



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 12, 2008**

AS AMERICAN AS PUMPKIN PIE

Winona, MN..... To Americans, November is arguably the most important month of the year. In the first week of November, we turn our attention to electing officials, then we honor Veterans and, in the third week, we celebrate Thanksgiving and our nation's beginnings. Between those meaningful occasions is another event that is equally American in spirit and deserving of attention, albeit less universally recognized – Community Foundations Week.

Community foundations, like elections, Veterans and Thanksgiving, are the backbone of our society. Community foundations identify and address problems that afflict our communities by supporting activities of non-profit organizations that improve the lives of community residents. Like communities themselves, programs supported by community foundations are varied and diverse, targeting health and human services, the environment, the arts, education, and disaster relief.

The dedicated staff and board of the Winona Community Foundation (WCF) work tirelessly to monitor local issues and identify the most qualified resources to tackle the issues that threaten or harm the well-being of our residents. In the past year, WCF has made grants locally, as well as nationally, to charitable projects in excess of \$1.8million. These grants are made through funds that donors may advise on, as well as through a competitive review process specific to local projects. Among major efforts receiving grants from WCF are area flood recovery, other emergency assistance through local human services groups and youth in philanthropy, teaching our youth the art of giving.

The beauty of WCF, and all community foundations, is that virtually no one is excluded from contributing to a community's betterment. You need not be wealthy to have the satisfaction of knowing you are making a positive difference in the lives of people in your town. WCF makes it easy for you to support your particular area of interest. Almost any type of asset – cash, stock, real estate, artwork – can be contributed to a community foundation. You can choose from a variety of giving vehicles – including donor-advised funds, field of interest funds, designated funds and more. WCF can help you figure out how best to maximize your contribution, no matter its size.

It's November, so enjoy the richness of our American heritage – vote, celebrate Veteran's, give thanks and support your local community foundation.

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