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**Sign of the Arrow Awards Grants to Area Agencies
at 49th Annual Philanthropy Brunch**

(St. Louis, MO – October 26, 2017) Sign of the Arrow, the premier nonprofit retail destination for needlepoint and specialty gifts, awarded **18 grants** to St. Louis area agencies at their 49th annual **Philanthropy Brunch** on **Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at Ladue Chapel**, 9450 Clayton Road.

Now in its 51st year, Sign of the Arrow was established in 1966 by the St. Louis Alumnae Club of Pi Beta Phi to provide philanthropic support to the community. Today the shop is staffed by 80+ community volunteers who give in excess of 22,000 hours annually to help run Sign of the Arrow. **ALL** shop proceeds benefit area agencies. Sign of the Arrow has donated more than \$3.7 million dollars to 187 different charities since its inception. Customers truly impact the lives of others in their community when they shop at Sign of the Arrow!

The following agencies received grants from Sign of the Arrow at the 2017 Philanthropy Brunch:

**Aim High St. Louis
Center for Women in Transition
Circle of Concern
Episcopal City Mission
Epworth Children & Family Services
Kingdom House
Lumina Program (at BJC Hospice)
Marian Middle School
Perennial
Pi Beta Phi Foundation**

**Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital
The SoulFisher Ministries
St. Francis Xavier College Church
St. Louis Alumnae Panhellenic
Association
The St. Louis Children's Choirs
Tree House of Greater St. Louis
Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis
Webster Rock Hill Ministries**

“Continuing the mission that began 51 years ago, Sign of the Arrow awarded grants to 18 deserving nonprofit organizations this year,” commented Pam Wingbermuehle, President of Sign of the Arrow. *“We thank all of our customers and volunteers for their loyalty and generosity which has enabled our ability to assist these St. Louis area agencies.”*

Shop volunteers or local Pi Phi alumnae can nominate a charitable agency to receive a grant from Sign of the Arrow. The agency and sponsor then submit a grant request specifying, in detail, how funds would be used, should they receive a grant. Sign of the Arrow's Philanthropy Committee meets to decide which agencies receive grants. Careful consideration is given to each applicant.

Sign of the Arrow is widely known for its extensive selection of designer needlepoint, including hand-painted canvases, custom designs, custom finishing, furniture, fibers, trunk shows, and classes. Knowledgeable staff and volunteers assist both novice and experienced needlepointers. The shop also offers unique gifts, including decorative accessories, holiday decorations, sorority gifts, baby gifts, picture frames, stationery, and more.

Shoppers can visit www.signofthearrow.com to shop online, or contact the shop directly to place an order. Sign of the Arrow provides an extensive and thorough mail order business to individuals and needlepoint shops countrywide. Services include finishing, stitching, choosing fibers and fabric for canvases, monogramming, blocking, and custom painting.

Sign of the Arrow has a variety of classes for needlepointers of all ages and abilities, including classes on decorative stitches, specialty fiber classes, and one-on-one instruction. Classes are offered in person at Sign of the Arrow and expert stitchers are always available in store to help with specific questions.

For more information on needlepoint, gift products and services at Sign of the Arrow, you can log onto www.signofthearrow.com, "Like" Sign of the Arrow on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/Sign.of.the.Arrow>, or call (314) 994-0606. Sign of the Arrow is located at 9814 Clayton Road, in the heart of Ladue, Missouri.

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Agency Representatives, Sponsors and Philanthropy Committee for the 2017 Sign of the Arrow Philanthropy Brunch

