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Connecting the Community at the 16th Annual Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive

South Lake County - The annual Volunteer Fair & Blood Drive, sponsored by the Crown Point Community Foundation, drew over 225 potential volunteers to the event. Attendees had the chance to meet and learn about more than 40 nonprofits from throughout Lake County who are looking for volunteers.

"Our community Volunteer Fair was a huge success again this year," said Crown Point Community Foundation Chairman Mike Dexter. "This event has grown into an incredible opportunity for local nonprofit organizations and community volunteers to connect, fostering greater awareness and engagement. When nonprofits and volunteers come together to share their time and talent, our entire community benefits."

The Crown Point Community Foundation awarded five grants for \$1,000 each to qualifying randomly-selected participating organizations. Congratulations to this year's grant winners: Lake County Right to Life, Lakeshore Public Media, Meals on Wheels NWI, National Scleroderma Foundation-Lower Great Lakes, and TradeWinds.

"We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Crown Point Community Foundation for their generous support," said Dionna Bartos, Executive Director at National Scleroderma Foundation - Lower Great Lakes Chapter. "Receiving a grant towards the National Scleroderma Foundation Lower Great Lakes Chapter is an important step in advancing our mission to promote medical research, raise disease awareness, and provide essential support and education to individuals affected by scleroderma, along with their families and support networks. The National Scleroderma Foundation's vision is to be a relentless force in finding a cure and improving the lives of those impacted by scleroderma. Additionally, the Crown Point Community Foundation - Volunteer Fair event will help strengthen our chapter by engaging volunteers who will help raise awareness, contribute time and skills, and support our community in meaningful ways. Thank you to the Crown Point Community Foundation for helping us continue this important work towards our mission!"

In addition to the Volunteer Fair, there was an onsite Blood Drive conducted by Versiti Blood Centers. The blood drive collected 13 units. The units will potentially help up to 39 patients in need!

The CPCF would like to thank the Crown Point Community School Corporation, LAMAR, The Times Newspaper, Versiti Blood Centers, and the CPCF Board of Directors for helping to make this event possible.

About the Crown Point Community Foundation: The Crown Point Community Foundation connects people who care to causes that matter. Since 1990, we have served the citizens of Crown Point and South Lake County through a range of





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charitable and civic activities, while helping individual donors achieve their philanthropic goals. As a public charitable organization, the CPCF is dedicated to building permanently endowed funds. The Crown Point Community Foundation will help to positively shape the future of the community and act as a facilitator of community good.

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Photos by Crown Point Community Foundation:



1. CPCF grant recipients pose with Mary Nielsen, President of the Crown Point Community Foundation and Crown Point Community Foundation Board Members. From left to right (back row): Mary Nielsen, CPCF President - CPCF Board Members Christanne Christ and Corey Liss - Katie Sly, CPCF Program & Engagement Officer - Ryan Elinkowski, Chief Executive Officer and Faith Evers, Volunteer Manager from Meals on Wheels of NWI - Russel Brodhacker, Communications Coordinator, Tyler Zuccarelli, Digital Marketing Coordinator, and Thomas Duncan, Producer/Director from Lakeshore Public Media - CPCF Board Members Greg Forsythe and John Manis - Mike Dexter, CPCF Chairman of the Board, and Ben Ballou, CPCF Board Member. From left to right (front row, seated): Joe Cascone, Lake County Right to Life Board Member - Michelle Peters, Volunteer and Committee Member of the National Scleroderma Foundation - Lower Great Lakes Chapter, and Olga Elek, Marketing and Social Media Coordinator at TradeWinds.









2-5. Nonprofit organizations with potential volunteers. Plus, the Blood Drive.

