

Central Minnesota  
Community Foundation

*Engaging People, Building Community*

# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Seeking Students for Social Capital Survey**

St. Cloud, Minn. – Students, how connected are you to the St. Cloud community? The Central Minnesota Community Foundation (CMCF) wants to know and is conducting its second social capital survey during April 2010. You can log onto [www.communitygiving.org](http://www.communitygiving.org), click on Initiatives, then Social Capital, and take the five minute Student Survey.

The first social capital survey was conducted in 2004 and was the baseline for the measurement of community connections. This second survey will reveal the changes since 2004 in the community and tell the Foundation if the community has improved its social capital. The results of the survey may determine how and where the area's social capital can be strengthened and if measures started in 2004 have improved the areas connectedness.

The survey will be using a variety of mediums, from on-line surveys, focus groups and telephone survey methods. The survey questions are designed to measure responses in several areas including awareness of opportunities to get connected in the community and the willingness to reach out to others, whether you are a student, a long time residents or a relative newcomer.

Why measure social capital? Social Capital is important because research shows that communities who have high social capital have a higher quality of life. The research supports that communities with high social capital have higher educational achievement, faster economic growth, less crime and violence, and more citizen involvement in government.

The St. Cloud Times and the Central Minnesota Community Foundation are the co-sponsors of the survey. The other partners supporting the survey include the United Way of Central Minnesota, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud Area Economic Partnership, and St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce.

The St. Cloud Times will be reporting on the results in the coming weeks with special features and interviews with respondents. Steve Joul, president of the Central Minnesota Community Foundation says that with the changing demographics in the community since 2004, the data will yield particularly significant insight in how we can become more connected as a community. The act of strengthening ties between the residents of the community has shown to increase residents satisfaction overall within their community.

For more information call the Central Minnesota Community Foundation, toll free at (877) 253-4380 or (320) 253-4380, or email at [slorenz@communitygiving.org](mailto:slorenz@communitygiving.org). or visit [www.CommunityGiving.org](http://www.CommunityGiving.org).