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Lansing announces grant support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for a local Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation engagement

Metro Lansing unites to build a beloved community for all

Lansing, MI – Michigan State University, City of Lansing, One Love Global Inc. and Capital Region Community Foundation will come together for a Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) engagement over the next 5 years in Metro Lansing thanks to support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) will receive \$4.2 million over five years from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) for TRHT work in Michigan, with Michigan State University receiving \$1.35 million over that period to host the work in Metro Lansing. A portion of the WKKF funds include a challenge grant to develop an endowment fund at the Capital Region Community Foundation for this work.

TRHT is a comprehensive, national and community-based process to plan for and bring about transformational and sustainable change, and to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism. A primary focus of the TRHT is jettisoning the deeply held, and often unconscious, beliefs that undergird racism – the main one being the belief in a “hierarchy of human value.” This belief, which has fueled racism and conscious and unconscious bias throughout American culture, is the perception of a person’s or group’s inferiority or superiority based on physical characteristics, race, ethnicity or place of origin.

The TRHT was initiated in January 2016 by the Kellogg Foundation with a year-long design phase, advancing and complementing the foundation’s decades-long commitment to advancing racial equity and racial healing throughout the United States.

Now in its implementation phase, Lansing is one of 14 places throughout the country receiving support to implement this work, building on the TRHT process and framework co-developed in the 2016 design phase.

On Tuesday, September 12, 2017, at the Lansing Center, 100 people representing multiple sectors will convene for the One Lansing Community Launch of TRHT, beginning at 5:30 pm. Mayor Virg Bernero, who organized a local team to support TRHT, will provide remarks along with Hiram Fitzgerald, Associate Provost at Michigan State University and Director of University Outreach & Engagement. One Love Global Inc. was tapped by Mayor Bernero to develop the TRHT proposal and organize five Transformation Teams to implement the plan. Michigan State University accepted responsibility for grant administration as well as evaluation of TRHT. Capital Region Community Foundation will take the lead in raising a \$250,000 match of a separate growth fund grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation to sustain TRHT beyond the five-year grant.

The TRHT framework was used as a guide in forming the five Transformation Teams:

- **Narrative Change** – examining how to create and distribute new complex and complete narratives in entertainment, journalism, digital and social media, school curricula, museums, monuments and parks and in the way we communicate that can influence people’s perspectives, perceptions and behaviors about and towards one another so that we can work more effectively and productively towards community-based change.
- **Racial Healing and Relationship Building** – focusing on ways for all of us to heal from the wounds of the past, to build mutually respectful relationships across racial and ethnic lines that honor and value each person’s humanity, and to build trusting intergenerational and diverse community relationships that better reflect our common humanity.
- **Separation** – examining and finding ways to address segregation, colonization and concentrated poverty in neighborhoods to ultimately ensure equitable access to health, education and jobs.
- **Law**– reviewing discriminatory civil and criminal laws and the public policies that come from them and recommending solutions that will produce a just application of the law.
- **Economy**– studying structured inequality and barriers to economic opportunities and recommending approaches that can create an equitable society.

Rob Collier, president and CEO of CMF, says “Michigan prospers when our communities are vibrant, with great opportunities for all – this is our vision statement as an organization, and an ideal we steadfastly believe in. TRHT represents a catalytic process to move local communities towards realizing this vision.”

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero expressed excitement that his vision for TRHT Lansing is coming to fruition, “When I organized a team to join me at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Summit in California last year, I knew this was an opportunity we had to pursue. As I near the end of my 12 years as Mayor, I am certain that we and our partners have put Metro Lansing on the right track to racial healing and justice.”

“This university-community partnership is one of the most important ways we can examine and address the timely topic of fairness, respect, and equity for every person in Metro Lansing. MSU is committed to an inclusive atmosphere that takes us beyond our various points of view, and when we work with communities, we utilize our collective resources effectively and inspire each other to reach a higher level of understanding. These collaborations can create stronger bonds that lead to transformative change,” said Hiram E. Fitzgerald, Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement at Michigan State University.

Angela Waters Austin, CEO of One Love Global acknowledges the responsiveness of the community to TRHT: “Since the inaugural National Day of Healing on January 17, we have been excitedly building momentum for our launch of TRHT. Members of the planning process represent the beautiful diversity of our community and our commitment to a Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation process that unites us as One Lansing. We have much work to do to in decolonizing our hearts and minds and to do so we must continue building bigger and new tables so that everyone finds a place.”

The TRHT framework and Implementation Guidebook is available for download here:

<http://www.racialequityresourceguide.org/TRHTSummit>.

Learn more about TRHT at <http://healourcommunties.org>

About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life. The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. To learn more, visit www.wkkf.org or follow WKKF on twitter at @wk_kellogg_fdn.

About the Council of Michigan Foundations

Council of Michigan Foundations is a community of members committed to growing the impact of Michigan philanthropy through investing in the state's charitable organizations, convening business, government and nonprofit leaders, collaborating on critical issues, seeking innovative solutions, sharing knowledge and advocating. Learn more at www.michiganfoundations.org.