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## **Wilder Foundation Completes First-Ever Capital Campaign; Efforts Pay for New Wilder Center without Taxpayer Burden**

**Campaign Exceeded \$10.4 Million Goal;  
Awarded \$750,000 Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SAINT PAUL, Minn. (July 28, 2008)** – The Wilder Foundation, a nonprofit health and human services organization that has served the greater Saint Paul area since 1906, today announced that it has successfully completed the first-ever capital campaign in its 102-year history. The fundraising initiative exceeded the organization’s \$10.4 million goal and helped pay for construction of the new \$35.6 million Wilder Center. The new campus was completed earlier this year at 451 Lexington Parkway, and houses 300 Wilder Foundation employees from Wilder Programs, Wilder Research, and Wilder Administration. In the first six months of operation, more than 10,000 visitors used Wilder Center as a resource.

“The success of our first-ever capital campaign means that the new Wilder Center has been paid for at no burden to tax payers,” said Wilder Foundation President Tom Kingston. “We are extremely proud that despite a struggling economy, our supporters recognize the value that we provide to our community. Through their generous donations, we will be able to continue our work for another 100 years.”

Wilder’s successful fundraising campaign is expected to be completed with \$750,000 from the Kresge Foundation Challenge Grant Program. Kresge grants are made on a challenge basis to assist organizations in raising the balance required to complete their campaign goal and project funding.

“With the awarding of this grant, we applaud not only the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation’s longstanding leadership in the Twin Cities, but its research-based approach to addressing the challenges that face the community it serves,” says Rip Rapson, president of the Kresge Foundation. “We are happy that Wilder’s first capital campaign is going so well and are excited that we can be a part of this transformational opportunity. We are pleased to support the organization and the strategic opportunity presented by the capital campaign to expand your private donor base.”

Final approval on the Kresge grant is expected within 30 days.

Wilder’s capital campaign kicked off in late 2005 when the organization began raising money by reaching out to its closest contributors. The campaign was later expanded to include past donors and potential new donors.

“Our capital campaign not only allowed us to reach out to our closest contributors who have long supported the Wilder Foundation, but also expanded our reach to leverage support from new donors who are just learning about Wilder’s valuable work in the community,” said Wilder’s Senior Director of Resource Development Rolf Thompson. “We believe this support will help us achieve our long-term mission and strengthen the communities in which we operate,” added Thompson.

The total cost for constructing the new Wilder Center campus was \$35.6 million. In addition to this total, the Wilder Foundation set aside a \$2 million endowment to support the daily operations of the center’s convening space. A breakdown of the project’s funding sources includes:

Fundraising	\$10.4 million
Long-term bonds	\$16.8 million
Wilder contribution (construction)	\$ 8.4 million
Wilder contribution (convening space endowment)	\$ 2.0 million

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***About the Wilder Foundation***

The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation is a nonprofit health and human services organization that has served the greater Saint Paul, Minnesota, area since 1906. The Foundation operates more than 70 programs and services that help children succeed in school; troubled youth and families; individuals and families maintain long-term housing; older adults remain independent; and organizations and individuals work for positive change in the community. Wilder Research is one of the nation’s largest nonprofit research and evaluation groups dedicated to practical research in the field of human services.

***About the Kresge Foundation***

The Kresge Foundation is a private foundation based in Troy, Mich., that supports communities by building the capacity of nonprofit organizations in six fields: health, the environment, arts and culture, education, human services and community development. Sebastian S. Kresge established the foundation; it is not associated with any corporation or organization.