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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statewide campaign could result in billions of dollars for Kansas communities

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (Aug. 1, 2013) — The Kansas Association of Community Foundations (KACF) is launching a campaign, Keep 5 in Kansas, that aims to make a big impact on the future of Kansas communities.

A study by the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University found that an estimated \$79 billion in estate wealth will be transferred from one generation of Kansans to the next from 2010 to 2020. By 2064, this transfer of wealth will accumulate to nearly \$598 billion.

A majority of this transfer is expected to go to heirs, but as fewer people stay in the communities where they were raised, much of this wealth will leave the state.

“If we want our state to continue to be a great place to live, it’s crucial for Kansans to give resources back to the places where they earned those resources, especially in rural areas,” Svetlana Hutfles, executive director of the KACF, said.

“The purpose of this campaign is to build understanding of the unprecedented opportunity for our state, and the role community foundations, nonprofits, professional advisors, and each Kansan can play in securing permanent sources of funding for the present and future of our communities. We have the power to endow Kansas!”

The Keep 5 in Kansas campaign asks every Kansan to designate a portion of their estate — as little as five percent — to their community by setting up funds at one of the more than 70 community foundations in Kansas. Community foundations fund local charities, churches, schools, parks, and many other causes. As a result of this campaign, billions of dollars could potentially be invested in communities, organizations and projects across the state.

The long-term goal of a community foundation is to build permanent funds supported by many donors. Offering a wide range of fund options, community foundations can accept a variety of assets, such as land, grain and other commodities, IRAs, insurance plans, securities and more.

Jim and Barb Stucky of Newton, Kan., established a fund with their local community foundation to support local charities.

“After our parents passed away, we established an endowment at the community foundation in their honor — the Stucky Family Fund. We’ve used it to give to a number of causes,” Jim Stucky said. “I can’t think of a better way for people to be able to start small and have someone help them in the process of giving money to causes they care about.”

In 2012 alone, community foundations awarded \$245 million in grants to community organizations and projects across Kansas. Over the last four years, that number grows to \$955 million invested into the charitable, economic and social wellbeing of local communities.

To learn more about the Keep 5 in Kansas campaign, visit keepfiveinkansas.com, or contact Svetlana Hutfles (pronouncer: HUTT-fless), executive director of the KACF, at 620-200-4947.

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