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# MEDIA RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS  
NOVEMBER 12–18, 2011**

*Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne Participates in National Effort to Highlight Local Impact of Philanthropy*

Fort Wayne — During the week of November 12-18, 2011, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne will join more than 700 community foundations across America for *Community Foundation Week*. For more than 20 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.

“Community foundations impact lives, solve problems, and improve futures,” said David J. Bennett, executive director. “In a down economy, with limited resources and a growing need for services to help families in need, we are more determined than ever to bring our community partners together to find innovative and effective solutions to 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. In 2010, the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne provided grants and scholarships totaling over \$8.8 million. These awards have been the result of generous donors seeing a need and then establishing a fund, restricted or unrestricted, to answer those needs.

As a community leader, the Community Foundation has helped launch and support the Talent Initiative, a program supported by the Lilly Endowment designed to increase the available needed skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) areas, as well as advanced manufacturing.

Community foundations represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy. Every county in Indiana is represented by at least one community foundation—large and small, urban and rural—that is advancing solutions to a wide range of social issues. [The 2010 Columbus](#)

[Survey](#) found that despite the recession, giving by the nation's 100 largest community foundations actually increased slightly in 2010 to \$3.7 billion and exceeded prerecession levels seen in 2006 and 2007.

Launched in 1989 through a proclamation by former president George H.W. Bush, the first Community Foundation Week included a congressional briefing about 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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Established in 1956, the **Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne** is a public, charitable foundation serving Allen County for more than 50 years. The Community Foundation had assets of more than \$101 million at December 31, 2010 and awarded over \$8.8 million in charitable grants and scholarships in that year.

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