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# News Release

## **ESN Receives Grant to Support Educational Improvement at Fairmont School**

**Joliet IL, November 24, 2008:** The Education Service Network (ESN) recently received a \$10,000 grant to help the agency foster community partnership, academic improvement, and other positive outcomes in Fairmont, an unincorporated, low income community located northeast of Joliet. ESN was among eight organizations to receive 2008 grant funding from the Will County Community Foundation, an affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust.

The grant enables ESN to provide a second year of services of a part-time School Community Literacy-Wellness Coordinator (SCLWC), a position currently held by Ms. Chris O'Donnell. The SCLWC is based at Fairmont School where she assists the Fairmont Partnership, a collaboration of educators, service providers, and residents dedicated to the improvement of student achievement and positive community outcomes.

The SCLWC enables the Partnership to more effectively improve student reading scores and address community health issues. She has also successfully connected partners in the development and implementation of thematic, innovative, and student-friendly Illinois Learning Standards and I-Plan aligned language arts and health social marketing initiatives. These efforts have led to positive changes in the areas of obesity, asthma, mental health, and health care access. Projects vary from month to month in support of nationally recognized health themes and go beyond traditional methods of student learning by involving all segments of the Fairmont community in their implementation.

For more information about Fairmont Partnership projects, please contact Sharon Schultz at (815) 774-8908.

The Education Service Network is a program of the Grundy-Kendall Regional Office of Education and the Will County Regional Office of Education. For more information about ESN and its programs, please visit the web site [www.educationservicenetwork.org](http://www.educationservicenetwork.org).

