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VANDALIA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

For Immediate Release: 4/12/06
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KUHNS RESPONDS TO MEDIA INQUIRIES ABOUT VANDALIA, EARMARKED FUNDING, HER EMPLOYMENT AND PRIVATE INVESTMENTS

FAIRMONT – Laura Kurtz Kuhns, President and Chief Executive Officer of Vandalia Heritage Foundation (VHF), headquartered in Fairmont, West Virginia, has issued two statements, respectively, responding to media inquiries following recent national news stories that were generated by information released by the National Legal Policy Center (NLPC) in Falls Church, Virginia.

NLPC, chartered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, has made numerous allegations concerning “earmarked” funding that was directed to Vandalia Heritage Foundation through the efforts of First District Congressman Alan B. Mollohan, and private real estate investments shared by Kuhns and Mollohan and their respective spouses.

“Vandalia Heritage Foundation, a non-profit, which like NLPC, enjoys tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, was formed to undertake economic revitalization throughout northern West Virginia, “ according to Kuhns. “What I would like to know,” she continued, “is how this group can engage in clearly partisan activities utilizing this exemption and make unfounded and unverified statements about our organization and about me personally. As a charitable organization, Vandalia implements its mission and objectives through non-partisan means.”

Kuhns indicated that she has prepared a separate statement addressing the personal inquiries and an official Vandalia statement addressing questions, all of which have arisen as a result of NLPC allegations. “I am pleased to respond to the media and in fact, spent a great deal of time with members of the national press who expressed interest in us as a result of the NLPC information. Unfortunately, in spite of our extensive efforts to highlight the good work that we have accomplished in West Virginia as a result of the congressionally directed funding that we have received, none of the positive results or stories were published to date.”

Please refer to Kuhns’ statements following this release for details.

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