



For Immediate Release
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Endowment for Health Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary; Founding President James W. Squires, M.D. Honored with Creation of Social Justice Fund in his name

Concord, NH – Concord City Auditorium was the setting for a lively celebration of the ten-year anniversary of The Endowment for Health, New Hampshire’s largest health foundation. The program was kicked off by the foundation’s Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Mary Vallier-Kaplan.

“We are here to celebrate two assets,” she told the crowd of more than 250. “The first asset is the Endowment and its work with community partners over the past decade. The second asset is our founding president and one of the state’s treasures, Dr. Jim Squires,” said Kaplan, who will assume the role of interim president upon Squires’ official retirement at the end of this year.

The program featured a retrospective look at the Endowment’s beginnings and how the foundation became a pivotal player in the state’s public policy arena as it works to help solve complex health-system problems.

A highlight of the program was a lively and thoughtful interview with Squires, conducted by New Hampshire Public Radio’s Laura Knoy. Knoy, best known as host of NHPR’s *The Exchange* talk show, prompted Squires to discuss a broad swath of his life and multiple careers, including his boyhood in New London, his service in the United States Air Force, his career as a surgeon and health-system innovator, and his contributions as a policymaker in the New Hampshire Senate. Squires also shared his humanitarian philosophies which perhaps became best known during his time as founding president of the Endowment for Health.

The foundation’s board chairman, Cordell Johnston, read commendations from the New Hampshire Senate and from Governor Lynch, honoring Squires for his lifetime contributions to the state. Johnston also presented Squires with tribute letters from New Hampshire’s United States Congressional Delegation. Dozens of other New Hampshire notables shared their tributes to Squires during the event.

Endowment board member Sue Chollet, also announced the establishment of the James W. Squires Social Justice Fund, to honor Squires’ work supporting underserved populations.

“This fund is based upon Jim’s value for the principles of equality and human connectedness; a society that understands and values human rights, and that recognizes the value of human dignity,” said Chollet. The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) will manage this donor advised fund, which has already raised more than \$180,000 in donations and pledges, including a \$10,000 match from NHCF.

Chollet added that the goal is to reach \$500,000 for the fund. “This will enable Dr. Squires and his committee to support social justice work by giving out more than \$20,000 annually.”

Those who wish to contribute to the James W. Squires Social Justice Fund may do so by calling 228-2448 for a pledge card.

The Endowment for Health was established in 1999 and is the state’s largest health foundation. Since 2001, the Endowment has awarded 827 grants totaling more than \$34 million to support a wide range of health-related programs and projects in New Hampshire. For more information, visit www.endowmentforhealth.org

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