



Kent Family Foundation Donates to the St. Louis Aquarium Foundation

**This generous gift will provide exhibit funding
and aquarium access and education for underserved children**

St. Louis — February 4, 2020 — The Kent Family Foundation is being recognized for their generous donation to the St. Louis Aquarium Foundation.

The Kent Family Foundation – a family foundation managed by trustees Jerry, Judy, Rachel, Matt and Ana Kent – has given a gift of \$250,000 to the St. Louis Aquarium Foundation. Their donation is featured at the What’s Your Watershed Exhibit in the CEC. This exhibit highlights the rivers and waterways that create the 13 major watersheds in the United States.

Executive Director Diane Bauhof explained, “By entering your zip code, you can see where water flows from to get to where you live and also see where your water eventually flows, which is eventually the ocean. We thank the Kent family for its support, helping us understand better how we’re all connected through our waterways and the importance of keeping them clean through this exhibit.”

A portion of the Kent’s gift is also allocated to supporting the H₂O Friends program (Help To Our Friends), which will help the Aquarium Foundation provide up to 20,000 free Aquarium field trips for underserved youth each year. The Kent’s gift will provide up to 8,000 free field trips over the next five years.

“We are excited about the potential of the St. Louis Aquarium Foundation – in partnership with the St. Louis Aquarium – to enhance the lives of this area’s children,” said Jerry Kent. “One of the primary areas of focus for our family foundation is youth education, and the Aquarium Foundation’s work to bring underserved young people into the aquarium and to provide

educational opportunities fits beautifully with the projects we support. We want to help educate children on the importance of watersheds and their environmental impact.”

The St. Louis Aquarium Foundation is the nonprofit partner to the St. Louis Aquarium at Union Station. The foundation engages the community through providing access and education programs and serving as the region’s recognized voice for water stewardship.

The core initiatives of the St. Louis Aquarium Foundation are:

ACCESS – Providing free Aquarium admission to 20,000 underserved youth annually through the H₂O Friends program (Help To Our Friends).

EDUCATION – Delivering aquatic-science themed, STEM-based conservation education programs and classes – aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards and Next Generation Science Standards

CONSERVATION – Helping the community “take action” in local water conservation efforts through interactive exhibits in the free-admission Conservation & Education Center.

VOLUNTEERISM – Through a robust volunteer program, engaging the community in the St. Louis Aquarium and furthering the educational reach of programs into the community and local waterways.

The Aquarium Foundation’s Conservation & Education Center (CEC) is a free-admission, 7,500-square-foot space near the entrance to the St. Louis Aquarium that consists of three main public spaces: River Gallery, Discovery Gallery and the outdoor Rain Garden. The galleries offer science-based, interactive exhibits on the topics of water conservation, health of ecosystems, local waterways and the Mississippi Watershed. More information is available at www.stlaquariumfoundation.org.

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