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**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TO GRANT \$80,000 TO STELLAR MADISON  
Pledged grant monies to be awarded over four years**

**Madison, IN**—The Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County has awarded the City of Madison \$80,000 in support of the recent Stellar Communities designation. This grant will award \$20,000 for the next four years. The Community Board of Directors approved this pledge because they understand the importance of investing in infrastructure projects and educational programs that will improve residents' quality of life.

"I am so grateful to the Community Foundation for their investment in the future of our community through this generous grant and other grants throughout the years," said City of Madison Mayor Damon Welch. "This pledge by the Community Foundation makes a strong statement about improving Madison for years to come and will encourage others to invest in the future of our community through a perpetual fund."

Grants of this size and nature are made possible by Flexible Community Funds. Flexible Community Funds give the Community Foundation Grants Committee and Board of Directors the flexibility to assist in fulfilling the ever-changing needs and dreams of Jefferson County's citizens.

The City of Madison has also established the Stellar Madison Fund, a designated endowment, at the Community Foundation. This fund will receive 35% of private donations and will perpetually fund maintenance of the projects outlined in the Stellar Communities application. The other 65% of private donations will be held at the Community Foundation until they are needed for public projects over the next few years.

"I appreciate that the City of Madison is looking beyond the next few years and establishing this endowment now to provide financial support to these public projects for generations to come," stated Bill Barnes, Community Foundation President and CEO. "Tax deductible donations to the endowment are invested and will grow with compounding interest over time and produce annual grants forever."

Established in 1991 by a group of local volunteers, the Community Foundation of Madison and Jefferson County fulfills the mission of building a strong, vibrant community by helping donors provide perpetual funding for the people, projects, and passions of Jefferson County.

For more information about the Community Foundation, visit [www.cfmjc.org](http://www.cfmjc.org), contact Bill Barnes at 812-274-0241, or email [bill@cfmjc.org](mailto:bill@cfmjc.org).

For additional information on the City of Madison's Stellar Community designation, contact Andrew Forrester or Nicole Schell at 812-265-8300, or email [stellarmadisonin@gmail.com](mailto:stellarmadisonin@gmail.com).

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