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**IMPACT Program to Curb Runaway and Human Trafficking of Young Girls, a Collaboration of Ascent 121 with Lutheran Child & Family Services, Wins \$100,000 Grant from Impact 100 Greater Indianapolis**

*Charitable Women's Giving Circle Celebrates 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and \$1.76 Million of High-Impact Grant Giving*

**INDIANAPOLIS – June 7, 2016** - Impact 100 Greater Indianapolis awarded a \$100,000 grant to the IMPACT Program to Curb Runaway and Human Trafficking of Young Girls, a collaboration between Ascent 121 and Lutheran Child & Family Services, during their annual dinner held tonight at The Willows on Westfield Event Center in Indianapolis. The grant winner was announced following presentations by each finalist and a live vote by Impact 100 members.

Ascent 121 in collaboration with Lutheran Child & Family Services will use the \$100,000 grant for their IMPACT Program which serves teen survivors of human trafficking. They will increase capacity to help more survivors by hiring additional therapists and will provide expert training for their clinical staff. Additionally, they want to make their residential unit feel like home for the girls. The grant will provide fresh paint, colorful carpeting and some additional furniture in order to make their surroundings more conducive to recovery. Lastly, the program will seek to engage the community by hosting a Human Trafficking Awareness Summit, bringing together thought leaders and experts to offer keynote addresses and workshops to better understand the issue.

"Impact 100 is honored to support the mission of the IMPACT Program," said Beth Thomas, president of Impact 100 Greater Indianapolis. "It's clear that our membership saw the value of funding a program that helps curb runaway and human trafficking of young girls in Indiana."

This year marks the 11th anniversary of Impact 100 in Indianapolis. To date, the organization has awarded over \$1.76 million to local nonprofits. Organizations submitted grant applications in January 2016. Four focus area committees vetted one finalist in each focus area. The IMPACT Program, a collaboration between Ascent 121 and Lutheran Child & Family Services, was the finalist in the Family focus area, and was one of four organizations to make a formal presentation to the Impact 100 membership at their annual dinner. The other finalists included: IndyFringe (Arts and Culture focus area), Art With a Heart (Education focus area), and Dove Recovery House (Health and Wellness focus area). The three remaining finalists each received residual grants in the amount of \$18,333.

"We're grateful to the members of Impact 100 Greater Indianapolis for awarding us this grant. This funding will enable us to raise awareness, to serve more survivors, and to provide recovery in surroundings that instill the dignity and self-worth that the girls deserve," said Megan McGuire, chief executive officer of Ascent 121.

"Intervention and care for the highly specialized needs of this population is possible because of the collaboration of the two agencies," said Sven Schumacher, chief executive officer of Lutheran Child & Family Services.

To date, 12 local nonprofits have received \$100,000 and 35 have received residual grants as a result of Impact 100 Greater Indianapolis' collective giving. Previous high-impact grantees include: Indianapolis Parks Foundation for Indy Urban Acres Flower Farm (2015); Social Health Association of Indiana (2014); Tindley Collegiate (2013); Jameson Camp, Inc. (2012); Outside the Box, Inc. (2011); Rock Steady Boxing (2010); Outreach, Inc. (2009); Herron High School and Horizon House (2008); Indy Reads and Craine House/Fairbanks (2007) and Wishard (2006).

Women may join Impact 100 Greater Indianapolis by making an individual membership donation of \$1,000. Shared memberships are also available for small groups of women who wish to pool their money together for the \$1,000 donation. These funds are used exclusively for the purpose of grant making.

***About Impact 100***

Impact 100 Greater Indianapolis is a 501(C)(3) charitable women's giving circle dedicated to awarding high impact grants totaling \$100,000 or more to at least one nonprofit in the greater Indianapolis community in the areas of arts & culture, education, environment, family and health & wellness. The organization seeks to fund critical needs, new ventures, and innovative ways to solve social problems and to create a more civil and respectful climate in our community. Impact 100 Greater Indianapolis has a minimum of 100 members, each donating \$1,000 per year to fund the grants. For more information about Impact 100 Greater Indianapolis, visit [www.impact100indy.org](http://www.impact100indy.org), Like on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Impact-100-Greater-Indianapolis-193876110663610/](https://www.facebook.com/Impact-100-Greater-Indianapolis-193876110663610/) or follow on Twitter @Impact100Indy.