



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shannon Sundberg
816.912.4182
Or 816.225.1121c
sundberg@thcf.org

Mayors Honor Committed Community Volunteers on September 17

Mayors of Blue Springs, Grain Valley, Independence, Lake Winnebago, Lee's Summit, Raytown and Sugar Creek honor nine community volunteers as Citizens of the Year

THCF toasts the Humanitarian of the Year, Corporate Citizen on the Year, and recipients of the Heartland Service Award

EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY, MO (July 13, 2016) – Truman Heartland Community Foundation is pleased to present this year's **Citizen of the Year** honorees, selected by area mayors. The recipients will be recognized at the Community Foundation's 21th annual **Toast to our Towns Gala** on **Saturday, September 17, 2016**, at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center.

These community members have used their skills, abilities and positions to promote the wellbeing of their communities and the people that live in them. While their areas of impact are varied, all the honorees are united by a common goal, *to improve the lives of their fellow citizens*, and a common desire *to help improve and enrich the communities of Eastern Jackson County*.

Mayor Carson Ross, City of Blue Springs, Recognizes David Smith



David Smith owns Tandem Paving Company, Inc., and is also a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, serving from 1989-1993. David combined these two aspects of his life in advancing the construction of the Veterans Way Memorial in Pink Hill Park, not only donating to the project, but also working as the memorial's general contractor. David contributes to the Blue Springs Parks Department and is a sponsor of the Music in the Park summer concert series.

In addition, David, in gratitude to numerous teachers who have greatly impacted his life, has given back to the Blue Springs School district in a variety of ways; he is a sponsor of the W.E.E. Learning Bus Program, has provided classroom grants through contributions to the Blue Springs Education Foundation, and constructed walking paths at Cordill-Mason, Lucy Franklin, and Voy Spears, Jr. Elementary Schools. David and his wife, Jamie, spend summers at various baseball fields, supporting their three sons.

Mayor Mike Todd, City of Grain Valley, Recognizes Darryl Jones



Darryl Jones has been a pastor for 24 years, serving his community in various capacities. In 1999, he founded the Crossroads Church of Grain Valley and has been the church’s only pastor since its foundation. Darryl pushed the Crossroads Church to merge with the then struggling former Grain Valley Christian Church, and is currently in the process of restoring the 40 year-old “church on the hill”. Darryl tends his community by giving the invocation—on a rotating basis—at the bi-monthly Board of Aldermen meetings, speaking and serving as emcee at both Blue Springs and Grain Valley community events, and serving as Director of the Grain Valley Fellowship of Pastors and Churches. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity in Biblical Counseling in order to serve his community even more effectively.

Darryl is active in the community. He served with the Board of the Grain Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Grain Valley Assistance Council, and is a liaison for the Bright Futures program in Grain Valley. Darryl and his wife Sharon have been married for 24 years, and have three children.

Mayor Eileen Weir, City of Independence, recognizes Donna Pittman



Donna Pittman has owned and operated Curt’s Famous Meats for the past 30 years. In addition to providing quality, hand-cut meat to the community, Curt’s Famous Meats contributes to many community events and fundraisers each year, such as Whatsoever Community Center, Independence School District, Englewood Arts District, and Drumm Farm for Children, among others.

Donna founded the Truman Gateway Redevelopment Committee, a group of property owners, city and county officials, and local residents who coordinate planning and investment in business, beautification, and branding along the Truman Road corridor. Under her leadership, the committee has restored the Stone Arch Bridge and created both the Truman Road Green Gateway Development Plan and the Truman & Winner Road Commercial Node Project. She has served as a member of numerous boards, such as, the Independence Chamber of Commerce, NorthWest Community Development Corporation, and Independence School District Advisory Board.

Mayor R.L. Scharfen, City of Lake Winnebago, recognizes Richard Williams



Richard Williams has been a cornerstone of the Lake Winnebago Police Department for parts of three decades, having served for 22 years, and spent the last 11 years as Chief of Police. Chief Williams works tirelessly to guarantee the citizens of Lake Winnebago a safe neighborhood. Under his direction, the Police department sponsors events to promote the safety of the city, including numerous programs where citizens may interact and dialogue with officers in order to promote awareness and create a more secure community. One such program allows citizens to meet officers and view some of the equipment used by the department.

Another program initiated by Chief Williams is the “Train the Trainer” program. Under this program, seasoned officers are trained to be instructors, and teach other members of the department about firearms, DWI arrests, and other areas, reducing the department’s spending on training. The department also has a mentoring program that partners veterans with new officers.

Mayor Randy Rhoads, City of Lee's Summit, recognizes Nick and Jennifer Swearngin



Nick and Jennifer Swearngin are both busy entrepreneurs, and are active members of Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street. Nick owns John's Barber Shop, while Jennifer is co-owner of Parker Swearngin, LLP, an accounting and business consulting firm. Both have used their professional skills to serve community. Nine years ago, Nick started the "Head Shave for Hope House" event. This event raises money for Hope House, an organization dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence. Since its inception, the event has raised almost \$121,000. Nick served as a member of the City Council from 2005-2010, working on various committees. Jennifer has served as treasurer of the Downtown Lee's Summit Community Improvement District Board, member of the Community Board of Advisors for Lee's Summit Community Hospital, and prepares pro bono tax returns for Rachel House Pregnancy Resource Center.

Nick and Jennifer are very involved in their Abundant Life Church community. Nick serves as a deacon and technical arts volunteer, while Jennifer serves as camerawoman. The couple supports Faith, Substance & Evidence, Inc., a local nonprofit that provides resources to young people to defend their faith in Christ.

Mayor Michael McDonough, City of Raytown, recognizes Chris and Stacey Payne



Chris and Stacey Payne have fallen in love with Raytown, and immersed themselves in the community through their philanthropy. The Payne's have a special devotion to education. In 2014, with the help of Raytown Education Foundation and Truman Heartland Community Foundation, the Payne's established the Aspire Scholarship, dedicated to helping first generation college students get the financial assistance necessary to attend college. By the 2018-19 academic year, the scholarship will support four students. The couple partnered with the school district to turn a closed YMCA building into the newly renovated Raytown School District Wellness Center, a health center open not only to district employees, but the community as well.

Chris and Stacey support Midwest Animal ResQ, facilitating a partnership between the City of Raytown and Midwest Animal ResQ to promote animal adoptions; they had a strong influence on the institution of no-kill policies in Raytown animal shelters. Lastly, the Payne's have supported Camp Quality, a summer camp and year-round support for children fighting cancer.

Mayor Matt Mallinson, City of Sugar Creek, recognizes Robert "Bob" Buckley



Robert "Bob" Buckley served as city attorney of Sugar Creek for 35 years. During his tenure, he helped guide Sugar Creek to establish one of the first blasting ordinances in the United States, an ordinance that many other cities have since drawn from. Bob helped Sugar Creek negotiate terms with Waste Management, American Oil, and then BP once they acquired American Oil. He has been an attorney since receiving his doctor of law degree in 1979, specializing in medical malpractice and catastrophic injury litigation. His wife Kim has been his paralegal for more than 25 years.

Bob is an active member of the Independence Community. He serves as moderator for Maywood Baptist Church. In 2008, Bob founded Bears Tomorrow, Inc. This nonprofit organization helps young people develop athletic and leadership skills. Finally, Bob is heavily involved in William Chrisman High School activities. He served as Booster Club president for a total of seven years, is the announcer for football and varsity basketball games, and funds annual scholarships for graduating seniors.

THCF toasts the Humanitarian of the Year, Corporate Citizen on the Year, and the recipient of the Heartland Service Award

Terry and Betty Snapp, Heartland Humanitarians of the Year



THCF is pleased to announce Terry and Betty Snapp as the 2016 Heartland Humanitarians of the Year. The Snapp's positive impact, both as professionals and dedicated volunteers, has elevated the level of service to our area's most vulnerable populations for decades. Together they founded and serve as chief organizers of the Neighborhood Dinner Program hosted by Stone Church Community of Christ. By recruiting hundreds of volunteers, 10,000 warm meals are provided to guests each year with an average of 175-200 meals served per week. Terry and Betty are dedicated co-chairs of the Bess Wallace Truman Legacy Society for Community Services League. In addition to their joint service, they have individually made a tremendous impact in the community.

Throughout Terry's career, he has served the community as the Vice President for Advancement at Park University, Executive Director of Truman Medical Center Charitable Foundation and Executive Director of SHARE. He is currently passing on lessons learned from his years of experience to guide other nonprofit organizations as a consultant with Hartsook Companies. Terry has served on many City of Independence commissions, is a member of Independence Rotary and is a past board member of Camp Quality USA and Outreach International. Terry served as a self-sustaining pastor at Stone Church Community of Christ for five years and is past president of Mid-America Chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals, an association which awarded him the Fundraiser of the Year award in 2008.

After co-founding Sunshine Center, Betty served as Executive Director for 28 years. During her tenure, Sunshine Center served thousands of physically challenged pre-school children before becoming a program of the Independence School District. Betty is a sustaining member of Junior Service League of Independence and has volunteered in numerous leadership roles for Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity, The Groves, Stone Church, and Community Services League. She is the past recipient of TV 4 Symbols of Caring Giving Award and the Jackson County Inter Agency Council Award.

The Mavericks, Heartland Corporate Citizen of the Year



The Missouri Mavericks support the community through a number of endeavors, including in-kind donations for charitable causes, volunteerism, sponsorship of local events, hosting fundraising initiatives such as the annual Dinner on Ice, as well as facilitating the Chuck-a-Puck fundraiser at every home game in Independence.

Since the Missouri Mavericks' inaugural season in 2009, the team has helped raise more than \$1 million for charitable organizations throughout Jackson County. The Mavericks have partnered with numerous community organizations, including Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kansas City,

Hope House, The Rainbow Center, Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity, and Community Services League. During the 2015-16 season, the team partners with more than 120 local nonprofit organizations.

Prior to this recognition, the Missouri Mavericks were recognized by the City of Independence in 2014 with the *Harry S. Truman Special Community Recognition Award* for their outstanding philanthropic contributions to the Independence area over the last five years.

Community Services League, Heartland Service Award



THCF recognizes Community Services League (CSL), in their 100th anniversary year with the special recognition of the Heartland Service Award. CSL was founded in 1916 by a women’s Bible study group that included former First Lady Bess Wallace Truman. From the Great Depression to the Great Recession and beyond, CSL has aided families and individuals in need with emergency services for food, clothing and shelter.

Today, CSL operates 11 service locations in eight suburban Jackson County communities. In 2015 alone, CSL assisted more than 15,000 local residents through its four programs: Emergency Assistance, Work Express, Housing Counseling, and the Financial Opportunity Center. CSL is a partner agency of United Way of Greater Kansas City, a HUD-certified housing counseling agency, and a USDA food distribution site.

“We could not be more excited to be recognized by the Truman Heartland Community Foundation with their Heartland Service Award. We also extend our heartfelt congratulations to Terry and Betty Snapp for their legacy of generosity to CSL and their investment in philanthropy in Eastern Jackson County; they are worthy recipients of the Heartland Humanitarian Award,” said Doug Cowan, President & CEO of Community Services League. “It has taken many generations of concerned residents to keep CSL going over the years, and the recognition we’re receiving from the Community Foundation is a tribute to the hard work that so many have invested over the years, and a nod to the importance that our community places on helping people in need. We are grateful to the Community Foundation Board and Staff, for their recognition during our Centennial year.”

The 2016 Toast to Our Towns Gala benefits Truman Heartland Community Foundation with support from **Bank of Grain Valley; Burns & McDonnell; Centerpoint Medical Center; Data Systems International (DSI); GEHA; Humphrey, Farrington & McClain; Midwest Trust; Orbital ATK, Inc.; Silverstein Eye Centers and Stewardship Capital**. A private reception sponsored by **CommunityAmerica Credit Union** for the Citizens of the Year will be held on August 26, 2016.

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 \$36 million and annual grants surpassing \$3 million. THCF serves individuals who wish to support the public good through their private giving and helps 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.



The National Standards Seal indicates official confirmation from the Community Foundations National Standards Board that we have met the most rigorous standards in philanthropy. It affirms our commitment to financial security, transparency and accountability.

###