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Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Three Area Nonprofits Receive \$10,000 “Fabric of the Community” Awards from The Springs Close Foundation

LANCASTER, SC — Members of the Chester County, Lancaster County, and York County communities gathered for the fourth annual “Fabric of the Community Awards” on Wednesday, August 24th in the Bradley Building of the University of South Carolina Lancaster. The awards, presented by The Springs Close Foundation, honor one nonprofit, business or individual in each of the three counties for exemplary service to the community. Representatives of the Foundation’s Board of Directors presented a \$10,000 check to each winner, along with a sculpture created specifically for the award winners by Lancaster metal artist Bob Doster.

The 2016 Fabric of the Community Award winners are:

CHESTER COUNTY

Chester Ministerial Association Food Pantry

For more than 40 years, the Chester Ministerial Association’s Food Pantry at Purity Presbyterian Church has provided sustenance for thousands of hungry individuals and families. In 2015, the Food Pantry adopted changes to its service model to better preserve the dignity and offer choices to the clients it serves. Instead of pre-bagged selections, clients at the Food Pantry now “shop” with a volunteer for the items they like, using a point system based on the household size. An appointment system ensures that clients receive personalized service. As a result, the Food Pantry is even more welcoming and provides a meaningful and rewarding experience to both clients and volunteers.

LANCASTER COUNTY

Kershaw Area Resource Exchange - KARE

In 1982, KARE was formed to help the victims of local tornadoes get back on their feet. Since then, this Christian organization has grown from an all-volunteer agency providing short-term relief to a comprehensive support organization that brings multiple churches together to provide food assistance, home repair, clothing, transportation and other services in addition to crisis support. It mobilizes hundreds of volunteers each year and operates a full-time summer program to provide outreach, growth and service for teens. KARE also operated a medical clinic for several years to meet the needs of uninsured patients — one of the precursors to the creation of Lancaster County CareNet. As one fan described it, “KARE has and continues to be the agency that provides assistance for all.”

YORK COUNTY

Habitat for Humanity of York County

Since 1998, Habitat for Humanity of York County has helped bring people together to provide decent, affordable housing for hardworking families in need. While most people think of new houses when they think of Habitat, completing repairs to existing family homes is a much more efficient way to ensure consistent housing and stability. With this in mind, Habitat of York County launched a home repair program for the Paradise neighborhood in Fort Mill in 2014, and has since offered significant repairs on 42 homes, mostly owned by senior citizens. Habitat volunteers have repaired roofs, walls, wiring and plumbing. They installed ramps, modernized kitchens and made aesthetic improvements such as interior and exterior painting. Habitat also has partnered with Lowes and Keller Williams Realty to help homeowners learn some maintenance skills.

Other nominees for the 2016 Fabric of Community Awards were:

- In Chester County: Chester County Connector and The Lord’s Lunchbox
- In Lancaster County: The Community Powerhouse and the Women’s Enrichment Center
- In York County: Girls on the Run Tri County SC and Keystone Substance Abuse Services

“These award winners, and all of those nominated, make the difference between survival and thriving for many individuals and families in the communities they serve,” said Foundation Board Chair Anne Springs Close. “As a foundation, we are honored and humbled to play a small part in supporting their efforts, and are proud to count each of them among our region’s assets.”

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Springs Close Foundation, September 2, 2016

The Board of Directors of The Springs Close Foundation, along with the nine members of the Community Advisory Committee, created the Fabric of the Community Awards in 2013 to celebrate the Foundation's 70th year of service and to honor the legacy of giving back to the community instilled by founder Col. Elliott Springs.

The Fabric of the Community awards are bestowed on one individual, nonprofit organization or business from Lancaster, Chester and Fort Mill each year. Each winner receives \$10,000 to direct to a nonprofit organization in the communities served by The Springs Close Foundation. Nominations come from former members of the Foundation's Community Boards. Current Community Board members select finalists and choose the award winners. The Foundation will give these awards for a total of five years, culminating on its 75th anniversary in 2017, for a total of \$150,000.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Springs Close Foundation has assets totaling \$31 million and since 1942 has distributed more than \$104 million into its geographic area. Anne Springs Close is Chairman of the Board of Directors and Angela McCrae is President. The main office is headquartered at 168 Skipper Street, Fort Mill, SC, 29715. The telephone number is (803) 548-2002 and the FAX number is (803) 548-1797.

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