



WILLMAR AREA  
Community  
Foundation

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Willmar Area Community Foundation Announces 2017 Celebration**

*Three Recipients to be Honored*

Willmar, Minn. – The Willmar Area Community Foundation invites the community to its annual Award in Philanthropy Celebration on Thursday, October 12, 2017.

The Award in Philanthropy Celebration will honor local recipients who have embodied the spirit of building community and engaging people through their generous acts of philanthropy. Dave and Mary Baker will be presented with the 2017 Award in Philanthropy, which recognizes the couple's efforts to connect the community and create positive changes through charitable giving and volunteerism. Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing, PLLP (CDS) will be recognized with the 2017 Community Builder Award to acknowledge their positive impact via thousands of staff volunteer hours donated each year throughout the local community.

New to the Celebration this year is the Innovative Impact Award which will be bestowed upon The Willmar Area Women's Fund, an initiative of the Willmar Area Community Foundation, in recognition of their impactful work surrounding the issues of human trafficking and homelessness in the area. The evening will also include the premiere of two videos from grantee applicants and a live vote where attendees will choose one local non-profit to be awarded the first ever Flamestarter Grant.

The Celebration will be held at the Willmar Conference Center and will begin at 5:30 pm with a Social Hour followed by the Dinner and Awards Program. Following the Program the Foundation and its honorees will host an Afterglow Reception with Mr. B's Chocolates and

specialty cocktails. Tickets are \$60 each and must be reserved by October 6, 2017 by registering online at [www.communitygiving.org/events](http://www.communitygiving.org/events).

The Willmar Area Community Foundation (WACF) in affiliation with CommunityGiving, is a public charity that attracts and administers charitable funds for the benefit of the local community. Since 1998, WACF has grown to over \$16 million in assets and awarded \$4 million in grants to local nonprofits. CommunityGiving is a partnership of four community foundations, including Alexandria Area Community Foundation, Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation, Central Minnesota Community Foundation and Willmar Area Community Foundation. CommunityGiving administers more than 650 funds totaling more than \$115 million. Learn more at [CommunityGiving.org/Willmar](http://CommunityGiving.org/Willmar).