

# Parke County Community Foundation, Inc.

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## - NEWS - For Immediate Release

October 22, 2007

For questions on  
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### **Parke County Community Foundation Awarded Grant for Recreation Project Access to Recreation Provides Money for Universal Accessibility**

Rockville, IN – The Parke County Community Foundation has announced it is one of six Indiana community foundations recently awarded a matching grant to make the Beechwood Park Pool a fully-accessible facility for the people of Parke County. The money is part of the \$15 million Access to Recreation initiative funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The program seeks to strengthen communities by uniting community foundations, parks and recreation departments and other recreation organizations in projects that increase universal accessibility for the disabled.

To meet the \$53,000 grant requirements, the Parke County Community Foundation has committed to raise \$25,000 for the project and \$16,000 for an endowment fund which will provide ongoing maintenance in future years.

The community foundation partnered with the Park Board and involved citizens in creating the plan. Accessibility will be achieved by purchasing two PVC wheelchairs and a hydraulic chairlift to allow physically disabled individuals to enter and leave the pool area safely and easily. Also modifications to the wading pool will add several water features in order to increase tactile, visual, and auditory sensory experiences for all as well as a “zero depth entry” that will exceed the ADA guidelines.

In support of this access initiative, Indiana Grantmakers Alliance, a membership organization serving the state’s foundations and giving programs, will convene Access to Recreation grantees, concerned policymakers and accessibility stakeholders, to create a Learning Community that will increase public awareness and policy regarding universal accessibility.

“One of the goals of the Parke County Community Foundation is to improve the quality of life in Parke County. We appreciate the efforts of the task force as they planned how best to integrate all populations of children and adults at the lowest possible cost. We feel that the additional features will not only increase disabled access immediately, it will also provide a platform for improvements in the future,” says J.T. Jukes, foundation chair.

#### About Access to Recreation

This Access to Recreation project is a funding partnership between the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Parke County Community Foundation. Kellogg is funding six such challenge grants in Indiana, its goal being to create recreational facilities that exceed current ADA standards. Additional information on Access to Recreation and the grant-winning community foundation projects may be found at <http://www.accesstorecreation.org>.

If you are interested in helping maximize the grant match being offered to Parke County from the Kellogg Foundation, you can send a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation at PO Box 276, stop by the office at 115 N. Market Street or direct any questions to (765) 569-7223 or [parkeccf@yahoo.com](mailto:parkeccf@yahoo.com). The Parke County Community Foundation “For Good, For Ever.”