

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2000**

**Frank And Mitzi Perdue to Give \$4 Million
Challenge Grant to Community Foundation to Benefit Nonprofit
Agencies on the Lower Shore**

(SALISBURY, MD) Local business and community leaders Frank and Mitzi Perdue announced today that they will give the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore \$4 million to be used for matching grants in an endowment building campaign for local area nonprofit organizations. This is the largest single gift ever made to the Community Foundation in its 16 year history.

"This community has given so much to us, and we want to give back, to help a wide variety of charities that are all contributing to the quality of life here on the Shore," said Frank Perdue. "Both Mitzi and I see this challenge grant opportunity as a way to leverage more endowment money for charities here at home, to provide for them today and far into the future."

The \$4 million gift will be combined with a \$2 million grant from the Kresge Foundation to provide a one-to-one dollar match for nonprofit organizations selected to raise endowment funds in partnership with the Community Foundation. That means for every dollar raised by nonprofit organizations, the Perdues and the Kresge Foundation will give an additional dollar to the agencies' endowment funds. The successful completion of the Perdue Kresge Challenge will provide \$12 million in new endowment funds for local non profit agencies.

The Perdue-Kresge Challenge to Raise Community Capital Campaign kicks off October 17, 2000 when interested nonprofit organizations receive information about endowment building and the opportunity to become a part of this program. Nonprofit organizations will be selected by the Community Foundation by January 2002. These organizations must raise their funds by December of 2004 to qualify for the entire one-to-one match from the Perdues and the Kresge Foundation.

"The Community Foundation is grateful and excited to receive this most generous gift from Frank and Mitzi Perdue," said Emilie W. Robinson, retired president of the Community Foundation. "Their gift will help nonprofits in every program sector now and for all time. It will shows great vision and concern for all communities on the Lower Shore."

The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore serves Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties with over 250 donor funds and assets of more than \$25 million. The Community Foundation's mission is to strengthen our communities by building charitable endowments, maximizing benefits to donors, making effective grants, and providing leadership to address community needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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