

*J. Marion Sims  
Foundation*

# *PERSPECTIVES*

## **\$3.38 Million in Responsive Grants Awarded**

The J. Marion Sims Foundation awarded 22 grants during the 2007 Responsive Grants cycles. A total of **\$3,380,036** will fund projects and programs in Lancaster County, Fort Lawn and Great Falls. **The following proposals were approved in the April 2007 cycle:**

- **CareNet** – \$78,500 over eight months for prescription medications for qualifying patients and to facilitate the agency's transition into a full-fledged medical clinic
- **Catawba Care Coalition** – \$202,500 over three years to provide direct care services to patients living with HIV/AIDS and to provide preventive education, testing and outreach
- **Communicare** - \$11,400 for one year to provide prescription assistance and medical referrals for patients in Lancaster County, Fort Lawn and Great Falls
- **Friends of Juvenile Justice** – \$50,000 over two years for its *Community Connections Center* and youth programming to serve residents of Lancaster County, Great Falls and Fort Lawn
- **Great Falls Rescue Squad** – \$180,000 in one payment to help purchase an extrication unit to transport equipment to accident scenes in Great Falls and Fort Lawn

- **Joint Recreation Commission of Lancaster County** – \$200,000 in one payment to help construct the Buford Area Community Recreation Center
- **Lancaster County First Steps** – \$145,077 over three years to support a nurse's position that provides health and wellness services, information and education to 15 child care centers
- **Lancaster County School District** – \$91,083 over three years to provide all fourth-grade students in the Lancaster County School District with lessons in swimming and water safety
- **Lancaster Fatherhood Project** - \$77,700 over one year to support programs in the Lancaster and Great Falls offices to help low-income, non-custodial fathers become better parents of their children and to improve health outcomes among clients
- **Palmetto Health Foundation** - \$50,000 over two years for its children's hospital capital campaign to serve residents of Lancaster County, Great Falls and Fort Lawn
- **Parkinson Association of the Carolinas** - \$11,000 over one year to provide education and support services to Parkinson's disease patients and their families

*(continued page 5)*



## **Teachers Win \$68,556 For Their Schools**

Teachers in Great Falls, Lewisville and Lancaster County schools were awarded a total of **\$68,556** for their creative classroom projects during the 2007-08 school year through the Foundation's Teachers' Pet Grants program. (For a summary of all grants awarded see Page 5).

For the second year in a row, **Great Falls Elementary** teachers led in the number of grants approved, with 23 teachers receiving awards. Teachers at **Indian Land Elementary** are closing the gap, winning more than twice as many grants in the past two years than in all previous years combined. In 2007-08 Indian Land Elementary tied with **Erwin Elementary**, which for three years running has earned the highest number of Teachers' Pet Grants in Lancaster County.

Among the middle schools, **South Middle** won the most grants for the third consecutive year, and leading all high schools for the second year, **Buford High** had a record-setting 9 grants.

Designed to encourage creativity in the classroom, the Teachers' Pet Grant program enables certified educators in Lancaster County, Fort Lawn and Great Falls to receive up to \$500 for curriculum-enhancing projects and programs. Visit our website ([www.jmsims.org](http://www.jmsims.org)) for more information.

*At left, Freshman Cody Mackey participates in The ABCs of Exercise, a grant-funded program developed by Jennifer Riggins for her students at Buford High School.*

## A Word From The President

-James T. Morton



Since 2002 the J. Marion Sims Foundation has funded programming to provide citizens in Lancaster County, Great Falls and Fort Lawn opportunities to increase their literacy levels. The Foundation settled on adult literacy and basic skills as an area of emphasis after “connecting the dots” between a number of health-related issues – teen pregnancy, domestic violence, substance abuse, disease prevalence and rising health care costs among them – and this area’s unacceptably high rate of low literacy skills.

Response to the initiative has been strong. In its first three years, roughly 5,000 citizens availed themselves of direct services. During that time, between 83% and 88% of adult learners achieved individual goals they set for themselves.

The Foundation’s funding has occurred in two phases: initial three-year seed grants to begin programming, and a series of three single-year transition grants open to the original literacy grantees at reduced levels. Transition funding has been intended to provide a stable funding base while programs begin developing support from other sources.

At its March meeting, the board of trustees reaffirmed the Foundation’s commitment to funding adult literacy and basic skills programming, approving a third phase of funding in the form of challenge grants. Open to literacy grantees as they complete their final year of transition funding, these challenge grants are of two years in duration and may be reapplied for after their conclusion. Qualifying programs will demonstrate both programmatic and sustainability progress and will be required to meet prescribed criteria in order to receive challenge funds.

Increasing the literacy of adults is a critical component of improving the health and quality of life of the citizens of Lancaster County, Great Falls and Fort Lawn. The Foundation applauds the impact made by those who have undertaken this important work and is pleased to continue funding their efforts.

## Adult Literacy Grants Awarded

Thirteen agencies were awarded a total of **\$1,016,543** in grants during the 2007 Adult Literacy and Basic Skills grant cycle. The following agencies were approved for one-year transitional funding:

- **Brooklyn Springs Elementary School**, \$61,000 for its “Home Literacy Trail” family literacy program
- **Chester County Literacy Council**, \$69,901 for its “Guided Academic Preparation Program” workplace literacy program in Great Falls
- **The Children’s Council**, \$49,877 for its “Skills for Success” family literacy program
- **Christian Services of Lancaster**, \$78,740 for its “Lit-Up” workplace literacy program
- **Communities in Schools of Lancaster County**, \$116,446 for its “YouthBuild” workplace literacy program
- **Deliverance Word of Faith Church**, \$82,065 for its “Southside Family Literacy Project.”

- **Faith, Hope and Victory Christian Church**, \$57,459 for its “Community Powerhouse” family literacy program
- **Fort Lawn Community Center**, \$150,000 for its basic skills, family, parenting, computer, workplace and citizenship literacy programs
- **Lancaster County Literacy Council**, \$60,000 for its “Reading for Workplace Success” workplace literacy program
- **Learning Institute for Tomorrow**, \$117,327 for its LIFT health literacy program
- **The Multi-Cultural Information Center**, \$37,900 for its “Empowering our Future Today,” citizenship literacy program
- **USC Research Foundation**, \$37,900 for the Kershaw Community Health Education Center’s “Improving the Health Literacy of Health Care Consumers in Southern Lancaster County” project
- **York Technical Foundation**, \$98,000 for the college’s “Bridges to Enhanced Skills Training” workplace literacy program

*The Foundation and several of its adult literacy grantees presented “Home Grown Cures: A Community Approach to Literacy” at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Family Literacy in Louisville, KY, on March 31. Ms. Cindy Read, Senior Director of the National Center for Family Literacy, cited the JMSF’s Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Initiative as a national model, adding that its support “seems to have sent a strong message to the community that addressing the adult literacy rate is most important.”*

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## For the Love of Literacy



Lancaster City Administrator Helen Sowell presents a proclamation on behalf of the mayor and the city designating February 28 as International Reading Day.

A crowd of about 100 gathered at USC-Lancaster February 28 to celebrate literacy and recognize area literacy projects. Dr. Linda Gambrell, president of the International Reading Association, delivered the keynote address during the Foundation's "For the Love of Literacy Luncheon." A professor of education at Clemson University whose research has appeared in numerous publications, Dr. Gambrell spoke about the joy of reading and encouraged the audience to sustain good reading habits.



JMSF President Jim Morton, International Reading Association President Dr. Linda Gambrell and JMSF Program Officer Mary Henderson gather after the literacy luncheon.

## \$3.38 Million In Grants (cont'd)

The following proposals were approved in the October 2007 cycle:

- **CareNet** - \$818,456 over 18 months to fund start-up and operational costs of a community health center that provides comprehensive medical services for area residents regardless of ability to pay
- **Chester County School District** - \$159,410 over three years to support a social worker position for high-risk youth in Great Falls and Lewisville schools
- **Children's Attention Home** - \$34,857 over two years to help support health and wellness programs for abused, neglected and abandoned children
- **Family Connections of South Carolina** - \$6,800 over two years to provide support for families with special needs children
- **GoldenCare** - \$135,330 in one payment to purchase two ADA-approved vans to transport patients
- **Good Samaritan Medical Clinic** - \$42,000 for one year to increase healthcare services offered by the free medical clinic to indigent patients from Lancaster County, Fort Lawn and Great Falls
- **HOPE in Lancaster** - \$920,000 over two years to help qualifying Lancaster citizens to meet basic needs, including food, shelter, and heat
- **Rocky Bottom Retreat and Conference Center of the Blind** - \$5,000 in one payment for facility renovations at the camp serving citizens of Lancaster County, Great Falls and Fort Lawn
- **Safe Passage** - \$106,848 for one year to operate the battered women's shelter in Lancaster
- **United Citizens Club of Heath Springs** - \$47,575 for one year for capital upgrades and to help strengthen organizational capacity
- **Winthrop University** - \$6,500 for one year for the Certificate in Nonprofit Management program for local nonprofit organization administrators

## Teachers Win Grants (cont'd)

LANCASTER COUNTY 111 grants totaling \$53,438		GREAT FALLS & LEWISVILLE 31 grants totaling \$15,118
<u>Elementary (66)</u>	<u>Middle/High Schools (45)</u>	
Brooklyn Springs - 7	AJ High - 1	Great Falls Elem - 23
Buford - 7	AJ Middle - 6	Great Falls High - 3
Clinton - 1	AR Rucker - 5	
Discovery - 3	Buford High - 9	Lewisville Elem - 1
Erwin - 14	Buford Middle - 6	Lewisville High - 1
Heath Springs - 8	Eastside Academy - 2	Lewisville Middle - 3
Indian Land - 14	Indian Land Middle - 3	
McDonald Green - 3	Lancaster High - 2	
North - 9	South Middle - 11	

All of the affairs of the J. Marion Sims Foundation are governed by these core values: integrity, excellence, empathy, creativity, humility, responsiveness, learning, and respect.

## Events of Interest

### **May 14-16**

*2008 Prevention of Youth Substance Abuse in Rural Communities* at USC-Lancaster. See [www.RuralPrevConf.com](http://www.RuralPrevConf.com) or call 803.283.4995

### **May 20**

*Advanced Annual Giving Techniques* audio conference, Columbia (Offered by SCANPO). See [www.scanpo.org](http://www.scanpo.org)

### **June 11**

*Technology Planning webinar* offered by SCANPO. See [www.scanpo.org](http://www.scanpo.org)

### **June 21**

**4:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

*Unity in the Community* festival, Main Street, downtown Lancaster. Sponsored by Lancaster Fatherhood Project. Area nonprofit agencies are encouraged to set up booths. To learn more: 803.283.3444

## **New Filing Requirements for Charitable Organizations**

### **Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations —Form 990-N (e-Postcard)**

Small tax-exempt organizations whose gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less may be required to electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 added this filing requirement to ensure that the IRS and potential donors have current information about your organization.

The first e-Postcards are due in 2008 for tax years ending on or after December 31, 2007. The e-Postcard is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. For example, if your tax year ended on December 31, 2007, the e-Postcard is due May 15, 2008. **You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your tax year ends.** To file the e-Postcard visit <http://epostcard.form990.org>.

### **New Form 990, Return of Organizations Exempt from Income Tax**

On December 20, 2007, the IRS released the 2008 Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, the form filed by public charities and other tax-exempt organizations. The 2008 Form 990, as well as other key information describing the new form, is available on the IRS Web site, <http://irs.gov/eo>.

Organizations will begin using the new Form 990 for the 2008 tax year (returns filed in 2009). Organizations must continue to use the current Form 990 for the 2007 tax year (returns filed in 2008), but after that the new Form 990 must be used. However, the IRS will phase in the new form over a three-year period if organizations satisfy both a gross receipts and assets tests as indicated in the table below:

<b>You may file Form 990-EZ for</b>	<b>If gross receipts are</b>	<b>If assets are</b>
2008 tax year (filed in 2009)	> \$25,000 and < \$1 million	< \$2.5 million
2009 tax year (filed in 2010)	> \$25,000 and < \$500,000	< \$1.25 million
2010 and later tax years	> \$50,000 and < \$200,000	< \$500,000

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*The mission of the  
J. Marion Sims  
Foundation is to support  
programs and projects of  
prevention and education  
that enhance the health  
and wellness of the  
citizens of Lancaster  
County, South Carolina,  
and the communities of  
Great Falls and  
Fort Lawn.*

«Organization»  
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