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## **Toledo Community Venture Partners Completes First Grant Partnership Project**

*Toledo, Ohio, March 5, 2008* — Toledo Community Venture Partners (TCVP), a local organization developed by the Toledo Community Foundation to provide volunteer participants a unique opportunity to contribute professional know-how, financial resources and philanthropic passion to help non-profit organizations throughout Northwest Ohio, announced today the completion of its first grant project with Diabetes Youth Services.

“The Diabetes Youth Services project was the result of an open request for proposals that TCVP submitted to area non-profits back in the fall of 2006,” said Kathy Krueger, a founding member of TCVP. “Our group selected Diabetes Youth Services from a list of finalists as our first project and we have been working with their board and staff to help identify opportunities for improvement in their operational and financial processes for the past 12 months. We initially thought this project might take two years but we were so energized by the opportunity to make a difference and we received such great cooperation from the folks at Diabetes Youth Services, we were able to make our recommendations within 12 months.”

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“The timing of Toledo Community Venture Partner's involvement could not have been better for our organization,” said Robin Condon, Executive Director of Diabetes Youth Services. “As a result of this relationship, Diabetes Youth Services has been strengthened, allowing us to expand services for local youth with diabetes in 2008. It was great to have a group of concerned and interested businessmen and women, offering their input based on what they know from their areas of expertise, literally pulling for all of us at DYS as we evolved.”

The Toledo Community Foundation founded TCVP in April 2006 as a way to provide a unique approach to philanthropy that let's people take an active role in their charitable giving. TCVP participants are asked to join by making an annual contribution based on a sliding scale of their annual salary over two years. The funds are pooled and used to provide grants and support to TCVP programs and operations. The twelve founding members of TCVP combined to donate about \$25,000 over 2006 and 2007. Some of these funds were used to help accomplish goals initiated as part of the Diabetes Youth Services project and the left over funds will be used to help start the next TCVP project. According to Keith Burwell, President of the Toledo Community Foundation, the completion of TCVP's first project is a major milestone. “The completion of our first project is a huge step toward the continued growth and development of the community venture partners concept in our area. We are now looking for volunteers to step up and take on the next opportunity to help a non-profit organization in our community.”

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According to Bridget Brell Holt, the Toledo Community Foundation's Donor Relations Officer, there are no predetermined set of qualifications to participate in the program. It's a pretty simple application process," she said. "If you're interested, give us a call at the Toledo Community Foundation. We're looking for people who are interested in serving our community in a unique way and we're also interested in people who want to learn and grow with a group of other folks with similar interests.

**About TCVP:** Toledo Community Venture Partners is a network of community-minded individuals who combine financial contributions and professional skills with a passion for philanthropy. TCVP leverages collective expertise and resources to partner with and strengthen promising nonprofits for maximum community impact. For more information, visit [www.toledocf.org](http://www.toledocf.org) and click on the Toledo Community Venture Partners button located on the left-hand column.

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