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For Immediate Release

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### **Steuben County Community Foundation Completes \$1 Million Dollar Campaign**

The Steuben County Community Foundation (SCCF) completed its goal of raising \$1 million dollars for its community grantmaking endowments this month. Fueled by a \$500,000 matching grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., SCCF raised \$500,000 from the community over the past year completing the campaign six months early.

The matching grant provided by the Lilly Endowment is part of a \$66 million dollar statewide initiative. The Endowment launched the GIFT (Giving Indiana Funds for Tomorrow) initiative nearly a quarter of a century ago to encourage the establishment and strengthening of community foundations as vehicles to improve the quality of life in Indiana. The success of this initiative has far exceeded the Endowment's expectations. Today 94 community foundations make grants to support local charitable organizations and programs in all of Indiana's 92 counties, and those community foundations have paid grants totaling more than \$915 million dollars to date.

The Endowment crafted the recent grant opportunity to allow flexibility in how the charitable funds can be used in each community. By successfully completing the campaign, SCCF manages over \$5 million dollars in its unrestricted community endowment, the *Spirit of Community Fund*. Grants from the *Spirit of Community Fund* account for nearly a quarter of all grants made from the Community Foundation each year. Grants are made by the SCCF Board of Directors to organizations solving issues that impact the human service, healthcare, education, environment, arts and culture, and economic development needs in Steuben County.

"We are thrilled that our local community has risen to the challenge of matching funds graciously offered by the Lilly Endowment. The matching funds came somewhat easy as we have a 25-year history of community leaders promoting permanent giving to our Community

Foundation. We are simply building on efforts and caring from past generations and current volunteers.” said Kevin Stoy, chairman of the SCCF board.

SCCF President & CEO Jennifer Danic said, “Each year SCCF is able to support approximately half of the grant requests submitted. Completing this campaign gives SCCF additional grant dollars to meet those unmet needs. This campaign is an excellent step in the right direction but we still have a lot of work to do. None of us know what the community’s needs will be in 25, 50, or 100 years. What we do know is SCCF will be here to support them. Thank you to the hundreds of donors who made this possible! We are thrilled to have reached our goal through broad community support.”

Gift amounts ranged from \$25 to \$100,000.

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Through philanthropic services, strategic investments and community leadership, Steuben County Community Foundation helps people support the causes they care about, now and for generations to come. The Steuben County Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization with assets totaling more than \$26 million. Our vision: Serving as a community leader and improving the quality of life by assessing, supporting and coordinating philanthropic giving and endowment building. Our mission: Connecting people who care with needs that matter to our community. For more information on the Foundation, visit its website at [www.steubenfoundation.org](http://www.steubenfoundation.org).