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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Lumpkin Family Foundation Announces Opening of its
2025 Land, Health, Community Grant Cycle & 2024 Recipients**

The Lumpkin Family Foundation, whose mission is to support people working together to build healthy, sustainable communities in East Central Illinois and across the U.S., is pleased to announce that its Land, Health, Community (LHC) 2025 grant cycle will open on January 24th and will accept Letters of Inquiry until February 28th. An informational webinar will be held on **January 23rd at 2PM**; you can find more details and register at lumpkinfoundation.org/grant-programs/land-health-community/.

The Land, Health, Community program supports people working toward a vision of holistically healthy communities and a resilient local food economy. LHC has expanded its focus to fund efforts supporting mental wellness through individual and community engagement with the natural environment. The Foundation welcomes grant proposals from organizations working in communities across East Central Illinois.

As Lumpkin Family Foundation Program Officer Christina Krost noted: "Every year we are impressed by the number and quality of outstanding projects supported by leading organizations in our region who support our mission and vision for East Central Illinois."

2024 Land, Health, Community Grant Recipients Include:

Camp New Hope: \$50,000 to purchase equipment, seeds, materials, and staffing to improve native habitats installed by the Urban Butterfly Initiative, making them more sustainable and accessible by removing invasive species, adding desirable plants, and designing paths. The gardens and grounds will provide the opportunity for observation, study, photography, and relaxation in a beautiful and tranquil area.

Casey in Action: \$30,000 to enhance Casey's 120-year-old Fairview Park with construction of a paved 8-foot-wide and half-mile-long accessible walking path around the park's pond, which will connect existing walkways and a new accessible fishing pier.

EIU Dept. of Biological Sciences: \$15,000 to develop the Campus Sustainability Garden on campus focused on providing fresh produce to students through the EIU Food Pantry and positively affecting students' physical and mental health by connecting with nature.

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Fit-2-Serve: \$40,000 to aid in the development of current growing spaces for year-round capacity.

Friends of Lake Shelbyville: \$42,000 to install an accessible kayak launch at Dam West High Water Boat Ramp (Community Cove) at Lake Shelbyville with free paddling life jackets for public use.

RISE Behavioral Health and Wellness: \$50,000 to support their Stronger Together program utilizing mentor families and monthly meetings which include sharing a meal and lessons on various topics to foster physical, emotional, and social well-being. The goal is empowering families in Douglas County, strengthening school connections, and building a resilient and connected community.

Think Regeneration: \$25,000 to pilot a Food is Medicine program in East Central Illinois to address diabetes, hypertension, mental health, and obesity by improving a resident's ability to access locally grown foods, pay for healthy food through Medicare-Medicaid programs, and learn about nutrition and healthy cooking.

Village of Strasburg: \$50,000 to complete renovations at the village park.

Recurring Core Grants:

Organizations that have received prior support from The Lumpkin Family Foundation are eligible for our Core Grant program which provides multi-year operational support to organizations closely aligned to The Foundation's mission and goals. Our Core Grantees for 2024 are Faith in Place, Illinois Environmental Council Education Fund, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting, Prairie Rivers Network, Sola Gratia Farm, and The Land Connection.

Wellness Grants:

In addition to our mental health programming, The Foundation recognizes that burnout is also a constant threat to the sustainability of our grantee organizations and prioritizing the mental wellness of the people who lead, manage, and labor on the frontlines within the communities in which they serve is critical. This year LFF launched a new Wellness Grant opportunity: grantees in East Central Illinois and Chicago who received funding within the last 3 calendar years were able to apply for a one-time grant of up to \$2,500 to support reasonable wellness activities or programming that results in a period of rest or rejuvenation for organizational staff and/or leadership. The grant cycle for this program in 2025 will open **June 2nd** and close **June 16th**.

Created in 1953 through an estate gift by Besse A. Lumpkin, widow of Dr. William C. Lumpkin, co-founder of Illinois Consolidated Telephone Company, the mission of The Lumpkin Family Foundation is *to support people working together to build healthy, sustainable communities in East Central Illinois and across the US*. Today, three generations of Lumpkin family members honor a common legacy of community service and share in the in the governance and management of The Foundation.

For more information visit www.lumpkinfoundation.org

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