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## **Community Foundation Celebrates Endowment at Holiday Reception Honors Carroll Starr Endowment Challenge Recipients**

- 1. The Community Foundation will host a Holiday Reception today from 4:30 – 6:30 pm at Forest Hills Country Club, located at 5135 Forest Hills Road.**
- 2. The purpose of the Holiday Reception is to celebrate the power of permanent endowments and the Foundation's Carroll H. Starr Endowment Challenge Recipients. The Foundation will announce that the following organizations have been chosen to participate in the next round of Starr Endowment Challenge Grants: Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center, Rockford Cosmopolitan Charities, and Swedish Historical Society (second time participating.)**
- 3. Discovery Center Museum, Freeport Art Museum, Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden, Natural Land Institute, RAMP and Swedish Historical Society will have displays at the event tonight, showcasing their service to the community. Representatives from these organizations will be available for comment.**

Carroll H. Starr Endowment Challenge Grants help build the capacity and self-sufficiency of the nonprofit sector by creating permanent endowments. The endowments help nonprofits avoid crises stemming from annual appeal shortages and unexpected financial situations.

The Challenge Grants are open to all non-profit agencies in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties who are interested in building a permanent endowment. The Community Foundation matches \$1 (up to \$50,000) for every \$3 raised by selected non-profits during the Challenge Grant time period.

The program is named after Carroll H. Starr, a prominent businessman – part owner of the first Ford Motor Car dealership in Rockford, banker, and manager of a local investment firm. Starr guided the Community Foundation (then known as the Rockford Community Trust) during its formative years with an abiding conviction in its future growth and benefit to Rockford. He served the Trust faithfully until his death in 1963.

“Charitable dollars are scarce and non-profits can benefit greatly by concentrating on a future and permanent source of income,” said Gloria Lundin, the Foundation’s President. “It is our mission to attract permanent resources for this community. We are hoping the Challenge Grants will encourage self-sustainability in the non-profits, and alleviate some of the reliance on annual fundraising campaigns.”

The first Carroll H. Starr Challenge Grants were offered by the Community Foundation in 2001. Past participants in the Challenge have been: Burpee Museum, Discovery Center Museum, Freeport Art Museum, Illinois Growth, Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden, The Mill, Natural Land Institute, RAMP, Rockford Christian Schools, and Swedish Historical Society.

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois serves as the area’s leading non-profit provider of grants and scholarships. Its mission is to build permanent resources for the immediate and future needs of the people of Northern Illinois.

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