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MIDSTORY RECEIVES GRANT FOR SUMMER PROGRAMMING FROM THE GREATER TOLEDO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SECOR FUND

Midstory is pleased to announce receipt of a community funds grant from the Secor Fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation to support 2021 youth and young adult summer programming.

TOLEDO, OHIO, (January 15, 2021) – The Board of Trustees of Greater Toledo Community Foundation has approved a \$10,000 grant to Midstory to support the organization’s college and high school programs, which engage college students from all over the nation & world and local high school students from across urban, suburban & rural districts. The programs’ goals include drawing young people to contribute meaningfully to the Midwest and sharing Toledo’s story to the region & nation. In 2020, although Midstory shifted to remote programming, 65% of the students said the experience was as good if not **better** than in-person.

The programs equip students with writing and multimedia creation skills, cultivate critical thinking and provide them opportunities to impact local readership and thought—to change the view of the next generation and the nation’s perception toward the Midwest. After our programs, 100% of college students and 82% of high school students said their views of Toledo and the Midwest became more positive. Through working with Midstory, 94% of college students and 100% of high school students said they felt they had made an impact on the Toledo community. Furthermore, 50% of our students in 2020 identified as being from minority backgrounds, and 25% identified as low-income and/or first-generation college students. Since the start of our program, our students have received over \$137,000 in university scholarships and grants to support their participation in our programs.

College interns work closely with the Midstory team on solutions-oriented projects and educational multimedia—thinking, researching and creating for the betterment of our region. High schoolers experience an interdisciplinary mentorship program that challenges them to explore the Midwest through a creative and critical lens to develop their own projects, teaching them not only professional skills, but also giving them an environment in which to be civically and socially engaged in our region’s development.

About Midstory: Midstory is a 501(c)(3) non-profit thinkhub that progresses the narrative of the Midwest by incubating bright, diverse and interdisciplinary thinkers to exchange ideas and envision the future of our region through multimedia storytelling and solutions-oriented research. As an educational media organization, we inform, interpret and inspire in and for the Midwest and believe that our region’s challenges can be our greatest asset to drive renewed interest and human capital into post-industrial cities. Learn more at www.midstory.org.

About the Greater Toledo Community Foundation: Greater Toledo Community Foundation is a public charitable organization created by citizens of our community to enrich the quality of life for individuals and families in our area. In existence since 1973, the Foundation has nearly 900 individual current funds with assets of approximately \$329 million. The Foundation provides philanthropic services for individuals, families, businesses and corporations to meet their charitable giving needs. For more information on the Foundation, visit the organization’s website at www.toledocf.org or follow them on Facebook or LinkedIn.

