



THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

Greater Des Moines Community Foundation announces largest grant in its history
\$250,000 Leadership Grant will support World Food Prize Foundation Public Gardens

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Kristi Knous (515) 883-2703

Vice President, Donor Relations & Community Investment
Greater Des Moines Community Foundation

Justin Cremer (515) 245-3794

Director of Communications
World Food Prize Foundation

DES MOINES, June 9, 2008: The **Greater Des Moines Community Foundation** is providing leadership funding for the **World Food Prize Foundation's** restoration of the former downtown Des Moines Public Library as the **Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates**. The Community Foundation's \$250,000 contribution which will fund the creation of a signature element for the new Public Gardens is the largest single grant ever made by the Community Foundation Grantmaking Committee.

"Being home to the World Food Prize is a source of great pride for our community," said Allison Fleming, Community Foundation Grantmaking Chair. "The new Public Gardens will be enjoyed by everyone who lives in and visits Greater Des Moines."

Community Foundation President Johnny Danos added, "This Leadership Grant will fund an inlaid map of the world - a signature element of the Public Gardens that we believe showcases how hosting the World Food Prize puts Central Iowa on the map."

The beautifully landscaped Public Gardens will include a decorative wall that doubles as a piece of public art. There will be fountains in the center of the wall and the Community Foundation-funded world map will be inlaid at the front of the water element. High-resolution conceptual sketches of the Public Gardens, including the inlaid world map feature, can be found at http://www.worldfoodprize.org/hall_of_laureates/ConceptSketches.htm

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“The generous support of the Community Foundation will help transform what is now a parking lot into a oasis of green in the heart of the city,” said Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, President of the World Food Prize Foundation. “We are honored that the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation shares our vision that the Public Gardens will be an asset to the community.”

“The Community Foundation has shown great vision in funding projects in the Des Moines area and we are especially grateful that they have chosen to fund the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates project with their largest grant in history,” added John Ruan III, Chairman of the World Food Prize Foundation.

The Public Gardens are an integral part of the World Food Prize Foundation’s plans for the Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates. The building is named in honor of Iowa native Norman Borlaug, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his role in saving the lives of upwards of one billion people as the “Father of the Green Revolution.” The Hall, scheduled for completion in 2010, will serve as a museum to recognize great achievements in agriculture and as an educational facility featuring interactive displays on hunger and global food security. It will host the annual Borlaug Dialogue international symposium, a new national Youth Institute program, and conference and community events for other local groups and organizations.

About the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation

The Greater Des Moines Community Foundation is a donor-driven public foundation whose purpose is to improve the quality of life in Greater Des Moines through philanthropy.

The Greater Des Moines Community Foundation currently manages assets in excess of **\$180 million**, administers more than **520 charitable funds** created by Iowans, and distributed more than **\$26 million in grants in 2007**. To learn more call **515-883-2626** or visit www.desmoinesfoundation.org.

About the World Food Prize Foundation

The World Food Prize was founded by Dr. Norman E. Borlaug in 1986 to recognize and inspire breakthrough achievements in improving the quality, quantity or availability of food throughout the world. Laureates have been recognized from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Denmark, India, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. In 1990, Des Moines businessman and philanthropist John Ruan assumed sponsorship of The Prize and established The World Food Prize Foundation in Des Moines. More information is available at www.worldfoodprize.org.