

Contact

Linda Sandquist
Director of Marketing and Communications
Community Foundation of Northern Illinois
946 N. Second Street
Rockford, IL 61107
Phone 815-962-2110 ext. 12
Cell 815-289-1258
Email lsandquist@cfnil.org

**For Immediate Release
March 17, 2011**

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRAND TOTAL OF
ROCK THE AIR SCHOLARSHIP FUND
\$1,052,036**

Rockford, IL – The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois officially announced the grand total of the Rock the Air Scholarship Fund on Thursday, March 17 at 10:30 am at the Rockford Airport – Main Terminal Building.

The total of the Rock the Air Scholarship Fund is \$1,052,036.

This grand total will be given to Ken Dufour, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Trustee along with other information about the scholarship fund. Ken will present the information to his fellow Embry-Riddle Trustees at a regularly scheduled board meeting on March 18.

The Rock the Air Scholarship Fund was spearheaded by the Community Foundation after a group of Sundstrand Retirees, headed by Ron Harris and Chris Christiansen, hit upon the idea of creating a scholarship for students who might attend an Embry-Riddle campus in Rockford. Embry-Riddle announced last fall that it was considering creating a third residential campus and Rockford and Houston, Texas have been named the finalists in the university's selection process.

The Rock the Air Scholarship Fund, launched on November 17, 2010, has attracted pledges from all over the country. Pledges have ranged from \$1 to \$100,000 with over 850 individuals, businesses, and service clubs participating. 80% (4 out of 5) of the pledges have been less than \$1,000 each.

If Embry-Riddle chooses Rockford as a site for a residential campus, the Rock the Air Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships each year for Midwestern students attending the Rockford campus. The scholarship will be endowed, and the principal will never be used, meaning the legacy of the Rock the Air initiative and this community's engagement in economic development will live on... forever!

If Embry-Riddle chooses Rockford, the Community Foundation will send payment schedules to everyone who pledged to the fund. If Embry-Riddle does not locate a residential campus in Rockford, all pledges are void.

The Community Foundation is the area's largest provider of grants and scholarships.

END