petersen Housing & Reinvestment Corporation, $2,500.** The organization will use the grant to support its affordable lending, housing access, financial education, and credit-building services.

- **TIED FOR SECOND PLACE: St. Louis American Foundation, $2,500.** The foundation plans to support its Newspaper in Education and Summer Science Camp programs, helping cover educational materials, STEM supplies, meals, transportation, field trips, and other hands-on learning experiences for St. Louis-area students.
- **FOURTH PLACE: Harris House Foundation, $1,000.** The organization will use the funding to purchase furnishings and equipment for new transitional housing facilities on South Broadway in St. Louis. The expansion, expected to be completed in early 2027, will add 28 beds and allow Harris House to serve an estimated 70 additional clients annually.

"We expected strong interest, but receiving nearly 100 applications for four grants showed us how many organizations are looking for this kind of support," said Wes Burns, executive vice president of community and economic development at Midwest BankCentre. "The finalists made it a difficult decision for the panel. Each one explained how the funding would be used and who it would benefit."

"When nonprofit organizations seek new board members, they often start with people they already know," said Orvin Kimbrough, chairman and CEO of Midwest BankCentre. "We created the Nonprofit Connector to help them reach beyond those networks and connect with business leaders who bring different experiences and perspectives. This year, we added grants to provide direct financial support for programs serving our communities."

Expanding the Nonprofit Connector

Beyond the grant competition, the 2026 Nonprofit Connector brought together nonprofit leaders and business professionals interested in serving on nonprofit boards. The event gave attendees opportunities to discuss board openings and connect with professionals who could contribute their experience and expertise.

The event drew nearly 180 attendees, a 20% increase from 2025, including representatives from 56 nonprofit organizations.

About the Nonprofit Connector

Now in its sixth year, the Nonprofit Connector is part of Midwest BankCentre's Shared Prosperity ecosystem, which connects St. Louis-area executives with nonprofit organizations seeking experienced board members. The event focuses on increasing diversity in nonprofit leadership by introducing organizations to business professionals from different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. These connections help nonprofits build boards that better reflect the communities they serve while giving local executives opportunities to contribute their expertise.

Kimbrough, who has more than 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, created the event in response to repeated requests from nonprofit leaders for help identifying board candidates. Midwest BankCentre also serves approximately 1,000 nonprofit and faith-based organizations through its banking services.

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About Midwest BankCentre

Midwest BankCentre's assets exceed $3 billion, with approximately $2.5 billion in deposits as of June 30, 2026. A mainstay of the greater St. Louis community banking scene since 1906, the bank employs about 280 team members across 14 bank locations in the city of St. Louis and St. Louis, Jefferson, and St. Charles counties in Missouri, along with a loan production office in St. Clair County, Illinois. Midwest BankCentre also opened a business production office in Kansas City, Missouri, in 2023.

The bank empowers people, enables businesses, and energizes neighborhoods through the strength of its financial services, including personalized consumer and business banking, business cash management, mortgage lending, home equity loans, financial planning and investments, insurance services, and digital banking solutions.

Since 2001, Midwest BankCentre has earned Bauer Financial's 5-Star Superior rating every quarter, reflecting consistent, long-term financial strength and stability. The bank is widely recognized for expanding access to affordable capital in traditionally underserved markets and for advancing financial inclusion for low- and moderate-income customers. Honors include National Top Workplace awards from Energage and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 2021–2026, with multiple distinctions in diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as recognition for Employee Appreciation,

Employee Well-Being, and Professional Development for the third consecutive year. For more information, visit midwestbankcentre.com. Member FDIC.