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BAINBRIDGE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS THE \$750,000 BIRKENFELD BEQUEST TO FOUR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Bainbridge Island, WA. The Bainbridge Community Foundation is pleased to announce that four Bainbridge Island non-profit organizations will be awarded funding from the \$750,000 C. Keith Birkenfeld bequest, including \$150,000 to the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, \$175,000 to Elder and Adult Day Services, \$100,000 to IslandWood and \$325,000 to Kids Discovery Museum.

In July 2005, the will of C. Keith Birkenfeld left a bequest of \$750,000 to the Bainbridge Community Foundation for the purpose of making grants to locally based capital projects that shall bear his name. The Bainbridge Community Foundation was responsible for administering and distributing the bequest, and conducted an 18-month grant process that included extensive assessment and evaluation.

As one of the largest bequests ever left to the Bainbridge community for a capital project, the Birkenfeld bequest garnered much attention from nonprofits seeking capital funding. Seventeen non-profit organizations applied for the capital grants to be funded by the bequest. A total of over \$2.8 million in funding was requested. Through its extensive grants proposal assessment process, the Bainbridge Community Foundation chose the four finalists based on the criteria set out in C. Keith Birkenfeld's will and the Foundation's own criteria for grantmaking.

"It was an incredibly difficult decision because all the projects were so worthwhile. Non-profit organizations are the backbone of our community, and each of the capital projects we reviewed offered something special to Bainbridge Island and its citizens," states Bainbridge Community Foundation President Sonya Marinoni. "Thousands of people in our community, from the very young to the very old, will benefit for the next several decades because of Birkenfeld's generous gift. It also will impact an amazingly wide range of people on Bainbridge. We hope some others out there will consider doing what Keith did -- benefiting our community by leaving a bequest in his or her will. We'd love to give a gift like this to our community every year."

In addition to the landmark bequest, another first for our community is that the Bainbridge Community Foundation collaborated with The Seattle Foundation on two of the awards, creating a much larger and more impactful capital funding gift. The Seattle Foundation has a C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust from which they award capital funding to Kitsap-based non-profit organizations. The organizations that received joint funding from BCF and The Seattle Foundation are KiDiMu, which received a combined total of \$650,000 for its new museum, and Elder and Adult Day Services, which received a combined total of \$437,500 for its new Bainbridge Island facility on Sportsman Club Road. The partnership between the two community foundations is the first of its kind in distributing funding on Bainbridge Island.

BCF Birkenfeld Awards Summary

- Bainbridge Island Land Trust: \$150,000 towards the Heart of the Forest connecting trail, which preserves open space for the public benefit.
- Elder and Adult Day Services: \$175,000 towards a new facility on Bainbridge Island to serve elderly, disabled, special needs clients and their caregivers and families.
- IslandWood: \$100,000 towards a new housing facility for graduate-student educators who teach the weekly kids' programs and weekend community events.
- Kids Discovery Museum: \$325,000 towards a new museum facility that provides a creative and engaging place for kids, parents and families.

Bainbridge Community Foundation

Building the future of our community by encouraging philanthropy today.

The Bainbridge Community Foundation was established in 2001 to encourage philanthropy in our community. BCF currently has over \$5 million in assets and 28 donor funds and scholarships. The Foundation's donors support non-profit organizations that are vital to the health of Bainbridge Island. For more information about Bainbridge Community Foundation, please visit www.bainbridgecommunityfoundation.org or call 842-0344.