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Press Release

New Members Named to Foundation Advisory Committee

The Springs Close Foundation announced today that three new members were appointed to the nine-member Community Advisory Committee. The new members fill vacancies created when members rotated off the Committee at the end of 2005.

Foundation Board Chairman Anne Springs Close announced the appointments. Thelathia Barnes Bailey was named to represent the Lancaster area, L. Thomas Rowe the Fort Mill area, and Christina Melton the Chester area.

Thelathia Barnes Bailey was named to represent the Lancaster County area and succeeds Lt. Christy Rogers. Mrs. Bailey is a native of Lancaster and is the Director of TRIO Programs at USC Lancaster. She also serves on the USC L Commencement Committee, Student Academic Progress Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. She is a graduate of South Carolina State University with a BA in Speech & Theatre Arts. She received her Masters of Public Administration from Texas Southern University and is presently pursuing her PhD in Adult Education from the University of Southern Mississippi.

L. Thomas Rowe was named to represent the Fort Mill area and succeeds Ken Starnes. Thomas Rowe currently serves as the Executive Director of the Fort Mill Housing Authority, Executive Director of Community Housing, Inc. and is Chief Executive Officer of Fort Mill Housing Services, Inc. He received his BS in Accounting from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in Wilson, N.C.

Christina Melton was named to represent the Chester area and succeeds Kathy Rishebarger. Mrs. Melton has a BS Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Carolina where she also received her Masters Degree in Education. She received a Masters in Administrative Certification from Winthrop University. Christina is presently Principal of Chester Park Center of Literacy through Technology.

Page 2

The Community Advisory Committee has three members each from Lancaster County, Chester and Fort Mill. The Committee assists the Foundation Board members to assess grant requests and is a valuable communications link between the three communities and the Foundations.

The Committee meets regularly with Board members and holds other meetings in each area during the year. It was established after the Board of the Springs Foundation decided at a retreat during the Foundation's 50th anniversary year in 1992 that more community advice would be helpful.

The Springs Foundation, Inc. was established by Colonel Elliott White Springs in 1942 and the Close Foundation, Inc. was established in 1968. Since that time, the Foundations have given away over \$89.2 million in grants and at the end of 2005 had assets of \$41 million. In 2003, the two Foundations merged and now function as The Springs Close Foundation.

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