

For Immediate Release:

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County contributes to Carlinville Christmas Market Foundation

In recognition of the Carlinville Christmas Market's long history as a premier tourism event in Macoupin County and the region, the Macoupin County Economic Development office is making a \$500 contribution to the Christmas Market Foundation.

The funding was allocated from the Community Development line in the County's Fiscal Year 2005-2006 budget, and is earmarked for advertising the Market within Macoupin County.

Macoupin County Board Chairman Andy Manar said the contribution recognizes the economic impact the Christmas Market has not only on Carlinville, but on the entire county due to the number of people it draws from outside the area.

"By bringing people into the county, the Christmas Market opens the door to the possibility of return visits, new residents and new businesses. It is an event that brings positive attention to our area," said Manar.

Christmas Market Foundation President Lea Hudson said, "We thank Chairman Manar and the Macoupin County Board for this contribution to the Christmas Market and their recognition of the Market's economic importance to our county."

Hudson added that those who contribute to the Market are making an investment in the economic health and future of our area.

The Market, set for December 1, 2 and 3, is now a non-profit foundation that will share the proceeds from this year's Market with local charities.