

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ROCKFORD PROMISE CHALLENGED WITH MATCHING DOLLARS FROM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Rockford, IL – The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois announced that it is challenging Rockford Promise with a \$2,500 match from the Foundation’s Community Opportunities Fund if Rockford Promise can raise \$7,500 before May 1.

Rockford Promise, a local charitable organization, provides financial assistance to Rockford public high school graduates who attend an accredited college or pursue post high school training. In 2011, Rockford Promise gave away five \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who had completed their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) prior to April 15 and submitted their names to their high school guidance counselor. The scholarships were donated by local businesses and service clubs.

Realizing the difficulty of raising money for scholarships each year, Rockford Promise is building endowed funds at the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. The Community Foundation’s mission is to attract, preserve and grow a permanent endowment for the needs of the people of Northern Illinois.

Rockford Promise is modeled after successful programs around the country that have achieved exceptional results. Other Promise programs have had significant positive impact on their communities including increased high school graduation rates, increases in the number of residents with post-secondary training, and increases in the number of new businesses and industries locating in the community.

Rockford Promise Board President, Jan Jones states “Rockford Promise is excited to offer scholarships to the students of district 205. It is our vision to lessen the financial barrier to higher education and we hope one day all Rockford high school graduates who choose to further their education will be able to do so. Rockford Promise hopes to provide the financial assistance needed to make this possible.”

Contributions to the Rockford Promise Fund can be made at any time. Checks should be made payable to the Community Foundation with Rockford Promise on the memo line or people can give on-line at www.cfnil.org indicating Rockford Promise as the fund they would like to give to. All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is the area’s largest provider of grants and scholarships.

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