

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Legacy Foundation Announces Cedar Lake as Indiana's First Heart & Soul Community

MERRILLVILLE, IND – Legacy Foundation, the community foundation for Lake County, Indiana, announces Cedar Lake as the community selected for the new Community Heart & Soul® initiative. The town will be embarking on an exciting journey to engage residents in identifying what they love the most about their community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it.

Cedar Lake will receive training, technical assistance, and up to \$80,000 in funding from Legacy Foundation to implement the Community Heart & Soul process and support early projects that arise from resident-driven action planning.

Legacy Foundation is honored to partner with Community Heart & Soul to bring the program to Lake County and to work with Cedar Lake as the first Heart & Soul Community in the State of Indiana.

“We look forward to collaborating with Cedar Lake to strengthen the community and enhance vibrancy through the Community Heart & Soul process,” said Legacy Foundation President and CEO, Kelly Anoe. “We are excited to see residents play a role in the future of their community and identify programs and priorities that matter the most to them.”

Julie Zasada, Executive Director of the Cedar Lake Historical Association, will serve as the town's Heart & Soul Project Coordinator. In this role, Julie will provide project administration, work with the Heart & Soul Core Team to develop and implement phased work plans, coordinate volunteers, track progress, and celebrate milestones.

“Being selected as the first Heart & Soul Community in the county and state is an honor,” explained Zasada. “We admire the resident-driven focus and look forward to engaging with all of Cedar Lake's residents in developing new quality of life experiences, fostering camaraderie, and increasing community pride.”

Cedar Lake Community Heart & Soul is kicking off with a volunteer training event on Saturday, January 25 from 10 AM – 12 PM at the Cedar Lake Public Library. This event is open to anyone who lives, works, or plays in Cedar Lake and is interested in learning more about Community Heart & Soul and volunteering to implement the Heart & Soul program in Cedar Lake. Lunch will be provided. Please register online at: lassensresort.org.

About Legacy Foundation

Legacy Foundation is the community foundation for Lake County, Indiana. Our mission is to transform Lake County by providing strategic leadership and impactful philanthropic support to ensure equitable opportunity for all communities that we serve. Through the generosity of a wide base of donors, Legacy Foundation has awarded over \$50 million in grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations and individuals since its founding in 1992. The foundation manages \$100 million in assets and is governed by a volunteer board of directors representing a diverse spectrum of business, education, and the nonprofit and public sectors. Learn more at www.legacyfdn.org.

About Community Heart & Soul

Community Heart & Soul, a nonprofit organization, builds stronger, healthier, and more economically vibrant small cities and towns across the United States. In addition to promoting the Community Heart & Soul model, the organization trains and supports a nationwide network of Certified Community Heart & Soul Coaches who provide training and guidance to local communities.

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