

## Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation Celebrates 50 Years of Transformative Impact in Arkansas

Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation Hosts 50th-Anniversary Press Conference and Kicks Off Fifth Decade with Fundraising Campaign Announcement

LITTLE ROCK, AR, UNITED STATES, December 3, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- This month the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation (WRF) marks its 50th anniversary, celebrating a legacy of social innovation, economic equity, and inclusive growth across the state of Arkansas. For half a century, WRF has



stood at the forefront of transformative philanthropy, investing in the people and communities of Arkansas to build a more equitable, vibrant, and resilient future.

Founded in 1974 by the late Governor Winthrop Rockefeller, the Foundation embodies his visionary spirit and dedication to fostering a just society. From advancing education and economic opportunity to supporting leaders who fight for social and racial justice, WRF's investments have catalyzed meaningful progress, empowering generations of Arkansans to pursue and achieve their dreams.

The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation (WRF) will host a 50th-anniversary press conference this Thursday, Dec. 5, from 4 to 4:30 p.m. at the Rock It! Lab. The event will examine the past 50 years and the Foundation's plans for the future, including a fundraising campaign announcement.

Sherece West, President of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, shared her gratitude and vision for the next chapter: "At the heart of our work is the unwavering belief that every Arkansan deserves the opportunity to thrive. We are inspired by the resilience of communities across our state and remain committed to investing in innovative solutions that uplift and empower. As we look to the next 50 years, our goal is to deepen our partnerships and accelerate systemic change, so every person in Arkansas has the tools, resources, and support to realize their potential."

Over the past five decades, WRF has channeled over \$100 million into initiatives addressing some of the state's most pressing challenges, with a sharp focus on dismantling structural inequities and expanding access to opportunity. Highlights of WRF's impact include substantial investments in early childhood education, workforce development, racial equity, and civic engagement. In recent years, the Foundation's groundbreaking "Moving the Needle" framework has mobilized resources and organizations statewide, working collaboratively to reduce poverty and increase prosperity in Arkansas communities.

The 50th Anniversary celebration reflects WRF's ongoing commitment to innovation and community-driven solutions. With renewed dedication, WRF will continue to fund projects that prioritize economic mobility, expand educational opportunities, and support inclusive community development, working toward a more just and equitable Arkansas for all.

As WRF embarks on its next half-century, the Foundation invites Arkansans to join in celebrating its legacy and the promise of a brighter, more inclusive future.

## About the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation

The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation exists to relentlessly pursue economic, educational, social, ethnic, and racial equity for all Arkansans. Established in 1974, the private, nonprofit foundation affirms the legacy of its founder, who envisioned a thriving and prosperous Arkansas that benefits all Arkansans. For more information, visit wrfoundation.org.

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