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## **Keller family giving hits \$30 million mark**

*Milestone reached with \$50,000 grant to Oshkosh Area Community Pantry*

NEENAH, WI (July 11, 2011) – The Keller family reached a new philanthropic milestone today – \$30 million in giving – with a \$50,000 grant to the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (OACP).

“This organization provides one of life’s most basic needs – food on your family’s table,” said Robert (Bob) Keller, president of the Foundation Board. The \$50,000 operational funding grant will assist the OACP in meeting the immediate needs of the hungry while addressing the root causes of poverty.

To mark the milestone, the J. J. Keller Foundation provided an additional \$30,000 grant to the OACP. “We knew we had received operational funding, but the additional grant was a complete surprise,” said Steve Vickman, executive director of the OACP. “What an honor to be singled out by the Kellers for this achievement.”

The checks were presented by the Keller family during a July 11 tour of the OACP. In addition, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation was presented with a \$100,000 check to replenish the J. J. Keller Foundation Donor Advised Fund at the Oshkosh foundation. Eileen Connolly-Keesler, president, said, “This grant will enable us to help the Kellers perpetuate Jack and Ethel’s philanthropic spirit in the Oshkosh area. We are very grateful for our partnership with the family.”

The Keller family has distributed grants in a variety of ways since the establishment of the original Keller Foundation Ltd. in 1990. Now known as the J. J. Keller Foundation Inc., that fund has become the major giving arm of the family since Ethel’s death in 2004 and Jack’s in 2007. In the early days of the foundation, average per-year total distributions were approximately \$50,000. More recently, up to \$3.1 million per year has been

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granted. Since 1991, more than \$12 million has been granted from the J. J. Keller Foundation.

Much of the \$30 million has been distributed through the John J. and Ethel D. Keller Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, which was established in 1994. More than \$17 million has been granted to community causes and concerns from that fund. The J. J. Keller Foundation Donor Advised Fund at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, founded four years ago, has distributed \$382,000.

As the Kellers look toward their next \$30 million in giving, they are focusing on organizations and programs that address the causes and consequences of poverty, in addition to specialty areas of interest such as mental illness. “We’re on a mission to get at the root causes of these issues and make a difference in the lives of individuals and in our community as a whole,” said Marne Keller-Krikava, secretary of the Foundation Board.

James (Jim) Keller, Foundation vice president and treasurer, added, “Mom and Dad tried to inspire others to give, and we’re carrying that torch for them today. Dad always said, ‘From small acorns great oaks grow,’ and that inspired us in both our business and our philanthropy. They were great role models.”

The J. J. Keller Foundation Board includes Bob Keller, president; Jim Keller, vice president and treasurer; Marne Keller-Krikava, secretary; and Brian Keller, director.

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