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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Circles Initiative Doubling Impact with Grant Support

DUBUQUE, Iowa — The City of Dubuque Circles Initiative was recently awarded a \$12,000 grant from the Westfield Insurance Foundation. The grant will be used in conjunction with grant funds from the Dupaco R.W. Hoefler Foundation to double the impact of a new program designed to assist Circles participants in achieving financial independence.

The \$12,000 grant is part of the new Westfield Legacy of Caring program in which Westfield Trilogy agencies across the country were invited to nominate a local nonprofit in the areas of disaster relief, insurance pathways, family stability or safety. The Dubuque Circles program was nominated by Creed Waelchli of Cottingham & Butler and Eric Lucy, a Dubuque Circles community volunteer/mentor.

“Thanks to the generous donation from Westfield Insurance Foundation, we will be able to increase our efforts toward providing low-income residents with the opportunity to acquire assets that will build equity and sustainability in their lives,” said Ermina Soler, Circles coach for the City of Dubuque’s Circles Initiative.

The Dubuque Circles Initiative partnered with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and Dupaco Community Credit Union early this year to build a process to support Circles program participants in opening savings accounts for asset-building opportunities such as; purchasing a vehicle or home, paying for education or starting a small business.

Through its Money Match program, Dupaco provides the financial coaching and support needed for Circles program participants to succeed. Once the participant reaches a pre-determined savings goal, he or she receives a dollar-for-dollar matching grant from the Dupaco R.W. Hoefler Foundation. Circles participants will be matched an additional dollar-for-dollar saved, making it a 2:1 match that will go toward the asset of the participant’s choice.

“MoneyMatch assists those who have the drive to reach for goals that will position them for lifelong financial success. Dupaco has been providing these individuals the framework to reach their goals – along with one-on-one budget counseling, systematic saving strategies, and tools for easier money management—all at no cost,” said David Klavitter, Dupaco’s senior vice president of marketing and public relations. “Together, the Circles

Initiative and MoneyMatch are providing life-changing resources to our community.”

“This program will make a difference in the ability to maintain self-sufficiency for the Circles participants and we are grateful to all the partners and contributors that will make this possible,” said Soler.

“We value our partnerships with our independent insurance agencies. Giving back to our agents’ communities in support of these key areas is an extension of the fundamental role that insurance plays every day in stabilizing families, businesses and communities,” said Ed Largent, Westfield president and CEO and Westfield Insurance Foundation chairman.

“Cottingham & Butler and its employees are proud members of the Dubuque community. Our collaboration with Westfield allows us to further our citizenship efforts and have impact in critically important initiatives,” said Creed Waelchli, risk management division director at Cottingham & Butler.

The Dubuque Circles Initiative is one of 31 nonprofit agencies nationwide to receive a total of \$330,000 in donations from the Westfield Legacy of Caring program.

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About the Dubuque Circles Initiative

The City of Dubuque Circles Initiative is part of an innovative national movement that connects volunteers and community leaders to families wanting to make the journey out of poverty. Volunteer allies help families break the cycle of poverty by sharing their time and friendship. There are barriers that keep even the most motivated from achieving prosperity, but Circles breaks down these barriers by expanding opportunity and support for families as they create their own paths to stability. It encourages growth from people of all financial classes and engages the community as a whole, so we can work together to create deep and lasting change in Dubuque. For more information, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/circles or call 563-690-6109.

About Dupaco Community Credit Union:

Dupaco Community Credit Union is a not-for-profit, member-owned financial cooperative. It is dedicated to the financial sustainability of its members, and specializes in customized financial counseling, money advice and education. It offers savings, loans, investments, insurance and wealth management products for individuals and businesses. Dupaco serves residents in 42 counties throughout eastern Iowa, northwest Illinois and southwest Wisconsin. Chartered in 1948, membership totals more than 89,000 with assets exceeding \$1.3 billion. Visit Dupaco at www.dupaco.com.

About Westfield Insurance Foundation

Westfield Insurance Foundation was established in 2005 as an independent private foundation endowed by Westfield Insurance. In keeping with the values of Westfield Insurance, the Foundation exists as a dedicated community and industry partner; concentrating resources to have an impact on safety, disaster relief and family stability. The Foundation donates \$2 million annually to a variety of charities.

About Westfield Insurance

Westfield Insurance is a part of Westfield Group, a customer-focused insurance and banking group of businesses headquartered in Westfield Center, Ohio, and in business for more than 167 years. Westfield Insurance provides commercial insurance in 21 states, personal insurance in 10 states and surety services to customers in 38 states. Westfield is one of the nation’s 50 largest property and casualty insurance groups, represented by a network of more than 1,000 independent insurance agencies. Westfield Insurance was named as a [Top Workplace in northeast Ohio](#) in 2014 and as a [Top Workplace in central Ohio](#) in 2015. Westfield Bank provides banking solutions for businesses and individuals, and Westfield Services provides service and training support for independent insurance agencies. Learn more about Westfield Group at www.WestfieldInsurance.com and www.Westfield-Bank.com.