



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Outstanding Community Service Honored ***Heartland Humanitarian, Corporate Citizen, Heartland Service Award, and*** ***Advisor of the Year Celebrated***

EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY, MO. (May 27, 2015) – Each year the Truman Heartland Community Foundation (THCF) recognizes individuals and companies who have had a significant philanthropic impact in Eastern Jackson County, making the community a better place to live. The Community Foundation is pleased to present this year’s Heartland Humanitarians, Corporate Citizen, Heartland Service Award, and Professional Advisor of the Year. The honorees will be recognized at the Community Foundation’s 20th annual **Toast to Our Towns Gala** presented by Stewardship Capital on **Saturday, September 12, 2015**.

Mike and Jan McGraw, Heartland Humanitarians of the Year



THCF is pleased to announce Mike and Jan McGraw as the 2015 Heartland Humanitarians of the Year. Mike and Jan are dedicated volunteers who also provide generous support to many of Jackson County’s charities such as Angel Flight, Blue Springs Christian Church, Rainbow Center, Hope House, Hillcrest Transitional Housing, Rachel House, Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association, and Heartland Honor Flight.

Mike is Founder & Chairman of DSI, a software company he founded in 1979. A long-time entrepreneur, he has created and managed several successful businesses and has also served on the boards of multiple financial institutions. He is a leader in the corporate community and makes significant contributions to philanthropic organizations in the Kansas City area, giving back to the community that helped foster his business successes. Today, he remains active with board-level matters at DSI and with its corporate aviation activities.

Jan, a registered nurse, is a dedicated volunteer in her church, in community outreach programs, and has served on many boards including the Rainbow Center board of directors. Jan has been a longtime advocate for the rights of the unborn. She has served as a coach to many moms with unexpected pregnancies.

Mid-Continent Public Library, Heartland Corporate Citizen of the Year



THCF is proud to honor Mid-Continent Public Library as the Corporate Citizen of the Year in the library's 50th anniversary year. MCPL is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area operating 35 libraries that serve more than 780,000 people in Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties. The Library strives to enrich their citizens and communities by expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration.

MCPL's commitment to community is visible in its offering of free resources to the general public, charitable organizations, and local businesses and entrepreneurs. Some of these unique resources include the Midwest Genealogy Center, early literacy storytime programs, annual summer reading programs, live homework help, teacher assistance, and a business outreach program. As one small example of their community support, MCPL provided significant support for Truman Heartland Community Foundation's Community for All Ages Coalition initiative by creating and hosting (free of charge) the CareConnection website to connect older adults and their caregivers with quality information and resources.

In 2014, Mid-Continent Public Library was one of only five libraries nationally to be awarded the National Medal for Museum and Library Services. "It is really a tremendous honor to be recognized by the Truman Heartland Foundation. Last year, we were recognized as a great library among libraries when we received the National Medal at the White House. While that was noteworthy, receiving this honor from the people we serve truly demonstrates the importance of our library to the community," notes MCPL Director and CEO Steven V. Potter.

The Independence Young Matrons, Heartland Service Award



THCF recognizes Independence's first women's civic organization, the Independence Young Matrons, in their 75th Anniversary year for the special recognition of the Heartland Service Award. The volunteer organization has contributed significantly to the civic and cultural life of Independence through fiscal support, volunteer service, and cultural enrichment. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised, primarily through the annual Holly and Mistletoe Homes Tour. These funds have been donated back to the community to fill significant needs. In 2014 alone, they made grants to 14 charities in the community and provided scholarships to students attending local community colleges.

Their live productions of the annual Children's Theater have brought joy and enrichment to the children of the city. Independence Young Matrons created the first "Gray Lady" organization at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital, established the first public kindergarten in the Independence School District, organized a teen recreation program during the 1940s and 50s, and was deeply involved in the establishment of the Independence Library (now part of the Mid-Continent Public Library system). IYM's rich heritage of caring for our community and service to our neighbors has been a continuing thread over the years and continues today and into the future.

Dennis Bacon, Paul M. Thomson Advisor of the year



Dennis R. Bacon has been serving the financial needs of the Kansas City community since 1993 and recently relocated his offices to Lee's Summit and opened Bacon Financial Advisors, an Independent Firm. As a Certified Financial Planner™ as well as a CPA, Dennis has the knowledge and insight to present charitable options to his clients that benefit the clients' needs as well as the needs of the community. He has the training and experience necessary to deliver the true "Client First" service model and focuses on delivering a customized solution for each investor which often includes charitable solutions. Many of his clients have partnered with Truman Heartland Community Foundation to help them fulfill their financial and charitable goals.

Dennis and his wife Michelle, who is a 5th grade teacher at Summit Christian Academy, have been married since 1981 and have two grown children. Dennis is an active member of the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Directors of The Women's Clinic of Kansas City, is supporting member for the Faith and Family night at the K and an active member of his church.

Citizens of the Year, chosen by our area mayors will also be honored at Toast to Our Towns and will be announced later this summer.

The 2015 Toast to Our Towns Gala is presented by **Stewardship Capital** with additional support from **Centerpoint Medical Center and Data Systems International (DSI)**. A private reception sponsored by **Community America Credit Union** for the Citizens of the Year will be held on August 28, 2015.

About THCF

Truman Heartland Community Foundation is a public charity committed to improving area communities by promoting and serving private giving for the public good. Founded in 1982, THCF serves the region with assets reaching nearly \$37 million and annual grants surpassing \$3.5 million. THCF serves individuals who, through their private giving, wish to support the public good and help them do it in the most tax-wise and effective manner. Through the Community Foundation, donors can set up their own family foundations, scholarship funds, field of interest funds, endowment funds, charitable gift annuities and many other charitable vehicles which utilize shared resources of the foundation to maximize the impact of their philanthropic dollars. In addition to donor services, the Community Foundation provides asset development for nonprofit organizations, gives grants to nonprofits, assists organizations in planned giving and serves as a leader in addressing community issues. For more information on charitable giving, visit www.thcf.org or call THCF at 816.836.8189.

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