

News Release – HCCEF Reaches \$1 Million in Assets
Contact: Carol C. Gilbert, HCCEF chair – 515-855-4170

The Hardin County Community Endowment Foundation (HCCEF) announces that the Foundation's endowment has exceeded \$1 million dollars in assets as a result of a new fund recently established. The milestone was reached upon the creation of the new Hardin County Arts and Culture Endowment fund established from the proceeds of the Simon Estes 2-Day Residency held in Hardin County November 28th and 29th and the generous gift by Jerry and Sue Welden of Iowa Falls to the existing fund.

“When the Hardin County Community Endowment Foundation was officially launched in 2005, reaching the \$1,000,000 milestone was certainly a goal for the entire Board of Directors,” stated Carol Gilbert, HCCEF Chair. “This milestone is a success story about how the generosity and foresight of donors, together with the power of endowment building, can truly make a difference for the county. Our growth in Hardin County indicates that the services of HCCEF are needed and valued.” The \$1 million dollars in assets represents 26 endowed funds with HCCEF.

HCCEF's mission is to strengthen Hardin County communities through effective philanthropy and civic engagement. To that end, its services and products are designed to inspire and enable philanthropic giving by donors, with financial advisors, to social-profit groups, and in collaboration with other partners. Guided by a local board of community leaders, monies raised for Hardin County will stay in Hardin County.

“Live here...Give here...For the future of Hardin County” is HCCEF's thought-provoking message to promote community investment in Hardin County, Gilberts added. “The desire of individuals to be more involved with charitable giving, the increasing diversity of potential donors, and the intergenerational transfer of wealth of just a few of the factors that have prompted donors to become our partners in philanthropy,” continued Gilbert.

Charitable solutions available through HCCEF include donor-advised funds, designated endowment funds, field of interest funds, scholarship funds and supporting organization funds, all with tax advantages and administrative benefits.

Each donor's funds are pooled for investment management purposes to minimize costs and achieve a greater return, making it possible for a smaller individual fund to enjoy the same economies of scale as a large independent foundation. Most often, funds are started through gifts of cash or closely held stock, but other gifts may include artwork, real estate, intellectual property, and other personal assets.

For more information about the Hardin County Community Endowment Foundation, how you can contribute or start a fund please call Carol Gilbert, Chair at 515-855-4170 or visit www.donateiowa.org/hardin.