

Community Foundation of Northern Illinois

MEDIA RELEASE

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Celebration of Police Week at Community Foundation Press Conference Tuesday, May 12th at 2:00 pm

Rockford, IL – The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is pleased to announce that a press conference will be held on Tuesday, May 12th at 2:00 pm to celebrate Police Week and the establishment of the Louis J. Franchini Rockford Police Department Endowment Fund. The press conference will be held at the Community Foundation offices located at 946 N. Second Street, Rockford.

Police Week is a national celebration first instituted in 1962 with a proclamation signed by President John F. Kennedy. The proclamation states that May 15th should be established as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls each year should be regarded as Police Week. Throughout the country, events honoring police and those fallen in the line of duty are observed.

A Police Color Guard will be present at Tuesday's press conference, along with community dignitaries, Rockford Police Chief Chet Epperson and Mayor Larry Morrissey.

In addition, the Community Foundation will announce the establishment of the Louis J. Franchini Rockford Police Department Endowment Fund, a permanent endowment at the Foundation. The purpose of the fund is to provide ongoing permanent resources for the training and development of the Rockford Police Department. Training will include the skills necessary for *Solutions-Oriented Community Policing*, a system that has been successfully implemented in Rockford and other communities.

The Franchini Endowment originated from a generous gift from the Louis J. Franchini estate. Contributions to the fund are being sought from the public and can be sent to the Community Foundation with Franchini Fund on the memo line.

Awards from the fund will be made on a semi-annual basis by a community advisory committee made up of Gregory Franchini (son of Louis J. Franchini and CEO of Pierce Box and Paper Corporation, Thomas Furst (President of Furst Search Group), Susan Grans (Vice President of William Charles, Ltd.), John Mink (President and Board Chair of Zenith Cutter Co.), and Willard Brenner (Trustee of the Community Foundation.) The committee will be present at the press conference.

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