

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Title: Harvest Foundation names New Executive Director
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MARTINSVILLE, VA. – The Harvest Foundation today named a new executive director.

The Harvest Foundation has named Richard Killingsworth as its new executive director, according to the foundation's board Chairman Marshall Stowe.

Killingsworth, who will be transitioning into the position by the beginning of March, is currently serving as the Program Director for the Ruth Mott Foundation in Flint, Michigan, according to Stowe. He manages a grantmaking team that administers an extensive portfolio of over 200 grants that encompass health promotion and disease prevention, beautification and placemaking, and arts and culture.

He is nationally recognized for his pioneering efforts in cultivating active living that takes into consideration how communities are designed and how they affect people's health in everyday life - commonly referred to as placemaking. He has consulted with or provided technical assistance to numerous federal agencies, national organizations, municipalities and elected officials to set up programs and activities to enable people the opportunity to be healthier. He serves on several national boards, committees or initiatives, and has provided keynote addresses at national conferences.

Killingsworth said that he will be moving to the area with his wife Sarah, who is an elementary school teacher with 15-years experience, and their two-year-old son, Eric.

“I have been blessed with a lot of great opportunities and look forward to serving the Harvest Foundation. The community has a lot of wonderful people doing exciting things. For my family, it’s a perfect fit. It will be great coming to a community that cherishes the same values as we do.”

Becoming part of the community will be important to his family and will be necessary for him to accomplish his mission as executive director, according to Killingsworth. “The first thing I want to do is become involved in the community. My wife and I will seek those opportunities out,” he said.

Board Chairman Marshall Stowe believes Killingsworth is the right fit for the Harvest Foundation. "The Harvest board of directors is very excited to have attracted a person of the caliber of Rich Killingsworth to our community," Stowe said. "The leadership qualities he will bring to the outstanding staff we already have in place will help to propel our community to a bright future. Our board is indebted to Allyson Rothrock who has done an outstanding job as Interim Executive Director during the transition period. The valuable relationships she has developed and enjoys with community partners and grantees will continue to serve us well as we go forward."

Rothrock, who has served as interim director for the past 11 months and will continue her work with the foundation, said she is thrilled to have Killingsworth join the organization. “I believe the long wait has been worth it. We have found the right person to further the work of the foundation and take it to the next level,” she said. “He has a vision that is amazing and is exactly what we need at this point in the life of the foundation and the community. I am very excited,” Rothrock said.

Foundation search committee Chairman Don Hodges said the foundation worked with Boardwalk Consulting of Atlanta in its search for an executive director. They met many candidates that were smart, experienced and successful in their work, but Killingsworth stood out for several reasons.

“Rich had done thorough research of our community. He read everything he could get his hands on. All he saw were positives. It was wonderful. He has a positive, can do attitude and enthusiasm that was contagious,” Hodges said. “I spent a day with him and his family and everywhere we went, he saw potential. It became evident very quickly that they want to be here and help make this community the best it can be. We wanted to make sure we found someone who was a good fit for this community, and we have done that. I see them being a very integral part of a lot of things here,” he said.

“Seeing this community through Rich’s eyes reminded me of why I love this community so much. I think he is someone this community will enjoy working with,” Hodges said. “Finally, he’s not afraid to roll up his sleeves and go to work.”

Killingsworth’s past positions have allowed him to do community building work nationally in over 300 cities, and he wants to bring that experience to Martinsville and Henry County to work with local residents to help create new opportunities.

“I want people to feel like they are involved and that they can influence things that happen in their community,” he said. “I want to foster widespread community participation, enhance how people and organizations communicate, and develop a process so everyone can best understand the needs and opportunities of this community.”

Much of Killingsworth’s work has been creating deep relationships within a community and joining people together in partnerships. “We will be very inclusive, very

transparent and open to new ideas,” he said of the Harvest Foundation under his leadership as he, the organization and the community work together to develop new programs that create solutions.

Killingsworth said Martinsville and Henry County is “such a wonderful place,” and he wants to build on the great legacy of the area. He said foundations should serve as catalysts for change and help create opportunities for citizens in the community.

Killingsworth understands how important opportunities can be in creating a better community. He said he grew up in a low income section in Gary, Indiana and knows how opportunities can change lives. “I know that change needs to happen and how people just need an opportunity to improve their situation. I have first-hand knowledge and experience of what it’s like for people in that situation,” he said.

“A foundation has huge potential to influence people’s lives and develop a culture of creativity. Our job as a foundation is to help people to be prepared to take care of their immediate needs and for what is coming in the future,” he said.

Prior to his work at the Ruth Mott Foundation, Killingsworth was the National Director of Active Living by Design, an initiative supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation while at the same time serving as an Associate Research Professor at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C. in the School of Public Health. In that capacity, he published numerous articles and was co-editor of the American Journal of Health Promotion.

He served in the federal government for 15 years and was a health scientist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and was the lead interventionist on the CDC’s Active Community Environment Initiative. Killingsworth also coordinated the

nation's largest corporate health risk assessment program at General Electric. He directed the largest federal employee health promotion program at the Federal Bureau of Prisons that spanned more than 70 institutions. He also developed and coordinated the first and largest U.S. Army health promotion center.

Killingsworth earned his Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education from Indiana State University and his Masters of Public Health in Public Health Education from Indiana University. He is also completing a Ph.D. in Architecture, Behavior and Culture from Georgia Institute of Technology and is preparing to defend his dissertation proposal in 2007. He is also a graduate of the Center for Creative Leadership and the U.S. Army Management and Staff College.

Killingsworth also serves on several national boards, committees, and initiatives including the Food and Fitness Initiative of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Shaping America's Health and Shaping America's Youth national campaigns for the American Diabetes Association, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Communities on the Move statewide initiative and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program panel studying the effects of transportation on physical activity. He also served on the Institute of Transportation Engineers Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, Alliance for Clean Air and Transportation, Partnership for a Walkable America, International Walk to School Day Coalition, Federal Interagency Transportation and Sustainable Communities Committee, and the Pedestrian Bicycle Information Clearinghouse National Review Committee. In 2002, he provided testimony to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on the importance of active living and safe routes to school.

He has also conducted many interviews with national media including the Associated Press, USA Today, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Time Magazine, Walking Magazine, Outside Magazine, ABC News and NPR.

He has been the recipient of awards including two highly distinguished national awards - the Department of Army Superior Service Award (the Army's third highest civilian award) and the Office of Personnel Management's National Public Service Certificate of Excellence for significant achievements in health promotion. He also is a veteran of the U.S. Army Military Police Corps.

Killingsworth also volunteers a lot of his time to local efforts and issues. He is an avid runner, hiker and outdoor recreation enthusiast. He has hiked portions of the big three – Appalachian Trail, Continental Divide Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail.

Killingsworth's vision is to influence the way the community collaborates, so that efforts are more complementary and effective in serving the needs of people and the environment.

“This area has a rich history that needs to be remembered and valued, but paralleling that legacy it is important to nurture a community vision and attitude that seeks to create a place that meets the needs of people living, learning, and working here now and far into the future,” Killingsworth's said. “For me, Martinsville and Henry County has all of the right ingredients to achieve the bold vision of the Harvest Foundation and becoming the residence of choice.”

The Harvest Foundation was created in 2002 after the sale of Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County. The Harvest Foundation's mission is to improve the

overall quality of life in the areas of health, education, and welfare in the region. For further information, contact Allyson Rothrock at (276) 632-3329. Additional information regarding The Harvest Foundation may be found at www.theharvestfoundation.org

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