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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Madison Courier Pledges \$10,000 to Stellar Efforts

The City of Madison, The Madison Courier, and the Community Foundation of Madison & Jefferson County announced last week the Madison Courier has pledged \$10,000 toward the "Stellar Madison Fund" at the Community Foundation.

The Stellar Madison Fund will be used to assist in bringing all of the Stellar projects to completion. Some of the projects included in the Stellar plan include finishing the Madison Connector trail, improving local parks, rehabilitating historic buildings like the Cotton Mill, and repairing and replacing sidewalks. The funds pledged and given to the Stellar Madison Fund at the Community Foundation will be split 65/35, with 65% of pledged funds going to projects immediately, while 35% will go toward a long-term fund to sustain the projects long into the future.

Curt Jacobs, publisher of the newspaper and a sixth-generation descendant of Michael Christian Garber who purchased the paper in 1849, said the donation is part of the newspaper's commitment to the Madison and Jefferson County area. Curt said the reason for this pledge quite simply, "We believe in this community." Jacobs encouraged other local businesses and small companies within the city and county to contribute to the fund. He said larger companies with direct ties to the Jefferson County area have made pledges to the project, but he believes it is important for companies built and based in Jefferson County to give back to the area as well.

"I am extremely grateful to Curt Jacobs, his family, and the entire Madison Courier team for this pledge. The Madison Courier has been a staple in our community since 1837 and does a great job providing coverage of the news in our area. I appreciate Curt making this pledge and encouraging others to give as well. The actions of the Jacobs family have always been an example to encourage others to invest in this community," said Mayor Damon Welch.

Other financial pledges will be announced in the coming weeks. Businesses and individuals that are interested in supporting the Stellar Madison Fund can contact Nicole Schell or Andrew Forrester at the Mayor's Office or Bill Barnes at the Community Foundation. Madison was designated as a Stellar Community in October. More information about Stellar can be found at www.stellarmadison.org.

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Attached: check presentation photo. Pictured L to R: Bill Barnes/Community Foundation, Curt Jacobs/The Madison Courier, Damon Welch/Mayor, Andrew Forrester/City of Madison.