

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Michael Trench joins the Will County Community Foundation as Executive Director**

JOLIET(April 14, 2011) - The Will County Community Foundation, our region's community foundation, has welcomed Michael Trench as Executive Director in January. Trench brings over 25 years of diverse and varied experience in the nonprofit sector, including work as a parish pastor, in financial service sales, and higher education fundraising.



According to Board Chairman, Dennis Tonelli, it was this broad and varied experience that appealed most to the Board in their decision, "We are pleased Mike Trench is joining the Will County Community Foundation. He brings a diversified and philanthropic expertise to our organization and is well respected in his previous positions." The Will County Community Foundation Board is confident that building on his career steps that include inspiring people around a mission, nonprofit executive leadership, and fundraising experience, will help this relatively new organization become a regional philanthropic leader.

As a founding Director and former Board Chairman, Ed Dollinger of Joliet says of Trench's arrival, "He brings a new level of enthusiasm and expertise to our organization. Mike's strong background in philanthropy, planned giving, and understanding the needs of our non-profit organizations will help match our donor's intentions to the areas of greatest need in Will County." This should help in the growth of Will County's Community Foundation, that is designed to be the county's endowment. Its mission is to serve both the needs of donors seeking to establish a legacy, a donor-advised-fund, or gifting complex assets, along with the nonprofits that they value and cherish through its grant awards.

Trench served as Director of Planned Giving at National-Louis University and most recently as Chief Development Officer at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL. He has a Bachelor's Degree in History, Master's Degree in Theology/Church History, and has done other graduate work in American and European History, while also teaching part-time at both College of DuPage and Joliet Junior College.

The Will County Community Foundation was founded by local residents in 2005, to build and steward endowed funds that will be available for generations to come, and will impact a broad

variety of charitable needs in this region. Will County is one of the last in the area to establish its own community endowment foundation, but after granting \$600,000 in awards during recent years, it is clear they will have local impact by implementing their brochure title of “Connecting people who care to causes that matter.”

The Will County Community Foundation is an Affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust. For 95 years, The Chicago Community Trust has connected the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to local organizations working to improve metropolitan Chicago in a multitude of ways. This affiliation is part of the Trust’s effort to support access to the benefits of a locally focused community foundation for the residents of Will County. The Will County Community Foundation looks forward to building a strong and vibrant presence within the County in order to improve the quality of life for all its residents. For more information visit [www.willcountycf.org](http://www.willcountycf.org), or reach the new Executive Director at (815) 744-9223.