



Contact: Christy McFarland  
(309) 821-4510  
christy.mcfarland@countryfinancial.com

## **COUNTRY Financial awards nearly \$300,000 in grants for financial literacy programs**

*Most recent grants bring program's total to \$775,000*

**Feb. 18, 2014, Bloomington, IL**— COUNTRY Financial<sup>®</sup> has awarded nearly \$300,000 in grants through its Count on COUNTRY Financial community grant program. Funds were awarded to fifteen organizations across Chicago, Atlanta, Portland and Minneapolis.

The grant program awards organizations that provide educational opportunities and resources to help single parents and their children achieve financial security. Since 2008, COUNTRY Financial has awarded nearly \$775,000 to nonprofit organizations with programs that are improving the financial security of families. This was the first year the program expanded to include deserving nonprofits in Atlanta and Portland.

“We believe strong families lead to strong communities. By helping single-parent households achieve financial security, we’re contributing to the overall strength and success of the community in which they live,” said Jeff Koerner, COUNTRY Financial agency field executive. “Our goal at COUNTRY is to make sure that all families, along with the neighborhoods they reside in, have a financially-secure future.”

### **This year’s grant recipients include:**

Atlanta: 100 Black Men of Atlanta, HomeStretch Transitional Housing Program, Urban Asset Builders/the Community Foundation for Financial Literacy, Warrick Dunn Charities

Chicago: Fathers for the Future, Heartland Human Care Services, Instituto del Progreso Latino, Jane Addams Resource Corporation, North Lawndale Employment Network, Northwest Side Housing Center, Spanish Coalition for Housing

St. Paul/Minneapolis: The Boys and Girls Club of the Twin Cities, Emerge Community Development, Jeremiah Program

Portland: Financial Beginnings

“We believe helping single-parent households achieve financial independence is a crucial part of building strong communities,” said Lisa Chester, director of operations for Warrick Dunn Charities, a 2013 grant recipient. “The generous contribution from COUNTRY will help support our Count on Your Future program, which focuses on educating single-parent families in our Homes for the Holidays program about investments through a series of workshops. Our program

quips families with the tools and resources they need to achieve financial security.”

A recent COUNTRY Financial Security Index found nearly 82 percent of single parents have had to cut back on spending to make ends meet due to the overall state of the economy. This reinforces the need for a grant program, such as the Count on COUNTRY Financial grant program, that is geared specifically to supporting nonprofit organizations that help single parents and their children achieve financial security.

*Following is an overview of each of the Atlanta programs that will be supported by funding from the Count on COUNTRY grant program.*

### **2013 Atlanta Grant Recipients**

#### **HomeStretch Transitional Housing Program**

This Atlanta organization guides homeless working families toward self-reliance and stability. HomeStretch promotes financial literacy and enhancement of job-related skills to achieve four goals: stable housing, finances, employment and families.

#### **Urban Asset Builders/the Community Foundation for Financial Literacy**

Through financial education, coaching and asset building vehicles, Urban Asset Builders (UAB) and the Community Foundation for Financial Literacy serves to empower Atlanta families. UAB offers its Money Smart Club program, an initiative to help adults deal with financial issues and youth/children workshops covering financial education topics.

#### **Warrick Dunn Charities**

Homes for the Holidays (HFTH) is a program provided by Atlanta’s Warrick Dunn Charities (WDC) which supports economically disadvantaged single parents to help them achieve financial independence. Their new initiative, Count on Your Future, will promote single parent participation in investment accounts through a series of seminars.

#### **100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.**

Reaching out to the African American youth community and their parents, 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. launched Project Success, a post-secondary preparation, mentoring and tuition assistance program. This initiative teaches financial literacy through wealth building classes, home ownership lessons and investment strategies.

*For a complete overview of the grant recipients, please visit [www.countoncountryfinancial.com](http://www.countoncountryfinancial.com).*

#### **About COUNTRY Financial**

COUNTRY Financial® ([www.countryfinancial.com](http://www.countryfinancial.com)) serves about one million households and businesses throughout the United States. It offers a full range of financial products and services from auto, home and life insurance to retirement planning services, investment management and annuities.

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