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No More Empty Pots Receives Heartland Challenge Grant

Omaha, Neb. | July 22, 2021 – No More Empty Pots was awarded the 2021 Heartland Challenge grant by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to build on the assets of the Greater Omaha community by supporting business owners and founders through its ongoing Food Entrepreneur Program. The Heartland Challenge funds programs and projects that take a strengths-based approach to investing in underrepresented entrepreneurs in the Heartland.

No More Empty Pots' Food Entrepreneur Program provides equitably accessible resources, opportunities and support to disinvested entrepreneurs interested in starting or growing food businesses. This includes commercial kitchen rental at lower than market rate and incubator membership. Incubator members receive access to a series of 15 business-focused workshops covering topics from food safety and legal requirements to food photography and search engine optimization. Additionally, membership gives access to market and retail opportunities, networking and mentorship. The accelerator track of the Food Entrepreneur Program amplifies the unique skills and special talents of each entrepreneur to help fast track their business startup and growth.

"We know that there is an opportunity right here in the Heartland to create inclusive prosperity through entrepreneurship if we build on the strengths and assets of community – especially those that are excluded and underrepresented," noted Ashlei Spivey, Kauffman Foundation Program Officer, Entrepreneurship. "The Heartland Challenge RFP aims to catalyze the kind of approach where we invest in programs and projects that aren't trying to 'fix' marginalized founders, yet recognize their inherent value and invest money in opportunities that do so, as well."

Visit www.kauffman.org/grants/heartland-challenge-rfp/ to learn more about the Heartland Challenge and meet the 11 organizations, including No More Empty Pots, receiving funding in 2021.

About Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation is a private, nonpartisan foundation based in Kansas City, Mo., that seeks to build inclusive prosperity through a prepared workforce and entrepreneur-focused economic development. The Foundation uses its \$3 billion in assets to change conditions, address root causes, and breakdown systemic barriers so that all people—regardless of race, gender, or geography—have the opportunity to achieve economic stability, mobility, and prosperity. For more information, visit www.kauffman.org and connect with us at www.twitter.com/kauffmanfdn and www.facebook.com/kauffmanfdn.

About No More Empty Pots

No More Empty Pots (NMEP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to connect individuals and groups to improve self-sufficiency, regional food security and economic resilience of urban and rural communities through advocacy and action. NMEP's vision is to support communities in becoming self-sufficient, and food secure through collaboration and adherence to our core values of education, stewardship, and sustainability. NMEP serves youth to seniors providing educational, hands-on and experiential learning. Learn more at www.nmepomaha.org.