

[FOUNDATION LETTERHEAD]
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[INSERT DATE]

Contact: [INSERT NAME]
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**RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS
NOVEMBER 12–18, 2014**

[NAME OF FOUNDATION] Participates in National Effort to Highlight Local Impact of Philanthropy

[INSERT DATELINE] — During the week of November 12-18, 2014, [NAME OF FOUNDATION] will join more than 700 community foundations across America celebrating *Community Foundation Week*. For 25 years, the effort has raised awareness about the increasingly important role of these philanthropic organizations in fostering local collaboration and innovation to address persistent civic and economic challenges.

During the week, [INSERT FOUNDATION NAME] will [INSERT DETAILS ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE WEEK: SITE VISITS, POLICY FORUMS, RECOGNITION CEREMONY, NEWS CONFERENCES, ETC.]

“Community foundations impact lives, solve problems, and improve futures,” said [FOUNDATION PRESIDENT/CHAIR]. “As many residents grapple with limited resources and a growing need for services, we are more determined than ever to bring our community partners together to find innovative and effective solutions for some of our most challenging social problems.”

Community foundations are independent, public entities that steward philanthropic resources from institutional and individual donors to local nonprofits that are the heart of strong, vibrant communities. [PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION’S EFFORTS THIS YEAR—INSERT LOCAL DETAILS ABOUT YOUR PRIORITIES, INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS BEING ADVANCED BY YOUR ORGANIZATION, AND RESULTS THAT DEMONSTRATE YOUR LEADERSHIP AND IMPACT.]

Community foundations represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy. Every state in the United States is home to at least one community foundation—large and small, urban and rural—working to advance solutions on a wide range of social issues. **INSERT STATS HERE**

Community Foundation Week, created in 1989 by former president George H.W. Bush, recognizes the work of community foundations throughout America and their collaborative approach to working with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to address community problems.

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[INSERT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOILERPLATE]. For more information about [INSERT FOUNDATION NAME], visit [INSERT WEBSITE ADDRESS].

Congressional Record Statement: 2014 Community Foundation Week

Mr. Speaker, community foundations epitomize the philanthropic culture of the United States. Established in 1989, Community Foundation Week takes place from November 12-18th annually and honors the tremendous contributions of community foundations across our country. They hold a unique place in American society and provide hope and opportunity to millions of Americans. One hundred years ago, the world's first community foundation was established in Cleveland, Ohio. Since then more than 650 community foundations have been created in America inspiring millions of Americans to give back to this great country with their time, talent and treasure. Today, I would like to recognize the work of [NAME OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION] in my district. The [NAME of FOUNDATION] foundation is a model for how philanthropy can inspire communities to come together in support of a common cause. [INSERT EXAMPLE(S) OF INNOVATIVE/EFFECTIVE PROGRAM(S)]. This is just one example of the extraordinary work of place-based philanthropy in local communities throughout the country. The spirit of generosity embodied by over 650 U.S.-based community foundations is a core American value. This week, I am honored to recognize these community foundations for their outstanding efforts.

Community Foundation Week 2014 Sample Op-Ed

“A Century of American Giving”

[AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO BEGIN AN OP-ED AND ENGAGE READERS IS THROUGH A PERSONAL STORY OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY WHO FACED A PARTICULARLY TOUGH CHALLENGE AND HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION – THROUGH COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION HELPED THEM OVERCOME IT. THIS HELPS THE READER BETTER UNDERSTAND THE HUMAN IMPACT OF YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S EFFORT.]

[INSERT NAME]'s story is a compelling example of the difference that can be made in the lives of others when a community comes together. This week, we celebrate 100 years of community foundations working together to address change in our communities.

At a time when government capacity to solve our most pressing problems is limited, community foundations offer real solutions. Community foundations are on the front lines of change, working to leverage relationships and resources to achieve real results. [INSERT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION NAME] is one of more than 700 community foundations in America working in collaboration with community, state, and national partners to tackle some of society's toughest challenges – in education, healthcare, job training, poverty, natural disasters, and more. Community foundations are essential resources in creating strong, resilient communities.

In our own community, there are issues affecting our lives every day. [INSERT STATISTICS ABOUT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY] These issues are ones that we are working to solve every day.

Our organization has invested [INSERT DOLLAR AMOUNTS] to support a number of organizations and causes to advance the public good. For example, [INSERT NAME OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATION] works to [INSERT ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ABOUT THE HISTORY AND IMPACT OF YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. PROVIDE AN EXMAPLE OF A SUCCESSFUL, COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS THAT BROUGHT TOGETHER RESOURCES AND TALENT TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS A PARTICULAR CHALLENGE – INCLUDE DATA ON RESULTS].

We are leading the charge to mobilize the commitment and creativity in this community to find new and better ways to improve the lives of our neighbors in need. November 12-18, 2014 marks the 25th Community Foundation Week, and the 100th year of community foundations as a force for change in our country. Help us raise awareness about our increasingly important role by telling your community about the work we do.

[INSERT AUTHOR'S NAME, TITLE AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION].

Community Foundation Week 2014 Public Service Announcement

Copy:

[NAME OF FOUNDATION]

:60 Radio PSA

Community Foundations Week, November 12–18, 2014: Community foundations fund America's future

[Community foundation name] invests in [the city, region, or metro area] to impact lives, create opportunity, and improve futures. This year, we have provided grants to XXX organizations, including [fill in nonprofit, school, project name, hallmark initiative] that have helped XXX people. As many people continue to face economic challenges and uncertainty, we are proud to serve our community's residents and meet their needs. If you are considering making a gift to a local organization, but want to know how to have the most impact with your money, consider [name of community foundation]. Our staff can help you identify a cause that matches your passions and values. Please contact us at [phone number] or [email] or visit our website at [website].

Sample Facebook Posts in Celebration of Community Foundation Week

Happy Community Foundation Week! We're so proud to be serving YOU - the residents of XXXX area. This week, we will be posting fun facts about community foundations and our work. Please enjoy and feel free to comment!

This week is Community Foundation Week around the country. Our work succeeds because people like you believe in building a strategic legacy that will impact future generations. We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed to our success, and we look forward to growing our work together! Thanks for a great 2014!

Happy Community Foundation Week! With more than 700 community foundations across the country, we're excited to be one of XXX serving the state. Our work encompasses XXXX counties/cities, and this year we've been proud to serve more than XXX programs with grants of \$XXX. Let's plan to grow those numbers in 2015!

Happy Community Foundation Week! In celebration of our work, check out our video of XXXX participating in XXXX at (LINK.)

We are excited to join the national network of 700+ community foundations celebrating Community Foundation Week. With the dollars that we steward, we focus on issues affecting our XXXX local region, and provide support to more than XXX nonprofits through grantmaking, special initiatives, and civic leadership. Learn more at (LINK.)

Happy 100th birthday to community foundations, and the 25th birthday of Community Foundation Week! We look forward to celebrating our work with our community for good, forever.

Sample Tweets in Celebration of Community Foundation Week

Nov 12-18 is #CFWeek! How are you celebrating your local community foundation?

Happy 100th birthday to community foundations and 25th birthday to #CFWeek! #givingcan

Celebrate your community foundation during the 25th annual #CFWeek! #givingcan

Your XXX CF finds local solutions to local problems. Check out how at (LINK). #CFWeek

Let us make your charitable dreams come true! Contact our charitable giving team at XXXX. #CFWeek

Check out our video of XXXXX sharing XXXX at (LINK.) #CFWeek

Your XXXX CF builds community. Learn how at (LINK.) #CFWeek

Retweet this post if you love XXXX CF and its good work in our community! #CFWeek

Retweet this if you think #GivingCan change our community. #CFWeek

We think that #GivingCan [Insert your foundation's main priority]. Do you? #CFWeek

Your local CF proves #GivingCan make a difference. See what they are doing (LINK)

Understanding Community Foundations

The community foundation field is one of the fastest growing philanthropic sectors in the United States today. Community foundations build and strengthen communities in a multitude of ways, including providing the means for a wide range of donors to create permanent funds to meet critical needs. Though the first community foundation was launched just 100 years ago in Cleveland, Ohio, today there are more than 750 community foundations in the United States.

The concept has spread throughout the world, with community foundations now in countries including Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, South Africa and the United Kingdom – in fact, every continent but Antarctica has at least one community foundation. It has been estimated that there are at least 1,000 community foundations outside the United States and Canada.

Community foundations in the United States are located in almost every region and state in the country. Community foundations grant funds to a wide variety of causes—urban affairs, the arts, education, environmental projects, health and disaster relief. Community foundations offer donors many services and benefits. They routinely work with families, individuals, attorneys and estate and financial planners to design gift plans that fit every economic situation, ensuring that donors receive the most benefit from their charitable contributions and that their philanthropic dollars are used to the fullest extent.

Community foundations accept gifts of various sizes and types from private citizens, local corporations, other foundations and government agencies. Nearly every type of gift—real estate, closely held stock, artwork and insurance—can be contributed to a community foundation. Gifts are made from bequests and by living donors through various types of funds and deferred giving vehicles. According to the Foundation Center, in 2012 community foundations received an estimated \$7.5 billion in gifts, gave \$5 billion in grants, and held total assets of \$65 billion. The Foundation Center also reports that even though community foundations represent just 1% of the more than 82,000 foundations in the United States, their gifts represented 9% of total giving.

Community foundations range greatly in asset size, but all funds are invested in diverse portfolios and management is a major aspect of community foundations' work. All share the common goal of serving donors, nonprofit organizations, and the community as a whole. In addition to this, one of a community foundation's special functions is to provide effective leadership and coordinate the needs and services in its communities, so that charitable gifts are used effectively to fulfill a community's most critical needs.