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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KHF contributes \$50,000 to The Neighboring Movement

WICHITA, Kan. – The Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) recently contributed \$50,000 to The Neighboring Movement to expand its Kansas Animator Network (KAN), where Kansans connect with one another and take action to strengthen neighborhoods from the inside out.

The Neighboring Movement (TNM) is a grassroots movement of people who believe creating neighborly relationships and connecting people to work together to be a part of the solution, will result in more vibrant, thriving communities. TNM identifies natural connectors who already exist within these communities (called animators) to increase civic activity. After receiving training from TNM, animators work within their respective communities for up to two years, building trusted relationships, identifying and engaging other local residents, and addressing projects informed by the community.

KHF's contribution will be used to expand the animator network by adding four additional learning groups before the end of 2022. TNM has worked with 20 individuals in 12 different counties across the state and hopes to increase that number to 60-70 participants in 20 or more counties.

“What’s exciting about the Kansas Animator Network is that it gives power to community members and helps them be part of the solution, creating stronger neighborhoods where they live, work and play,” said Teresa Miller, KHF president and CEO. “When we give power back to communities, that’s when we can see lasting change.”

KAN will host two learning groups, both in the fall of 2021 and in 2022. Animators will be recruited from counties with community needs based on county health rankings data and counties that are facing demographic shifts, and have both existing partnerships and a college presence.

“We are grateful for the Kansas Health Foundation’s continued commitment to supporting health in our state and their willingness to invest in our efforts to create

nurturing, authentic community through neighboring,” said Adam Barlow-Thompson, TNM director.

Learn more about TNM by visiting [its website](#).

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ABOUT THE KANSAS HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Kansas Health Foundation is based in Wichita, but statewide in its focus. With a mission to improve the health of all Kansans, KHF envisions a culture in which every Kansan can make healthy choices where they live, work and play. During the past 35 years, KHF has provided more than \$600 million in grants to improve health in Kansas communities.

ABOUT THE NEIGHBORING MOVEMENT

Neighboring Movement is a nonprofit in the South Central (or “SoCe”) Neighborhood of Wichita, Kansas, that participates in, and teaches about, enhancing community through the practice of neighboring.