

Foundation donating \$200,000 to Tallahassee nonprofit groups

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

MIAMI — The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation announced \$200,000 in grants this week to 13 nonprofit agencies in Tallahassee.

The money comes from a \$10 million fund established to provide post-Sept. 11 assistance in the 26 U.S. communities where the Knight brothers published newspapers, including Tallahassee, but the foundation is wholly separate from and independent of those newspapers.

Nationwide, the foundation distributed grants of \$10,000 to \$150,000 to 246 agencies in Knight communities that provide direct services to people who have been most affected by the events of Sept. 11.

Local awards to agencies serving the Tallahassee area include \$30,000 grants to Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition and Telephone Counseling and Referral Service; \$20,000 grants to Capital City Youth Services, ECHO Outreach Ministries and Mothers in Crisis; and grants of \$10,000 to America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend, Brehon Institute for Human Services, Big Bend Cares, Bridgeway House, Children's Home Society, Lutheran Social Services, Pace Center for Girls, and Turn About.

Local conditions factored into the funding equation. The Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition provides maternal and child health care for at-risk pregnant women and infants in Leon and Wakulla

counties. The state's unemployment level rose to 5.7 percent in December, a recent record that reflected considerable job losses in the tourism sector, said Alfredo Cruz, Knight's community liaison program officer.

"In the third and fourth quarters of last year, the prenatal Healthy Start program in Leon County saw a 44-percent increase in the number of new clients, compared with the year before," Cruz said. "Knight funds will help them and other local agencies try to maintain their level of service."

Knight Foundation previously pledged up to \$500,000 to memorial efforts honoring the hijacking victims who died Sept. 11 while preventing United Airlines Flight 93 from being used as a terrorist weapon.