



For Immediate Release:  
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### Innovative Austin Nonprofits To Receive St. David's Foundation Opportunity Grants

Austin--**Opportunity Grants** totaling almost \$1 million are slated to be presented by St. David's Foundation at a special announcement event Nov. 9 at noon at Foundation headquarters in Austin. Aimed at providing funding for transformative new approaches to addressing health needs across Central Texas, these unique grants are being awarded for the second straight year by the Foundation.

Among the highlights of the 10 grants being announced:

- Promoting healthy eating habits for young children, and supporting the unique role of grandparents (UT Austin Human Development and Family Sciences)
- Developing new approaches to serving special needs children in a classroom setting (Open Door Preschool)
- Funding for trained volunteer mentors who work with children of incarcerated parents (Seedling Foundation)
- Grant to develop a hotline and mobile app for rural and underserved residents in Caldwell, Eastern Williamson, Bastrop and Hays counties (Wonders & Worries)

Grants for each of the ten recipients range from about \$80,000 to \$100,000 for two years of funding. Total funds provided for 2017 Opportunity Grants are \$982,537.00.

Earl Maxwell, CEO of St. David's Foundation said, "Opportunity Grants allow St. David's Foundation to explore fresh and exciting approaches as we work to make Central Texas the healthiest community in the world." He continued, "We are delighted to work with these innovative organizations to seek the best solutions for our area's healthcare challenges."

"The St. David's Foundation Opportunity Grant will allow Wonders & Worries to connect with more families in outlying Central Texas counties and deliver professional support to children and teenagers so they can reach their full potential, despite a parent's serious illness. A parent's illness can negatively affect a child's mental health and school performance. The funding from St. David's Foundation will allow us to expand professional support digitally to serve more Texas schools, counties and families," said Alex Gabbi, MBA, Executive Director, Wonders & Worries.

Below is a full listing of the 10 Opportunity Grant recipients, and the amount each will receive.

<b>Opportunity Grants 2017</b>		
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>
Bookspring	Pediatric Literacy Kits	\$ 100,000
Cardea	Increasing Community Health Worker (CHW) Impact on Women's Health in Rural Communities of Central Texas	\$ 100,000
Department of Human Development and Family Sciences, UT Austin	Promoting positive parent feeding practices and healthy eating in young children: The unique role of grandparents	\$ 99,637
Forklift Danceworks	My Park, My Pool, My City	\$ 100,000
Open Door Preschool	Children With Special Needs: A Teamwork Approach	\$ 100,000
Seedling Foundation	The Impact of Trained Volunteer Mentors on Building Resilience in Children with Parents Who Are Incarcerated	\$ 82,900
The Arc of Capital Area	Inclusive Health: Closing the Health Promotion Gap for Individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities	\$ 100,000
UT Austin, Child and Family Research Institute	Strategic Plan for Positive Sexual Health for Youth in Out-of-Home Settings	\$ 100,000
Women's Health and Family Planning Association of Texas	Provider Toolkit for Client-centered Contraceptive Counseling in Central Texas	\$ 100,000
Wonders & Worries	Next Generation Programming	\$ 100,000
	Total Grants	\$ 982,537

### **About St. David's Foundation:**

St. David's Foundation believes good health returns great benefits to the community. Through a unique partnership, the Foundation reinvests proceeds from St. David's HealthCare to help build the healthiest community in the world. The Foundation helps people in every corner of the community through signature programs and collaborations with more than 60 nonprofit partners. In 2017, the Foundation's goal is to invest up to \$75 million to connect thousands of low-income people to a full range of health services. Foundation signature programs include the largest scholarship program in Texas for aspiring health professionals, and the largest mobile dental program in the country.

Other focus areas include safety net clinics, agencies serving older adults, mental health initiatives, and support for healthy living initiatives. For more information on St. David's Foundation, visit [www.stdaidsfoundation.org](http://www.stdaidsfoundation.org).

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